



“The European Ocean Observing System, EOOS, is a coordinating framework designed to align and integrate Europe’s ocean observing capacity in the long-term; to promote a systematic and collaborative approach to collecting sustained information on the state and variability of our seas; and to underpin sustainable management of the marine environment and its resources.”

EOOS definition (EOOS Consultation Document, September 2016).

Why do we need a coordinating framework for European ocean observation?

- Ocean observation is high on political agendas both in Europe and globally, defined as a cross-cutting priority for the future of the oceans by the G7 Science and Technology ministers and supported in the 2016 G7 Leaders’ Declaration calling to “enhance global ocean observation and assessment.” Furthermore, it is a key strategic area in the Transatlantic Ocean Research Alliance;
- The European ocean observation and monitoring capacity is well developed. However, the landscape remains highly fragmented and complex. In particular, a step change in coordination of Europe’s in-water ocean observations is required to improve the sustainability and efficiency of the value chain from observation to information;
- The European Integrated Maritime Strategy in 2007 identified the need for an integrated framework delivering systematic and sustained ocean observations. But despite significant advancements in coordinating oceanographic data, goods and services, a truly end-to-end European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) is not in place.

What is being done to develop EOOS?

- The EurOCEAN 2014 Rome Declaration called for “further development of the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS), integrated at the global level (including GOOS, GEO and Copernicus).” The European Marine Board (EMB) and EuroGOOS are jointly taking this action forward, with stakeholder input from the wider community;
- A brainstorming workshop took place in May 2015 gathering experts from the marine research and operational oceanographic communities to discuss EOOS developments;
- In 2016 an EOOS steering group was convened, comprising ocean observation experts from several member states and three European Commission Directorates-General, co-chaired by EMB and EuroGOOS;

- An EOOS Consultation Document was launched on 8 September 2016 at a dedicated European Parliament event, hosted by MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos;
- A public consultation was launched in December 2016 to receive stakeholder input on the scope of EOOS, future governance options, and early actions;
- Stakeholder responses will inform the development of an EOOS Strategy by early 2018;
- An open stakeholder forum is foreseen in 2018 to bring together all European ocean observing stakeholders and further engage in an open dialogue.



Ocean buoy. Credit: Marine Institute, Ireland



EOOS briefing, European Parliament, 8 September 2016

Stakeholder support for EOOS

- A public stakeholder consultation received 115 responses from 30 countries, including response from research institutes, ocean observation and marine monitoring organizations and industry;
- Stakeholders strongly acknowledged there are still some efforts to be done in the coordination of European ocean observation;
- 91% of respondents agreed that EOOS could provide the framework for the coordination of the European ocean observation capacity, building on existing efforts;
- Most contributors agreed that EOOS coordinating framework should address all European efforts in ocean observations, including EU contributions to global observing efforts (89%), and European sea basins and surrounding areas (94%);
- Respondents proposed that EOOS early actions should be fostering links across existing ocean observing and data initiatives gaining commitment and support at national and European level.

The EOOS Consultation Document, a summary of stakeholder responses and further information on EOOS developments can be downloaded at www.eoos-ocean.eu

For further information, please email info@eoos-ocean.eu