



8th Session of the JCOMM Observations Coordination Group

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Report Title: OceanGliders report to OCG-8

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1. SUMMARY

This document summarises the status of the work of OceanGliders and issues/actions to be noted by OCG.

2. REPORT CONTENT

Since OCG-7, a steering team for the glider component of the GOOS/GCOS has been created and the OceanGliders program has started with the objectives to:

- strengthen the glider community and facilitate the sustained use of gliders globally
- launch and maintain an international glider program as a component of the GOOS/GCOS

A first OceanGliders Steering team meeting occurred in parallel to the 7th EGO conference, NOC, Southampton, United Kingdom, 26th-29th September 2016, and a second one was held at UNESCO, Paris, France, 20th-21st April 2017.

Governance rules for OceanGliders have been adopted, a short term Action Plan has been agreed and plans for the international/regional communities have been discussed. OceanGliders is now organized in 5 Task Teams (TTs):

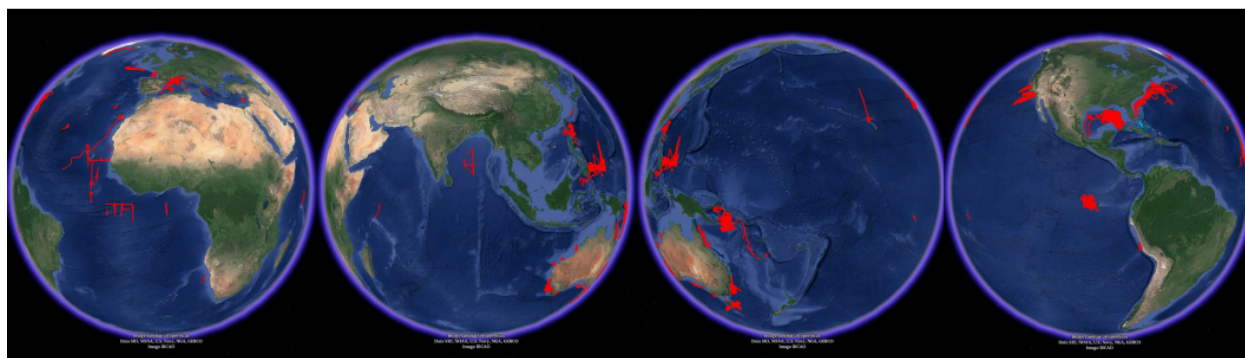
- Boundary Currents
- Storms
- Water Transformation
- Polar regions
- Data Management

First version documents describing the scopes of these TTs have been written and circulated. It is envisaged that new task teams may emerge in the future. OceanGliders is now recognized by OOPC and approved as a new member of OCG.

Network status

Thanks to data management efforts throughout the world, almost all glider data are stored in a few public data bases which allow the mapping of the glider activity. The data cover important gaps in the observation of the ocean, mainly in boundary areas and regional seas. There are today ~20-30 gliders at

sea at any given time but performance targets based on the phenomena to address have not been agreed as yet.



All gliders tracks completed since 2004. Views from 0°N, and 0°E, 90°E, 180°E, and 270°E.

Data management

An OceanGliders Data Management Group has been set up by the Data Management TT and will build on the 3 existing 'common formats' for gliders: IOOS, IMOS and EGO glider data formats, all based on NetCDF and CF compliance. They are very similar but there are some slight differences and it was agreed that translators between these different formats must be developed in order to facilitate global products. An internationally agreed fit-for-purpose Data Management best practice needs to be developed, drawing on what has already been done for gliders and other networks (Argo, OceanSITES).

Technology/capability development

There is a significant need to develop the network capacity by globally coordinating regional and national development. Some countries are not ready yet to support the required "glider" infrastructure and it was decided OceanGliders should also promote technology transfer and best practices. The present but limited access to glider infrastructures for demonstration purposes could be supported. Certainly, data management infrastructure already supports regional and national efforts around the world, and welcomes new contributions, although it is still fragmented in 3 major centers (Australia, U.S., and E.U.)

The technology of deep (6000m) gliders opens great perspectives and few sustained glider sections will likely extend deeper in a near future. Biogeochemical sensor technology and best practices are also mature enough to be considered at the global scale, and are of a high priority in a number of applications.

3. DECISIONS/ACTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Internal rules have been discussed and formally agreed by the OceanGliders Steering Team about Membership, the Steering Team, the Executive Committee, the Chair and co-Chair, Task Teams and meetings. Based on 2-years mandates, the Steering Team will nominate the Executive Committee (composed of the Chair, the co-Chair, the TT Leaders and the GOOS advisor) and new Steering Team members, based on a limited number of rules related to required expertise and representativeness (in terms of task teams, gender balance and geography).



It has been decided to set up a website and www.OceanGliders.org has been acquired. It will be populated by September with a presentation of OceanGliders, harmonized TT documents and a number of short texts describing glider achievements for outreach, as well as global maps of the past and present glider activity.

It has been noted that at coordination level there is a need to ensure engagement with different communities, whether they are international (OOPC, IOCCP, GOOSBioEco), regional (e.g. TPOS2020, AtlantOS, Polar...), or more thematic (biogeochemistry, modelling). A priority is to engage with the GRAs using or planning to use gliders (US IOOS, IMOS, IOGOOS, EuroGOOS, etc.). Formal cover letters with enclosed Task Teams proposals will be distributed to relevant panels and OceanGliders will engage with the preparation of OceanObs'19 (16 – 20 Sept, Honolulu) and observing systems design initiatives/projects.

It was agreed there is a clear need of a technical coordinator for OceanGliders. Today, this position is supported by CNRS/France thanks to the EU H2020 AtlantOS project. Victor Turpin dedicates 25% of his time to OceanGliders since September 2016, starting from the launch of OceanGliders during the 7th EGO Conference, Southampton, UK. This is already about 15k€ and this could be continued at least next year but it has been agreed that this is not enough. A full-time person in the first year, and half-time after the first year, would be needed at least. IOC/WMO seem to be suitable institutions to welcome international funds for such a position. Based on the cost of a JCOMMOPS technical network coordinator, the needed budget is around 120 000\$/year (including overheads) for a full-time position.

The Steering Team members will try to raise sustained funds to support this cost from their respective agencies in Australia, Canada, Europe, UK, and USA (respectively around 25k\$ each) and short case for support is being prepared. In parallel, a framework for a OceanGliders Technical Coordinator position at JCOMMOPS must be set up.