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## INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

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

#### REPORT (MAX 2 PAGES) - please answer in bullets where possible

1. Title of IODE Programme Component/Programme activity, IOC Programme or Decade activity (and acronym)

Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Data Sharing (DCO-ODS)

2. Report submitted by (Name/Date/email)

Adam Leadbetter, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026, a.leadbetter@unesco.org

3. Updates since IODE-28 (\*)

- **452. Collaboration with IODE.** There has been increased communication between IODE secretariat and DCO-ODS. DCO-ODS has one member of attending the IODE Project Office each week strengthening the relationship. DCO-ODS assisted in the preparation of the proposal to Norad for support for IODE which was subsequently funded. DCO-ODS has actively collaborated with IODE's programme components, particularly with OTGA in delivery of two training courses addressing Data Quality and the creation of data-related communities of practice. OBIS also assisted in delivery of one of these courses.
- **453. Liaison with National Oceanographic Data Centres (NODCs) and Associated Data Units.** DCO-ODS has adopted a strategic approach to connect Decade Actions (projects and programmes) with IODE National Oceanographic Data Centres to securely manage the data emerging from the Decade into the future and to facilitate marine data exchange. To date, 9 NODCs have been engaged in this manner. Engagement with NODCs in Poland and Mexico has explored potential areas for collaboration in capacity and technical development.
- **454. Update to MG73.** The update to the Data Management Planning Guideline was published in October 2025.

4. How does your work align with the objectives of IODE, the UN Ocean Decade, and other multilateral agreements?

- The work of DCO-ODS is fundamentally aligned to that of the UN Ocean Decade as DCO-ODS is the Decade's distributed coordination structure for data and

<p>information management. DCO-ODS provides technical support on data management to the UN Ocean Decade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCO-ODS plays a key role in the Intersessional Working Group on Advancing Data Sharing in National Jurisdictions (see separate report)</li> <li>• The strategic approach to data and information management in the Decade taken by DCO-ODS is aligned with IODE's core mission. This approach is successfully increasing the visibility of and national engagement with NODCs.</li> <li>• DCO-ODS plays a key role in the Decade's Corporate Data Group, with successes such as connecting Alcatel Submarine Networks with EMODnet to provide sound velocity profile data to the data infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Prioritised deliverables 2026-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Digital Atlas of the Ocean – highlighting the impact of the UN Ocean Decade and targetting progress towards Decade Challenges of key relevance to the 2027 Decade Conference. Launch date – April 2027.</li> <li>• Update to Ocean Data Publication Cookbook – Target launch date April 2026</li> <li>• Data Sharing Guidelines (Citizen Science and SocioEconomic Data) – Target publication Q1 2026</li> <li>• FAIR Ocean Data Charter – to be developed with IODE and other IOC colleagues – Target publication end 2026</li> <li>• Data Standard for Ocean Forecasting Data – developing with Decade Collaborative Centre for Ocean Prediction - Target publication end 2026</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. GOALS 2030 (Where do you see your work / activities / outcomes in 5 years?)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the current UN Ocean Decade runs to 2030, the primary activity of DCO-ODS will look different after 2030. However, by that point: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Data from Decade Actions will be clearly discoverable and accessible in the IOC Data Architecture</li> <li>◦ The Global Digital Atlas of the Ocean will be populated and operationalized, with ownership as a product clearly defined within IOC and operated by IODE</li> <li>◦ Future direction of DCO-ODS activity will be defined and resourced</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Considerations for / Requests to the IODE Management Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IODE should focus on support for and improving the health of NODCs (and ADUs) to support the building of IOC Data System and to help the work of DCO-ODS.</li> <li>• DCO-ODS funding is only secured until end of January 2027, and therefore any work planning involving DCO-ODS beyond that time must be considered tentative.</li> <li>• Consideration for the handling of non-traditional datatypes</li> <li>• Recognition of the rapidly changing global data landscape (at a wider level than ocean data management) and how IOC/IODE will respond (for example: what does responsible use of AI look like for our community; how can we engage actively and positively with emerging technologies, including low-cost sensors)</li> </ul>

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