

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

**2026 Meeting of the IODE Management Group**  
**IOC Project Office for IODE, Oostende, Belgium**  
**28-29 January 2026**

<b>REPORT (MAX 2 PAGES) - please answer in bullets where possible</b>
1. Title of IODE Programme Component/Programme activity, IOC Programme or Decade activity (and acronym)
<b>Ocean Data and Information System</b>
2. Report submitted by (Name/Date/email)
Adam Leadbetter, 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2026, a.leadbetter@unesco.org
3. Updates since IODE-28 (*)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New Steering Group established<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Co-chairs elected from Member State nominees<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Elena Tel (Spain)</li><li>▪ Adam Leadbetter (Ireland)</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• Operations Group has met a couple of times<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Chaired by Colm Walsh (United Kingdom)</li><li>◦ Currently looking for a second co-chair outside European time zone with Pier-Luigi Buttigeg (Germany) acting as interim co-chair</li><li>◦ Operations group are working on a minimum metadata standard for ODIS, however they have also created a fully standalone GitHub repository to use as their workspace which may need to be addressed</li></ul></li><li>• At a count in November 2025, there were 59 nodes connected to ODIS</li></ul>
4. How does your work align with the objectives of IODE, the UN Ocean Decade, and other multilateral agreements?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UN Ocean Decade: Vision 2030 for Challenge 8 (Building a Digital Representation of the Ocean) – ODIS represents the current approach to the Data Discovery System for the Decade Digital Ecosystem</li><li>• Until a better understanding of the needs of the IOC Data Architecture is articulated, ODIS represents the approach to building that Data Architecture (noting that data exchange is not yet enabled within ODIS)</li><li>• </li></ul>
5. Prioritised deliverables 2026-2027

- Guide the process to provide a proposal for IOC Data Architecture and a FAIR data charter (NORAD funded-proposal)
  - Conduct a review of existing ODIS infrastructure to ensure it is suitable for the purposes required by the operating environment and operationalise the infrastructure
  - Explore links with GOOS, GEBCO, WMO, OBIS and understand the implications for ODIS.
  - Identify a key demonstrator product to be developed to showcase the usefulness of data federation and data sharing, and develop associated documentation (data sharing guidelines; data standards).
- Promote training activities relating to ODIS Programme Component activities (such as IODE Quality Management Framework) and IODE Projects falling under ODIS through OceanTeacher.
- Engage with the National Oceanographic Data Centre network to increase the health of the network and uptake of the Quality Management Framework
- Recommendations for how to update the IODE / ODIS websites to better support NODCs.
- Propose a roadmap for ODIS that could be implemented and/or reviewed within one year.
- Publish a State of Ocean Data Report: what data do we have access to through ODIS (and from where); what uses is or could it be put to; how are the volumes of data changing over time.

## 6. GOALS 2030 (Where do you see your work / activities / outcomes in 5 years?)

- Clearer workplan and KPIs to meet the mandate:
  - IODE in 2019 to “work with existing stakeholders, linked and not linked to the IOC, to improve the accessibility and interoperability of existing data and information, and to contribute to the development of a global ocean data and information system, to be referred to as the IOC Ocean Data and Information System, leveraging established solutions where possible”
  - A-33/3.4.2 “develop in collaboration with programmes across the IOC, the IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) as a foundational digital ecosystem where users can discover and access data and information products, services, and other assets provided by Member States, projects and other partners associated with IOC.”
- Deliver data and information products that support the work of IOC and its member states.
- Support organizational development within the global network of NODCs (fostering a healthy Community of Practice), including with an operational helpdesk to support NODCs and other stakeholders
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities and structural changes necessary with the IODE programme activities

## 7. Considerations for / Requests to the IODE Management Group

- As IODE is currently structured, everything except OBIS and OTGA falls under the ODIS Programme Component. Is this how things should continue?
- Need for material to be available in not just English for maximum adoption across NODCs
- Health of the NODCs

(\*) See Action sheet: [IOC/IODE-28/3 Annex V](#)