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AODN review companion paper

In the spirit of advancement and continual improvement the IMOS Office has initiated a series of internal and external reviews of elements of our program. Through this process an external review of the Australian Ocean Data Network (AODN) was conducted. The review produced 52 findings and made 13 recommendations.

The scope of the review was extensive and spanned the following elements:

- (a) Remit, scope and structure
- (b) strategy and planning
- (c) business processes
- (d) human resources (capability, capacity)
- (e) IT infrastructure, including architecture
- (f) data ingestion
- (g) data and product services
- (h) benchmarking

The IMOS Office and Board are in agreement with the review recommendations and work will begin to fully implement as many of the recommendations as possible. Some of the recommendations will result in minor or easily implemented changes, while others will require significant consideration, engagement, resourcing and time to implement. Elements of implementation will involve IMOS Facilities and data users as well as partners associated with the AODN via the National Marine Science Committee (NMSC). For example, one of the elements we will be implementing is a simple registration system to help track data downloads. This will significantly improve IMOS reporting to NCRIS, while also providing additional information relevant to international use and cybersecurity-related issues.

Given the size of the AODN program, the scope of the review and range of recommendations, a dedicated implementation plan is required. The IMOS Director and AODN Director are currently working with the reviewer to develop a plan. The plan will include a prioritisation of the recommendations as well as a timeline for implementation and milestones for success.

One of the first items to be addressed will be the scope and remit of the AODN which will involve discussions with and conclusions of the IMOS Governing Board and consultation with the NMSC. This definition will help inform the scope and scale of some of the other review elements.

You will find a copy of the review Executive Summary and full report [here](#).

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed to informing the review. The AODN is a vital element of our program and our goal is to ensure it is as successful and useful as possible for all of our partners, researchers, stakeholders and end users. We request your continued support and patience as we work to implement the review and advance the AODN.

Michelle Heupel, IMOS Director