

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)**

**Twentieth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data
and Information Exchange (IODE-XX)
Beijing, China, 4-8 May 2009**

**IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and
Information Exchange**

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Summary of the document

This document provides an overview of the implementation of the IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information.

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE SUMMARY REPORT

The IOC Assembly, at its 24th session, adopted the "IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information Management (Resolution XXIV-9). This strategy aims to establish a "comprehensive and integrated ocean data and information system, serving the broad and diverse needs of IOC Member States, for both routine and scientific use".

In order to provide a governance system for the Strategy, the "IOC Data and Information Management Advisory Group" has been established with 46 members. The membership includes representative of:

- Co-Chairs of IODE
- JCOMM DMPA
- WMO
- GOOS (GSSC, I-GOOS)
- IOC ocean science programmes (HAB, Ocean Carbon, ICAM, tsunami)
- IOC capacity development programme
- GOOS GRAs
- IODE ODINs
- Project Offices (IODE, JCOMMOPS, GOSIC, CDIAC)

The objective of the Strategic Plan is to deliver a system that will be the system of choice for all ocean activities, particularly those of research programs. This future system will be built around already existing and operational national,

regional, and international systems. There are many IOC and IOC-related programmes and projects with a data management component and the considerable expertise available in these structures will be fully exploited. In this context, the first step towards the implementation of this strategy was to survey the data management structures in the IOC and IOC-related programmes and projects in order to identify existing systems and to assess where effort should be strengthened to achieve full integration of data management activities under IOC and other international programmes.

The result of this survey indicated that most of the IOC and IOC-related programmes and projects do not have data management plan or strategy. Only three programmes/projects indicated that they have a D&IM strategic plan. The establishment of a comprehensive strategy and plan to meet the variety of requirements of these programmes will begin with a study of the general characteristics of the applications to be served by these programmes. This will include discussions on provision of access to the data, data products, and services; archiving strategies and standards and capacity building. An analysis of the existing successful programmes will form the basis of the IOC D&IM strategy and will be used to define the guiding principles and common characteristics of the IOC data and information strategy for the future.

IODE and HAB have agreed to cooperate to develop a Harmful Algal Information System (HAIS). Another area of cooperation within the framework of the IOC strategy is between IODE and OBIS. The Executive Council, during its 41st Session (2008) identified the need to manage ocean biogeographic data for ocean and coastal resource management and considered OBIS the relevant programme. The OBIS Governing Board is currently investigating different scenarios for closer cooperation between IOC and OBIS. An IOC/OBIS expert meeting was held to consider and recommend options.

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