

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE IACMST GOOS-AG HELD AT CCW, BANGOR**  
**10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

**Present:**

Mr Ian Townend (IT) **Chair**  
Mr Trevor Guymmer (TG) IACMST-NOCS  
Dr John Portmann (JP) Group Co-ordinator  
Mr Jon Turton (JT) Met Office  
Dr Jane Hawkridge (JH) JNCC  
Dr Andrew Kenny (AK) CEFAS Minutes Secretary  
Dr Mike Waldock (MW) CEFAS  
Dr Beth Greenaway (BG) ME-Defra  
Dr Gaynor Evans (GE) BODC

**Apologies**

Dr Ralph Rayner  
Dr Lesley Rickards - BODC  
Dr Matthew Service - DARD-NI  
Dr Richard Burt - Chelsea Instruments  
Mr Ian Leggett - UKOAA

Lt Cdr Mark Reed - MoD

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked CCW for organising the venue and providing the hospitality.

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

Minutes of the May meeting were accepted without further amendment and therefore can be placed on the website.

**ACTIONS**

**GE** to place minutes of the May 9<sup>th</sup> 2006, meeting on the website.

**3. MATTERS NOT COVERED BY THE AGENDA**

- Feedback from the IACMST – the possible establishment of a Marine bio-resources sub-group to follow on from the underwater sound investigation was now thought to be an initiative which could be progressed under the Oceans 2025 strategy. The EU is contributing 30 million Euro to GMES over the next two years and it is the view of Peter Ryder that the UK needs to be involved in the initiative. GMES is being promoted via IACMST members into Government Departments to ensure opportunities are not lost. The integration of science into policy will be the subject of the next IACMST/IMarEST discussion meeting.
- Website updates – No major developments, but the site has been updated at intervals as necessary.
- Publications - *Strategic Plan*. The summary report has been published and is available on the Oceannet website as a PDF and hard copies are available from TG if required. The report was welcomed by Ben Bradshaw. The reports of *Review of monitoring* and *Indicators* are also on the Oceannet website as PDF files.
- Salinity and Temperature Protocols – It was noted that Sarah Hughes had produced a document on this largely based upon ICES endorsed standard operating procedures. However, that document needs to be linked to the precision and accuracy requirements of users and to date there has been no progress. This could be a job for the newly created protocols group under MARG to action.

**JP** to send the salinity and temperature document to Steve Hull (Chair of the protocols group)

- Completion of contract with NCOF – The contract for the scoping study on the use of models in the design of monitoring programmes had encountered some administrative problems in setting up. It had required NERC and Met Office approval and this had caused some delays which have now largely been resolved with the work going ahead with the result that it should be completed by Christmas. This would allow presentation of the report to the IACMST Plenary meeting in January.

#### **4. DEVELOPMENT OF THE UKMMAS**

*MAPC* - There was a recent meeting of the MAPC which was well attended including the MCA. Rodney Anderson (Defra) had Chaired the meeting. Minutes of the meeting will be circulated very soon. BG provided an update on MARG and the work, which has been on-going at the Tier 3 level, but there are still concerns over the number of meetings and the large number of people attending the meetings. Steve Hull is the Chair of the protocols group which is the home for technological developments connected with marine monitoring and relevant industry interests. A £22 million bid has been proposed for monitoring work in support of UKMMAS – how this bid goes forward is uncertain but the setting up of Public Service Agreements between Government Departments has identified a requirement to demonstrate a £0.5 million saving under UKMMAS to be achieved as a result of improved efficiency and delivery gains through the new working arrangements. Marine issues have also been identified as one of the top 10 issues for Defra for the next three to five years as identified in the Defra Strategy Refresh initiative led by David Milliband – this should help the case for additional funding. A paper on marine objectives was presented at the MAPC and there will also be a workshop on this subject in January. There remains an issue over the availability of data particularly in respect of license agreements to share data between organisations, this is an issue which MAPC needs to resolve. An article is to be written by Mike Cowling on the involvement of industry in the UKMMAS since UKMMAS is wider than just government and this will need to be highlighted in the newsletter. The next MAPC is to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May in Belfast.

*MARG* – There is a full MARG every six months and every three months a mini MARG which brings together the Chairs of the three evidence groups and reps. from the regional Governments. The protocols contract is being let and will be overseen by the newly established protocols group, in addition a monitoring meta-database is being created which it is hoped will service the needs for the GOOS returns in relation to data. Integrated Assessment will be part of the Charting Progress 2 and is expected to become a significant work activity from about 2008 in the run up to 2010 for the production of CP2 and inputs to the OSPAR QSR 2010/11 and the EU Marine Strategy 2011/12. The need to manage expectation with respect to Integrated Assessment was raised and acknowledged.

*Tier 3* - There is a meeting of HBDSEG on the 29<sup>th</sup> November and the group is being asked to QA the Marine Objectives work, however the main focus for the group is to decide how to coordinate the diversity of programmes which it oversees and what management process will best achieve its aims given the large number of people it brings together. In the CSSEG group there is an issue of where the eutrophication programme sits. Its first full meeting (including representatives from litter) will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> December. It is likely that given

the size of the group they will have thematic meetings to progress activities. It was noted that Defra Flood Management Division are undecided as to where or how they fit into UKMMAS, but it was noted that an Airborne *ad hoc* group meets to coordinate airborne surveillance programmes and suggested that this could be extended to consider satellite programmes.

## 5. FUTURE OF GOOS-AG

This was first raised at the May 2006 meeting and the points raised were referred back to IACMST who highlighted some concerns over the ability of UKMMAS (given its fledgling status) to deliver the GOOS-AG agenda. A draft Defra response to a letter from Howard Dalton was discussed. In particular it should be noted that although GOOS commitments are not legally binding they do represent monitoring and assessment contributions, commitments and obligations made in support of UK policies. BG to revise text in draft letter accordingly. IHT explained that much of the GOOS-AG work was of a non-technical nature and its present membership deals mainly with strategic issues and overseeing small contracts to address specific tasks in support of its strategic aims. UKMMAS requires elements of the GOOS-AG community to be present at all three levels, namely at MAPC dealing with policy (presently by TG), at MARG dealing with strategic developments & integration across sectors (presently by IHT) and in HBDSEG and possibly CSSEG and PSEG dealing with technical & coordination issues within the sector. The challenge is to ensure there is effective communication between the different groups (tiers). IHT suggested a transition period to allow the GOOS-AG membership to engage with the different levels of UKMMAS and to evaluate the effectiveness of the new arrangements under UKMMAS to progress the GOOS-AG work plan. This transition period would last one year with a final GOOS-AG meeting in November 2007. There is also a need for an effective forum for the GOOS community to share knowledge and experiences – this is presently achieved through the annual open meetings of GOOS-AG in November. It is important that this is maintained under the new UKMMAS arrangements and this needs to be reviewed during the transition period. The principal work activities of GOOS-AG, which need to be picked up by UKMMAS, are as described in the last annual report to IACMST. In summary this is to manage the letting of small contracts to progress key activities, keeping the website up-to-date, providing returns to and representation at IOC and other international fora such as JCOMM, IGOOS and EuroGOOS and planning/coordinating the open meetings. All this happens because GOOS-AG has funding from its members to support delivery of its work plan. The three – five year work plan will be revised to make more clear the priorities for actions required from UKMMAS. There was also a suggestion that a representative of one of the GOOS-AG community organisations might be seconded to Defra to assist with transfer of responsibilities from GOOS-AG to UKMMAS.

## 6. PREPARATION OF A THREE – FIVE YEAR PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

*Questionnaire* – the questionnaire was issued as a pre-cursor to drafting the forward plan, however, there were only 11 responses from the 60+ letters sent out. It was suggested that the poor response may in part have been due to the non electronic nature of the questionnaire, despite provision of sae return envelopes, and that responses may have been improved if done via e-mail. A notable response was the apparent lack of long-term funding for marine observations by the UKHO, MCA and FRS. The requirements for activities for the next three to

**BG** to revise text of draft letter response to Howard Dalton accordingly.

**IHT** to send a letter to members describing the way forward and requesting notification of which members wish to input at MARG, PSEG, CSSEG and HaBSEG. This is required ideally before the next meeting of HBDSEG on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**JP** to revise the three-five year GOOS work plan for UKMMAS for review at next MARG meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December. A final plan will be issued to members before Christmas and then presented to IACMST in January.

**TG** to find out what elements of GOOS monitoring are covered by Defra SR and Oceans 2025 bids by the end of November.

five years would be clearly set out and the plan should be fully included under the UKMMAS arrangements. BG requested that this document (in revised form see action above) should be reviewed at the next MARG meeting in order to fully evaluate (across all sectors) the justification for taking forward the priorities for action. Clearly some of the elements highlighted are included in the proposed Defra (£22 million) Spending Review Bid and others are addressed in the NERC Oceans 2025 bid. TG was asked to clarify what elements are included in both bids and how this relates to the priorities in the three -five year plan.

## **7. INFORMATION ON MEETINGS, ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST**

- *ERFF Strategic Review of Monitoring* – the emphasis of this review has been on terrestrial monitoring programmes. The coordination (UKMMAS) in the marine sector has been suggested as a possible model for the terrestrial domain. The review has highlighted the difference in funding between terrestrial and marine programmes, namely; £500 million for terrestrial and £36 million for marine.
- *MEDAG/MDIP*- An RV cruise inventory has been compiled which is now available on the Oceannet website. In addition a wave catalogue will be on-line soon. A five year plan for MEDAG will be agreed by the end of November and this will need to be adopted by UKMMAS probably under the auspices of MDIP.
- *EuroACT* This initiative now rests on the outcome of a proposal (ECOOT) being submitted to the European Commission under the Framework 7 Programme.
- *NCOF* The NCOF Board had met on 30<sup>th</sup> October where it was decided to establish a common fund (raised by members) to help coordinate and progress activities. CEFAS are now involved on the Executive Committee and there are discussions between NCOF, Defra and CEFAS on future collaboration. JT indicated that discussions have taken place between NCOF partners to move towards a more formal Consortium agreement. JT also reported that in the medium term (two to eight years) NCOF modelling capability would be based on the NEMO system (which is applicable for both shelf-seas and the deep ocean), and is derived from the French OPA code and will be freely available under license. In the longer-term it is proposed to move towards the ICOM (Imperial College adaptive grid finite element mode) as the future generation ocean model. A new high resolution (6 km) global SST and Sea Ice (OSTIA) daily analysis has now been implemented operationally. This is based on high resolution satellite data (IR and microwave) and in situ measurements, and builds on the work of GHRSSST Pilot Project. Analyses are available on the web (GHRSSST web site) and are based on last 24 hours data.
- *IOC/EuroGOOS* – The UK has been actively supporting the IOC so the recent request for member states to pledge funding does not put too much pressure on the UK. GOOS returns are required by January 2007 for the June meeting of IOC. Agency membership of EuroGOOS (with a limit of 3 members) remains an issue in terms of representing the wider UK interests through the members of the group and MARG will need to identify how to address this. At the recent meeting of EuroGOOS there was some discussion of the Maritime Green Paper and some feedback as part of the consultation exercise is to be collectively provided by EuroGOOS.

**JP** to liaise with Mark Charlesworth to agree on arrangements for the January GOOS returns.

- *Argo* – There are now around 2,500 fully operational floats with 600 units having been deployed to date this year and expected to be around 800 units by the end of the year (i.e. at the level needed to sustain a 3,000 float array) . UK Argo has deployed over 200 floats so far with around 100 presently operating. However, reaching the target of 3,000 operational floats is proving more difficult than expected as many of the earlier floats are reaching the end of their operational life after 3 years rather than lasting for 4 years, although lifetimes are steadily improving. At present UK Argo funding is on an ad-hoc annual basis and this is not sustainable or efficient. However, longer term funding for UK Argo is one of the items included in the proposed MAPC Spending Review Bid.
- *Marine Bill* - The Bill went out for public consultation and this closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> June with the report now published on the Defra website. The drafting of a White Paper will be the next development and again will be subject to public consultation. A timetable for this has not been finalised.
- *IACMST/IMarEST/MIA/* - A paper was tabled by RR for information. A key message emerging from the recent EMMA meeting on operational oceanography (attended by RR) was the need to avoid double reporting and assessment.

## **8. FINANCIAL REPORT**

It was noted that there will be carry over of about £6,000 at the end of 06/07. It was suggested that when GOOS AG winds up any unspent monies might be used to assist the MARG secretariat.

## **9. ANNUAL REPORT FOR IACMST**

A draft report will be circulated to members for comment before Christmas including the revised proposal for future work activities in line with the three - five year work plan (discussed under Items 5 & 6). The report will then be presented at the IACMST Plenary meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**JP** to distribute a draft report to members for comment before Christmas.  
**All** members to provide comments on draft annual report by 5<sup>th</sup> January.

## **10. PLANS FOR THE MAY MEETING**

A provisional date of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 was set for the next meeting of GOOS-AG under the new transitional arrangements. The meeting place will be London, venue to be decided, but EA to be approached.

## **ACRONYMS**

ABE-LOS Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea  
BODC British Oceanographic data Centre  
CCW Countryside Council for Wales  
CEFAS Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science  
CSSEG Clean and Safe Seas Evidence Group  
ERFF Environmental Research Funders Forum  
EuroACT European Alliance for Coastal Techniques  
ECOOT European Coastal and Ocean Observing Technologies initiative  
GEOS Global Earth Observing System of Systems  
GIS Geographic Information System  
GMES Global Monitoring of the Environment System  
ICES International Council for Exploration of the Sea  
HaBSEG Healthy and Biodiverse Seas Evidence Group  
IACMST Inter Agency Committee for Marine Science and Technology  
IOC Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission  
IOCARIBE IOC Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions  
IPY International Polar Year  
J-COMM Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology  
IMarEST Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology  
MAPC Marine Assessment and Policy Committee  
MARG Marine Assessment and Reporting Group  
MCA Marine and Coastguard Agency  
MIA Marine Information Alliance  
MDIP Marine Data Information Partnership  
MEDAG Marine Environmental Data Action Group  
NCOF National Centre for Ocean Forecasting  
NEMO Nucleus for European Modelling of the Oceans  
NERC Natural Environment Research Council  
NOCS National Oceanography Centre Southampton  
PSEG Productive Seas Evidence Group  
PAP Porcupine Abyssal Plain  
QSR Quality Status Report  
SAHFOS Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science  
SCOR Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research  
UKHO UK Hydrographic Office  
UKMMAS UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy  
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM GOOS-AG MEETING ON 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>On</b>	<b>Detail</b>
1	As soon as possible	<b>G Evans</b>	To place minutes of May meeting on the website
2	As soon as possible	<b>J Portmann</b>	To send the S Hughes note on salinity and temperature sampling methods to Steve Hull for the protocols group.
3	As soon as possible	<b>B Greenaway</b>	To revise the text as agreed in response to the Howard Dalton letter.
4	25 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>I Townend</b>	To write a letter to members describing the way forward for the transition from GOOS-AG to UKMMAS.
5	19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>J Portmann</b>	Revise the three-five year GOOS work plan for UKMMAS for review at next MARG meeting on 19 <sup>th</sup> December. A final plan will be issued to members before Christmas and then presented to IACMST in January.
6	30 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>T Guymer</b>	To find out what elements of GOOS monitoring are covered by Defra SR and Oceans 2025 bids by the end of November.
7	As soon as practicable	<b>J Portmann</b>	To liaise with Mark Charlesworth to agree on arrangements for the January GOOS returns.
8	Before 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>J Portmann</b>	To distribute the draft annual report to members for comment before Christmas.
9	January 5th	<b>All Members</b>	To provide comments on draft annual report to IACMST.