



IOOC Response to [2024 IOOS Advisory Committee Recommendations](#)

The IOOC appreciates the insightful recommendations from the IOOS Advisory Committee. These selected recommendations align with our newly drafted strategic goals and objectives. Through the implementation of our Strategic Plan, we will support the recommendations identified for the IOOC by the IOOS Advisory Committee. The IOOC will champion federal ocean observation activities through collaborative system development, solutions-based research, outreach and education, standards setting, joint federal planning, and implementation of shared priorities.

We have cross referenced the selected recommendations for the IOOC with the correlated strategic goal/objective below. The IOOC is moving forward on its new Strategic Plan through discussions around implementation activities.

Thank you and please let us know if you have any questions,

IOOC Co-Chairs (David Legler, NOAA; Deerin Babb-Brott, OSTP; Laura Lorenzoni, NASA; Lisa Clough, NSF)

Recommendations for IOOC

[NOPP:](#)

Recommendation 1: NOAA should provide leadership, through NOPP, for interagency collaboration and coordination to enhance national observing programs, meeting national priorities that require an interagency approach.

- **IOOC Response:** The NOPP is a sister interagency working group, and indeed is a good venue for bringing interagency efforts forward, inclusive of directed funding. As there is some overlap in working group members between the IOOC and NOPP, the IOOC can remind the NOPP group that the IOOC fosters interagency collaboration to meet national priorities. The IOOC has long utilized interagency coordination through their committee work and task teams to improve existing approaches to ocean observing management. The IOOC plans to continue these efforts through the implementation of their strategic goals/objectives, outlined below. The IOOC anticipates engaging more with other

interagency entities, such as NOPP, to achieve these goals and enhance national observing programs.

- **Strategic Goals:** 1.2; 1.4; 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4

Recommendation 2: IOOS should work with NOPP leadership and appropriate sponsor agencies to develop a process that clearly identifies observing/sensing requirements for NOPP projects far in advance, so that industry and academia, as partners, can invest in the technology that enhances NOAA's mission, encourages innovation, supports industry and academia investments in research and technology, and the ultimate transition of technology to IOOS and other sustained observing programs. In addition, the IOOS Program Office can provide leadership to improve communication and coordination with NOPP partners.

- **IOOC Response:** The IOOC acknowledges this recommendation directed at NOPP leadership and projects. This aligns with the IOOC's commitment to fostering system-wide innovation, advancing cross-agency research and development, enhancing the utilization of observing capabilities, and promoting novel non-Federal partnerships, as outlined in the following goals and objectives.

- **Strategic Goals:** 1.2; 1.4; 2.1; 2.2; 2.5

Recommendation 3: NOAA and the IOOC should expand public-private partnerships, including working with philanthropic organizations, and assess ways to utilize innovative or alternate funding mechanisms other than BAAs to fund NOPP projects.

- **IOOC Response:** The IOOC agrees with the encouragement to expand our exploration of public-private partnerships. As part of expanding these partnerships, the IOOC intends to actively seek out novel non-federal partnerships and engage with other entities, in consultation with NOPP as appropriate. This approach aims to broaden participation and integrate innovative observing system technologies and sources of support, thereby enhancing contributions from the ocean observing community.

- **Strategic Goals:** 2.5; 2.6

Marine Life:

Recommendation 2: Identify core biological measurements and standards across the IOOS enterprise. Develop the capacity to ensure the development of a specific biological capability across the IOOS enterprise. IOOS should incorporate the GOOS framework for marine life observations to the extent possible.

- **IOOC Response:** The IOOC acknowledges the importance of this recommendation and has previously supported this process through the Biological Integration and Observational (BIO) and Biology - Integrating Core to Essential Variables (Bio-ICE) Task Teams. Moving forward, the committee remains committed to supporting IOOS in this regard through the implementation of the strategic objective listed below.

- **Strategic Goals:** 1.3

Recommendation 3: IOOS should fully implement the ATN (ARGOS and acoustic tracking systems) and ensure that key sentinel species are measured routinely. Implementation would include tracking data collected by all federal agencies.

- **IOOC Response:** The IOOC has actively supported the ATN through the development of its implementation plan, led initially by the ATN Task Team. The committee supports the full implementation of ATN within IOOS. The strategic goal outlined below can assist in advancing this recommendation.
- **Strategic Goals: 1.3**



DRAFT IOOC Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Ocean Observing System Development

Facilitate the evolution of a state of the art integrated and interoperable ocean observation system responsive to societal needs, agency missions, and national and international priorities.

System Requirements

- 1.1 Design and implement a collaborative process to identify and prioritize gaps in geographic coverage, data types, and ocean observing technologies to guide system development.
- 1.2 Coordinate, prioritize, and align interagency efforts to address gaps in the ocean observing system consistent with an annual focus area.

Data Management and Standards

- 1.3 Catalyze the prioritization and development of open standards and protocols for IOOS Core Variables to increase data integration, utilization, and societal value.

Solutions-Based Research and Application

- 1.4 Prioritize and support cross-agency solutions-based research and development to improve the observing system and its societal value.
- 1.5 Strengthen the ability to fully understand the use and impacts of ocean observations in modeling and prediction systems to inform future system development and better articulate the national return on investment.

Goal 2: Partner Engagement

Collaborate with diverse partners to expand awareness, grow contributions, and improve access to and usage of ocean data and information.

Agency and Interagency Engagement

- 2.1 Advance and promote ocean observation standards, metrics, and promising practices that connect to agency and interagency-level outreach and engagement to communities.
- 2.2 Improve in-reach within IOOC agencies to increase understanding of observing enterprise capabilities and utilization.

Partner Participation and Contributions

2.3	Expand collaboration and formalize partnerships to promote information and knowledge sharing between federal agencies, tribal nations, and non-sovereign indigenous communities.
2.4	Expand federal agency contributions to advance cross-cutting ocean observing missions with an emphasis on leveraging all available ocean observations.
2.5	Pursue novel non-Federal partnerships to expand participation and incorporate observing system innovations to optimize ocean observing community contributions.
<i>International Collaboration</i>	
2.6	Advance U.S. leadership in global ocean observing by collaborating with national and international partners to promote national priorities.
Goal 3: Ocean Observing System Sustainability	
Sustain the ocean observation system through shared leadership, joint planning, and results-driven implementation.	
<i>Enterprise Alignment</i>	
3.1	Conduct joint planning activities across federal partners to support the efficient design, operation, enhancement, and integration of the ocean observing enterprise.
3.2	Align investments to fill common gaps across agencies and advance shared priorities.
3.3	Recommend opportunities to transition proven systems, tools, and capabilities among agencies to enhance ocean observing sustainability.
<i>Integrated Implementation</i>	
3.4	Codify governance and operating protocols to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of the IOOC.
3.5	Enhance the implementation of IOOC strategic initiatives through shared leadership.
3.6	Leverage the IOOS Federal Advisory Committee to advance the IOOC strategic plan.