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Commission

# **Steering Group for the IOC Ocean Best Practices System (SG-OBPS)**

**Monthly Meeting**  
09 Nov 2022  
20.00-21.30 UTC  
[ONLINE]



**UNESCO 2022**

## **ABSTRACT**

This report are the notes of the online meeting for 09 Nov 2022

The IOC Ocean Best Practices System Steering Group (SG-OBPS) meets annually at a face-to-face/hybrid/online meeting and monthly online meetings. This month's meeting addressed the agenda for the annual meeting which will be held 30 November to 2 December in Paris.

The meeting also considered, in light of the expanding global interest in ocean best practices and the OBPS, whether two additional members should be added to the Steering Group (SG). The consensus of the meeting was to support the expansion. It was agreed that all SG members should be given an opportunity to express their position on the expansion. A request will be sent to all SG members

For bibliographic purposes this document should be cited as follows:

*Steering Group for the IOC Ocean Best Practices System (SG-OBPS), Monthly Meeting, 09 Nov 2022.* [ONLINE] Paris, UNESCO/IOC, 4pp. (Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies). 2022

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**ANNEX 1 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

## 1. Opening of the meeting

Johannes Karstensen (JK) (Co-Chair SG-OBPS) introduced the meeting. He confirmed that the agenda had been made available for a week for members to add the topics they wished to discuss. There were no additions to the agenda at the meeting which was already full. A complete list of the meeting participants is shown in Annex I. All participants agreed the session should be recorded.

## 2. SG-OBPS-IV Agenda

JK explained the draft running order of the [agenda](#) for the SG-OBPS-IV. Suggestions were made for the re-order and clustering of some agenda items and these were edited in real time.

Items noted in the discussion: modelling presentations had been included in the agenda to stimulate further interest for the modelling community representatives be involved in the OBPS; Mark Bushnell agreed to coordinate the Task Team reports and JP confirmed that the two co-chair candidates would attend the meeting in-person and the new SG member candidates would be invited to attend virtually as observers, now that the meeting was to be hybrid to accommodate this.

## 3. New agenda item - new SG members

The mention of new SG members raised a discussion about new SG members. At the *ad hoc* 26 October 2022 SG meeting, there were 7 vacancies including the co-chair positions to fill and 12 applicants from diverse regions and expertise. There was a quorum of voting members present on 26 October and the 7 candidates who obtained the most votes in the poll, were notified that their candidacy had been supported and would go forward for approval at SG-OBPS-IV; the others were asked if they would like to have their applications remain active.

At this 9 November 2022 monthly meeting of the SG, there was discussion on the need to acknowledge global diversity within the SG and our increasing activities including the impacts of the continuing globalization of our efforts. It was discussed whether to add two more members or if there was a rigid limit on the SG member numbers even as we expand our activities. It was also recognized there would be some transitions in the coming year. The consensus of the meeting, which had a formal quorum, was that the SG should be expanded by two people. It was agreed that the selection of the two additional people should be based on the results of the new members vote taken on 26 October, by inviting the two applicants who had the most votes below those already accepted. There was a strong consensus of meeting participants that this was a good way to select people who were already interested and qualified.

Participants at the 9 November 2022 SG meeting, even with its quorum, felt that all members of the OBPS SG should have an opportunity to vote on this matter of expansion. The vote will be done now so if the two are accepted, they can attend the SG-OBPS-IV at the end of November as virtual observers. The appointment of the new SG member candidates will be submitted for approval at SG-OBPS-IV. An invitation to vote will be provided to the current SG-OBPS with a response requested by Monday, 14 November 2022, 16:00 UTC. The decision will be based on the results.

**ACTION;** The co-chairs to send out, to all SG members, an email with a poll request using Google Forms, to add two additional SG members and select the two people from the top of the 26 November 2022 poll of remaining candidates.

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Meeting time had overrun so no other agenda items were covered, but it was quickly highlighted that members needed to add their travel/hotel details to the spreadsheet for SG-OBPS-IV and to update the Work Plan 2022 that was linked in this month's agenda.

#### 4. Close of Meeting

Johannes Karstensen thanked the SG members at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 21.25 UTC

### ANNEX I

#### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

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