

GODAE OceanView

Terms of Reference

April 2010

Vision and objectives

The GODAE OceanView Science Team (GOVST) is created with the mission to define, monitor and promote actions aimed at coordinating and integrating research associated with multi-scale and multi-disciplinary ocean analysis and forecasting systems, thus enhancing the value of GODAE OceanView outputs for research and applications. Over the next decade the science team will provide international coordination and leadership in:

- The consolidation and improvement of global and regional analysis and forecasting systems
- The progressive development and scientific testing of the next generation of systems covering biogeochemical and ecosystems and extending from the open ocean into shelf sea and coastal waters
- The exploitation of the capability in other applications (weather forecasting, seasonal and decadal prediction, climate change detection and its coastal impacts, etc.)
- The assessment of the contribution of the various components of the observing system and the scientific guidance for improved design and implementation of the ocean observing system

It is envisaged that the GODAE OceanView science team will coordinate and implement this work-plan through the nationally funded activities of its members.

Role and responsibilities

It is envisaged that the **GODAE OceanView Science Team (GOVST)** will coordinate a program of activities implemented through the nationally funded activities of its members.

The GOVST will provide a forum where the main operational and research institutions (national groups) involved in global ocean analysis and forecasting develop collaborations and international coordination of their activities. The primary purpose of the team is to accelerate the improvement and exploitation of these systems through exchange of information and expertise and the coordination of joint assessments. The science team consists of scientists leading the scientific development of the major national ocean analysis and forecasting systems, those implementing and improving the system (expertise for this area includes observation, modelling and data assimilation) as well as representatives of key observing systems (e.g. Argo, GHRSSST and OST science teams).

The GOVST is responsible for:

- Leading and managing the execution of the GODAE OceanView Program
- Promoting the development of improved capabilities in ocean analysis and forecasting
- Developing collaborations and improved communications between the participants in GODAE OceanView
- Evaluating scientific and technical developments to optimize the use of knowledge and technology in GODAE OceanView implementation

- Reporting on national activities related to GODAE OceanView. Maintain an up-to-date description of national capabilities related to ocean analysis and forecasting (national reports)
- Liaising with other international program of interest to and interested in GODAE OceanView

GOVST activities will be supported by the **GODAE OceanView Project Office** (GOVPO). The GOVPO will provide a central point of coordination, information exchange and communication between GOVST members to facilitate and enhance activities of the science team, to support communication between the co-chairs and the Patrons' Group and to provide support for the GODAE OceanView task teams in their activities. It is anticipated that the Project Office will be supported by the GODAE OceanView Patrons' Group in question of advice and advocacy and through regular financial contribution from the Patrons' Group member organisations.

The tasks of the Project Office are to:

- Facilitate and support the GODAE OceanView Science Team and its task teams in their various activities including in the monitoring of progress and achievements;
- Organise GODAE OceanView events
- Develop, maintain and update the GODAE OceanView website, distributing material on GODAE OceanView and GOVST & TT publications;
- Prepare and publish GODAE OceanView reports, as appropriate;
- In collaboration with the GOVST and the Patrons' Group, promote the practical benefits and objectives of GODAE OceanView among the operational and research communities (e.g. brochure)
- Manage GODAE OceanView budget and review of financial situation

The **GODAE OceanView Patrons' Group** consists of representatives of those agencies or groups which are well placed to provide guidance to the members of the science team or be kept informed of its discussions and to provide resources for GODAE OceanView activities

The specific tasks of the Patrons group include to:

- Provide visibility for and promote the value of GODAE OceanView and its activities;
- Provide a focus for national participation in GODAE OceanView;
- Obtain or provide appropriate national and international resources for GODAE OceanView;
- Provide advice to the GODAE OceanView Science Team on matters of resources, international coordination and funding priorities.
- Assist the GODAE OceanView Science Team in questions of advocacy for the ocean observing system and enable the ocean community to speak with one voice on this issue

Membership

The GODAE OceanView Science Team (GOVST) membership should reflect all major activities supported by GODAE OceanView but be limited to about 30 members to allow for efficient and effective operation of the team. The GOVST will initially be co-chaired by two of its members. New

members will be proposed by the chairs or co-chairs and are subject to approval by the Science Team itself. The GOVST will meet at least once per year.

Members of GODAE OceanView will adhere to the same principles of free, open and timely exchange of data and products, sharing of scientific results and experience developing applications which were important factors in the success of GODAE.

The term of membership will normally be 5 years but can be extended with the agreement of the chair or co-chairs.

The chair of the ET-OOFS and the co-chairs of the task teams are ex-officio members of the GOVST. Representatives from Argo, GHRSSST or the OSTST are also ex-officio members of the GOVST.

Linkages

GODAE OceanView science team will need to develop linkages with other groups and report on its progresses, achievements and recommendations. GODAE OceanView will informally report to JCOMM and will have strong links with JCOMM ET-OOFS. It will develop linkages with GOOS, OOPC, IOC, WCRP and CEOS.

ET-OOFS

As GODAE prototype systems transition to operational systems, international collaboration on product standardization and interoperability between systems must be maintained and developed. The joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission JCOMM provides an appropriate intergovernmental mechanism for the coordinating role and has recently established an expert team on operational oceanographic forecasting systems (ET-OOFS) within its Services Program Area for this purpose. Terms of reference of the ET-OOFS are as follows:

- Develop and maintain 'The Guide to Operational Oceanographic Forecasting systems of the World'
- Provide advice to JCOMM teams and member states on the application, nomenclature, symbology and standards used by operational ocean forecasting systems;
- Develop and operate an inter-comparison framework for near real time monitoring of OOFS outputs building on the legacy of GODAE;
- Work effectively with the Scientific community developing and maintaining OOFS
- Provide observation requirements for OOFS to the JCOMM Observations Program Area;
- Provide advice to the JCOMM Data Management Program Areas;
- Provide advice to Members/Member States on operational Ocean Forecast systems.

The GODAE OceanView Science Team will report to ET-OOFS on scientific and operational developments, while ET-OOFS will provide recommendations on service provision (for instance standardization) based on users' needs. The GODAE OceanView Task Team on intercomparison and validation will provide inputs and recommendations to the ET-OOFS on standardization of validation activities (e.g. a minimum set of metrics that should be implemented in operational systems to monitor the quality of analyses and forecasts). We anticipate that the two groups (GODAE Ocean View Science Team and ET-OOFS) will work very closely in the coming years: the ET-OOFS chair will be de facto member of GODAE Ocean View science team; and GODAE OceanView systems will be represented in the ET-OOFS.