



ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

AGENDA ITEM 5.2.2C

PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF DEPTH AS AN EOV



BACKGROUND

- The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) defines the scope of the ocean parameters that it monitors through a series of Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs). Depth is not currently an EOV.
- This paper sets out a proposal for Depth to be included as an EOV within the GOOS framework.



GOOS AND THE ESSENTIAL OCEAN VARIABLES (EOVs)

- GOOS was created under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) in 1991 to establish the coordination framework and services needed to provide critical ocean data and information to decision makers.
- 36 EOVS describe the breadth and scope of the observing system. Together they comprise an observation infrastructure which is a global resource.
- The 36 EOVS are split into three categories: Physics, Biogeochemistry and Biology & Ecosystems. Each of these categories is overseen by an expert panel who are responsible for ensuring consistency across the various observing networks that underpin each EOVS.



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ARGUMENT FOR DEPTH TO BE INCLUDED AS AN EOVS

- Inclusion of Depth as an EOVS under the GOOS system, means our community will benefit from various initiatives being undertaken to raise awareness of the criticality and value of ocean data at the highest international policy levels.
- The IHO is the competent international body for hydrography, and it is important to 'own our space' but also to be regarded as important part of the greater system.
- The proposal supports IHO Strategic Plan Goal 2 and Goal 3,
- Proposal aligns with the new GEBCO Strategy



IMPACTS OF DEPTH BEING INCLUDED AS AN EOVS

- Depth as an EOVS represent as a paradigm shift in the way that our community views seabed mapping activity – discrete activities being seen as a distributed ocean observing network which underpins a critical component of maritime infrastructure.
- Securing Depth as an EOVS is a long-term commitment which will require the IHO (probably through GEBCO) to assume the role of custodian of a GOOS EOVS, which by extension formally aligns the organization with GOOS.
- Formally contributing to GOOS through the provision of Depth as an EOVS would need to be considered in future revisions of the IHO Strategy, as well as the associated annual work plan(s).



PROCESS OF DEPTH BEING INCLUDED AS AN EOVS

- Subject to C8 approval, proposal will be made to the 41st GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC41), where the onward resource requirements and governance issues will be considered.
- GGC Secretary (IHO Assistant Director Survey and Operations) would lead the development of the subsequent submission.
- The key components of the submission are a 2-3 page report outlining the justification and rationale against the principles set out by GOOS, together with a completed specification sheet which describes the nature of the observing network that underpins the EOVS.



RECOMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made to Council (Section 10. C8-5.2.2):

- a. Recognize the importance of the IHO aligning itself to the aims and ambitions of the broader ocean observing community;
- b. Task the IHO Secretariat, through the GGC Secretary, to lead the submission of Depth as a new EOVS, liaising with GGC as required;
- c. Task the GGC to assume the role of custodian of Depth as an EOVS on behalf of the IHO;
- d. Consider the inclusion of participation in GOOS through Depth as an EOVS in any future IHO strategic planning.



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ACTION REQUIRED OF COUNCIL

International
Hydrographic
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The Council is invited to:

- a. Note and discuss the paper,
- b. Consider the recommendations made in section 10. of paper C8-5.2.2C
- c. Take any action it deems necessary.