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# The Intersessional Working Group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction

**Dr. Suzan M. El-Gharabawy**  
**Co-chair of OONJ Working group**  
**1st July**

# The Working Group

- Representatives from 27 Member States
- Co-chairs:
  - Dr. Suzan M. El-Gharabawy (Egypt)
  - Mg. Ariel Hernán Troisi (Argentina)



Dr. Suzan M. El-Gharabawy



Mg. Ariel Hernán Troisi

# Background

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## IOC Executive Council 55 (2022)

- Considered outcomes from an expert workshop *on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction (2020)* and consequent impacts on GOOS, which led to:
  - Surveys conducted with networks (2022-2023)
  - Member States providing information on their experiences

## Assembly 32 (2023)

- Established the ad hoc Intersessional Working Group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction

## Executive Council 57 (2024)

- Working Group Progress report delivered
- EC57 encouraged the continuation of the work of the Working group



## Mandate:

- Review materials available
- Identify and document specific examples of problems
- Evaluate the level of impact on GOOS, research, services and products
- Provide a diagnosis of the root cause of the problem
- Identify potential action within the IOC mandate

# Identify and document specific examples of problems

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The main issue was identified:

**Lack of clarity, awareness or understanding with the Marine Scientific Research (MSR) application processes**

Key challenges identified:

- Administrative complexity e.g. unclear contact points
- Additional costs or requirements during the application process
- Missed deployment opportunities due to the 6-month requirement in UNCLOS Art.248
- Challenges with the use of Form A (Annex I to the 2010 DOALOS Guide on MSR).



# Evaluate the level of impact on GOOS, research, services and products

## Identified qualitative impacts

- Missed deployments, reductions in data collected, reduced data flow into GOOS, and missed opportunities due to simplified or cancelled cruises
- Working Group members held differing views on what constitutes material impacts

## Lack of quantitative data

- No data or evidence was provided to quantitatively determine the impact on GOOS services or products

## Report from SOOP

- Evidence of negative impacts caused by the existing MSR process
- Current requirements make MSR applications extremely complex, if not impossible, for SOOP, even though the data are scientifically needed

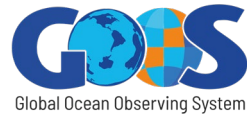


# Provide a diagnosis of the root cause of the problem

**Root cause:** Many of the issues raised related to the need to comply with Part XIII of UNCLOS

**Suggested solution:**

Best practices of Member  
States were sought



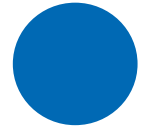
Practices could be promoted widely  
within GOOS networks

**Examples:**

- USA State Department compilation of states' MSR application processes,
- France have developed a solution designed to help countries obtain French equipment with their own vessels, empower them to control what is measured and provide FAIR data to the global community,
- Mauritius have acquired floats from NOAA, the data is uploaded automatically nationally, and the country can choose to deliver the data to the global community,
- Bilateral arrangements between certain countries coordinating on GOOS.

# Identify potential action within the IOC mandate

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**Raise awareness:** IOC/GOOS could raise awareness of the MSR process, e.g., through relevant communications, including appropriate links to information



**Review of guide:** Request GOOS to consult its networks, and relevant stakeholders, to determine if and potentially where the 2010 DOALOS Guide on MSR could be revised, and report back to the 34th IOC Assembly

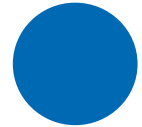


**Promote collaboration:** IOC Member States should promote collaboration between neighbouring coastal States to facilitate bilateral and regional MSR clearance



## 4 Identify potential action within the IOC mandate

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**Regional intermediaries:** Invite IOC's Regional Subsidiary Bodies and GOOS Regional Alliances to act as intermediaries between national authorities and research networks, and facilitate awareness of the MSR clearance process



**Consider mandate:** Recognizing the value of the IOC mandate for the Argo programme, the Working Group identified that IOC could consider a similar mandate for other relevant GOOS networks, particularly for the SOOP



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THANK YOU 