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15–17 November 2011

Hamburg, Germany and
Exeter, UK



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Executive summary

The Working Group on Operational Oceanographic Products for Fisheries and Environment (WGOOFE) chaired by Morten Skogen and Mark Dickey-Collas is a working group on the user/provider interface of operational oceanography products. It runs a web based portal for operational oceanographic products for users in fisheries and environmental research (www.wgoofe.org). WGOOFE met twice in 2011, with WGINOSE and also worked intercessionally. It further developed its website and maintained a major outreach exercise. The web portal now has a working matrix of critically evaluated operational oceanographic products from both the eastern and western North Atlantic. The evaluations were on the basis of users friendliness and logistic operationality.

WGOOFE considered its future role and concluded that through an iterative process with users, the group needed to develop further index based products of environment and oceanographic change and variability for application to and take up by the ICES integrated assessments and advice. WGOOFE also needs to communicate through various mechanisms, to the ICES community the availability of oceanographic datasets, products and time-series. This should include publicizing and maintaining the WGOOFE website, developing Fact Sheets for ICES expert groups and further targeted meetings with groups and workshops.

There is also a need for training within the ICES community, so WGOOFE decided to liaise with the ICES training committee to develop an appropriate training course in the availability and use of oceanographic and environmental data.

In 2012, WGOOFE proposes that it will meet with WGIPEM and also have one meeting dedicated to its new remit (location and date yet to be determined) under the chair of Bee Berx and Rosa Barciela. The new template for multiannual terms of reference is not yet available, but new terms of reference are included in this report.

1 The rational for WGOOFE

WGOOFE is a working group on the user/provider interface of operational oceanography products. It runs a web based portal for operational oceanographic products for users in fisheries and environmental research (www.wgoofe.org, Figure 1). It has maintained outreach to users and producers of Operational Oceanographic Products with joint meetings, flyers, articles and a published paper. The web portal now has a working matrix of operational oceanographic products that are categorized based on accessibility and user friendliness. WGOOFE met twice in 2011 and also worked intercessionally.

Apart from continuing its core work, in 2011, WGOOFE considered the future needs of ICES in the context of the interface of producers/users of oceanographic products. Much of the final meeting in 2011 focused on whether WGOOFE needed to further develop to ensure that ICES could deliver its science plan.

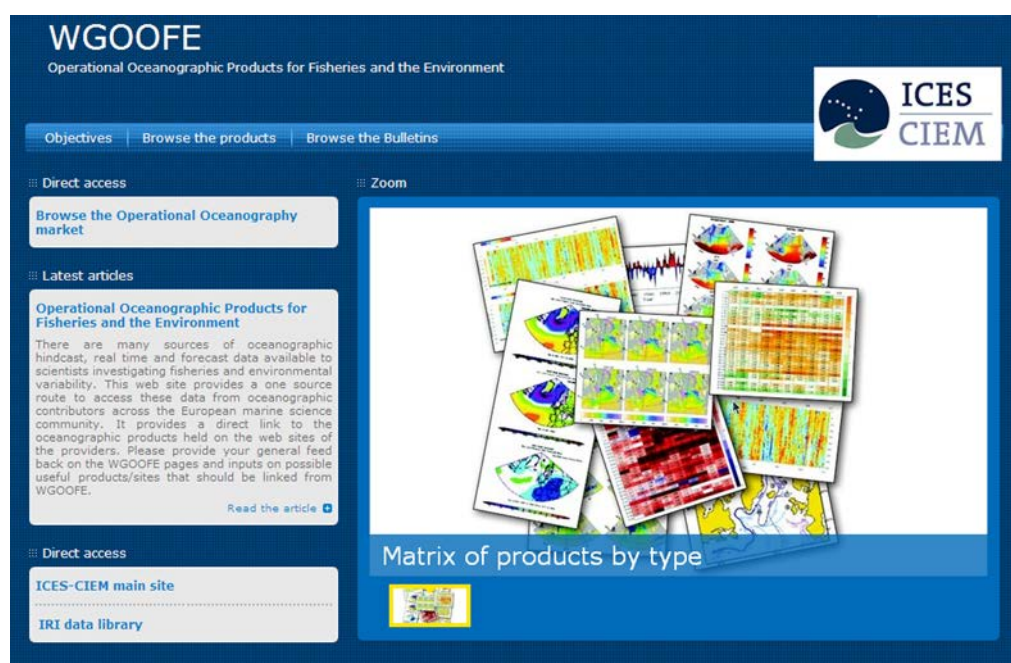


Figure 1. WGOOFE website portal to operational oceanographic productions by region.

2 The joint meeting with Working Group on Integrated Assessments of the North Sea

Four members of WGOOFE met with WGINOSE in 2011. This meeting was a continuation of the dialogue between users and producers under the WGOOFE umbrella. Other than the products already listed by WGOOFE, WGINOSE asked for additional products on sinking of organic matter, secondary production in the benthos, the Subpolar Gyre and rising water levels. They also asked for a forum to be set up to discuss issues about operational oceanographic products.

When asked what researchers would do when confronted with making a choice between similar products, WGINOSE suggested that they would investigate existing published research (to examine the performance and utility of products), they would use those products which were easy to access, or correlated with their other time-series of data (!) and preferred in situ observations over satellite or modelled estimates.

3 Update of news from the operational oceanography products world

WGOOFE received presentations and updates on the following developments:

- Ongoing work on oceanographic modelling products at IEO, Spain with special focus on ichthyoplankton modelling
- Developments at MUMM on chlorophyll and bloom products.
- Developments within MyOcean2
- The initiation of Emodnet and developments within EUROGOOS
- EMECO, which has now developed a “my data” function where researchers can load additional data.

4 The WGOOFE website

The group was briefed about the current status of the move of the WGOOFE website from Ifremer to ICES. Martin Huret and the ICES data centre have been in regular contact over the last few months and a WebEx meeting is planned to discuss the logistic challenges. The wgoofe.org web address will be maintained. The website will be hosted by ICES but will be maintained by ICES researchers, not the ICES secretariat. The website will be hosted through the SharePoint system.

Few working bulletins of the oceanographic state of the regional seas or North Atlantic are available on the web. WGOOFE noted that bulletin required a continual commitment of resources and regular updates of text that interprets the data for the reader. This was seen as the reason for a paucity in bulletins.

The website now also contained links to online transport/dispersal tools. This was viewed as a position development by WGOOFE. The members were encouraged to provide further links to enrich this section.

There has been no progress made in the last 12 months on the inclusion of ISO standards of websites being included in the WGOOFE evaluation criteria. The meeting also felt that the profile of the WGOOFE website should be increased on the ICES website.

All of the web links on WGOOFE.org were checked by the group and evaluated in relation to existing criteria. These reviews were discussed by WGOOFE and all specific changes to the website will be sent to Martin Huret. Additional new products for inclusion in the site will also be passed on to Martin.

The usage of the site was reviewed and it was found that in 2010 and 2011 approximately 50–70 unique users visited the WGOOFE.org site per month. The users came from across the ICES community, and some from beyond.

5 The evaluation of accessibility criteria for web based products

It has been made clear to WGOOFE that some users and producers do not understand that the categorization scheme relates to accessibility and user friendliness of data products. Some are under the impression that the data quality of the product has been evaluated. This is not the case. The criteria used to grade the sites are:

Green: Data download is free and open without registration, viewing the data are possible, a data description is available (method, reference, relevance -data format, update frequency) plus a contact person is shown and linked.

Amber: the data are still free but a user may also need to register before downloading, plus only two of the three issues are available: viewing data, describing data, contact shown.

Red: sites that do not conform to the green or amber criteria.

The group split into regional teams to check the accessibility and functionality of the current sites and to check other potential additional sites. The results of these checks were discussed in plenary and the specific changes to the site are to be sent to Martin Huret by e-mail. Also the issue of whether data quality considerations (provided by the producers) should be included in the evaluations was discussed, and it was decided that WGOOFE should not consider this issue at present.

The group agreed that a single letter should be sent to each producer listed on the WGOOFE.org site to inform them that their products were listed and the accessibility had been evaluated. The e-mail addresses of the contact names for the websites will be sent by the WGOOFE regional evaluations in their e-mail to Martin Huret. Mark Dickey-Collas and Morten Skogen will write the letter.

6 ICES and Ocean Observing

WGOOFE has a contribution to make in the new developments inside and outside ICES in ocean observing. WGOOFE felt that it should make an active contribution to WKOOI (Workshop to Define the Ocean Observing Needs for ICES). It recommends that Patrick Gorringe attends the workshop for WGOOFE and that Rodney Forster, Bee Berx attend via WebEx.

7 WGOOFE comment on WKCATDAT matrix

WGOOFE considered the WKCATDAT request and scored the following metrics as important.

Physical and chemical oceanography

Continuous underway measurements	3
Station measurements	3
Autonomic devices	3
Water movement	3
Nutrient samples	3

Biological oceanography

Microbiological samples	2
Phytoplankton samples	1
Phytoplankton samples	3
Zooplankton samples	3
Zooplankton samples	3
Zooplankton samples	3

Environmental conditions

Weather conditions	3
Sea state	3

8 The future

The group discussed the future for WGOOFE. It was aware that much of its work could continue but it noted that the WG needed a central vision and deliverables. The draft proposed new terms of reference resulting from the discussions are:

The Working Group on Operation Oceanographic Products for Fisheries and the Environment will meet from 2012 to 2015 under the chair of Rosa Barciela of UK (England and Wales) and Bee Berx of UK (Scotland), to:

- i) Develop, through an iterative process with users, further index based products of environment and oceanographic change and variability for application to and take up by the ICES integrated assessments and advice.
- ii) Demonstrate, through specific case studies, applications of oceanographic products in integrated assessments and advice.
- iii) Communicate through various mechanisms, to the ICES community the availability of oceanographic datasets, products and time-series. This should include publicizing and maintaining the WGOOFE website, de-

veloping Fact sheets for ICES expert groups and further targeted meetings with groups and workshops.

- iv) Act as an interface for ICES for multinational projects, networks and organizations on operation oceanographic products, such as MyOcean2, Emodnet, MarCoast2, EUROGOOS and work with producers of the expectations and abilities of users.
- v) Liaise with the ICES training committee to develop an appropriate training course in the availability and use of oceanographic and environmental data.
- vi) Respond to ad hoc requests for advice on oceanographic products for the ICES ecosystem modelling, advisory and ocean observing communities.

The incoming chairs of WGOOFE will have to develop the new multiannual TORs and supporting information once the new template is available.

Annex 1: List of participants

NAME	AFFILIATION	COUNTRY
Anna Akimova*	vTI	Germany
Manuel Barange	PML / ICES SCICOM	UK, England & Wales
Rosa Barciela	Met Office	UK
Barbara Berx	Marine Scotland	UK, Scotland
Asbjorn Christensen	DTU Aqua	Denmark
Mark Dickey-Collas	Wageningen IMARES	Netherlands
Chair		
Rodney Forster	Cefas	UK, England & Wales
Luz Garcia	IEO	Spain
Lars Golmen	NIVA	Norway
Patrick Gorringe	SMHI / EUROGOOS	Sweden
Martin Huret	Ifremer	France
Holger Klein	BSH	Germany
Dominique Obaton	Mercator	France
Morten Skogen	IMR	Norway
Chair		
Henning Wehde	IMR	Norway
Dimitry van der Zande	MUMM	Belgium

* Spring meeting. All other members either participated both meetings or the meeting in November only.

Annex 2: Terms of Reference for WGOOFE 2011

The Working Group on operational oceanographic products for fisheries and environment (WGOOFE) chaired by Morten Skogen, Norway, and Mark Dickey-Collas, the Netherlands, will meet twice in 2011 at vTI, Hamburg, Germany, 22–23 February 2011, at the UK Metrological Office, Exeter, UK 15–17 November 2011 to:

- a) Meet with WGINOSE to investigate the operational oceanographic product requirements for integrated ecosystem assessments;
- b) Beginning to move the WGOOFE website from Ifremer to ICES;
- c) Inform producers of the WGOOFE criteria and the WGOOFE website grading of products;
- d) Investigate the need for ISO standards in products;
- e) Continue refining and critically evaluating the operational products to the needs of the users, including format and timing, and highlight appropriate and most operational products for each region, with special attention for the Northwest Atlantic.

WGOOFE will report by 1 December 2011 to the attention of the Steering Group of Sustainable Use of the Ecosystem.

Annex 3: Draft – Expert group meeting resolution for multi-annual ToRs

The **Working Group on Operational Oceanographic Products for Fisheries and the Environment** (WGOOFE) chaired by Rosa Barciela* UK and Bee Berx* UK, will meet at the ICES Secretariat, Copenhagen with WGIPEM, from 12–16 March 2012, and at the EuroGOOS Office in Brussels, 6–8 November 2012, to:

- a) Develop, through an iterative process with users, further index based products of environment and oceanographic change and variability for application to and take up by the ICES integrated assessments and advice;
- b) Demonstrate, through specific case studies, applications of oceanographic products in integrated assessments and advice;
- c) Communicate through various mechanisms, to the ICES community the availability of oceanographic data sets, products and time series. This should include publicising and maintaining the WGOOFE web site, developing Fact sheets for ICES expert groups and further targeted meetings with groups and workshops;
- d) Act as an interface for ICES for multinational projects, networks and organisations on operational oceanographic products, such as MyOcean2, Emodnet, MarCoast2, EuroGOOS and work with producers of the expectations and abilities of users;
- e) Liaise with the ICES training committee to develop an appropriate training course in the availability and use of oceanographic and environmental data;
- f) Respond to *ad hoc* requests for advice on oceanographic products for the ICES ecosystem modelling, advisory and ocean observing communities;

WGOOFE will report on the activities of 2012 (the first year) by 1 January 2013 to SSGSUE.

Supporting information

Priority	A need remains within ICES to incorporate the field of operational oceanographic products to be able to support fisheries research, assessment and management advice and other ecosystem approach related activities within the organisation.
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Scientific justification and relation to the ICES Science Plan	<p>Scientific scope</p> <p>The priority within ICES to integrate environmental information in research, assessment and advice, relies on operational oceanographic data products fit for purpose. WGOOFE is committed to continue its work to further develop the dialogue between the ICES user community and producers of operational oceanographic data products. WGOOFE sees a continued need for its existence to facilitate the communication between the two sides, as well as demonstrate the potential of oceanographic data integration into ICES science and advice.</p> <p>Science Plan priorities to be addressed</p> <p>Within the high priority research topics identified in the Science Plan, the work of WGOOFE addresses thematic area 3, entitled <i>Development of Options for sustainable use of the ecosystem</i>, and more specifically, the research topics of operational modelling combining oceanographic, ecosystem, and population processes.</p>
ToR justification:	<p>Term of Reference a) Continue the dialogue between users and producers of operational products and will focus its medium to long-term objectives in becoming a fundamental part of the integrated management under the ecosystem approach.</p> <p>Term of Reference b) Further development of suitable operational data products to fit the needs of the ICES user community needs to engage users in the work of the WG, as well as operational oceanographers involved in product development.</p> <p>Term of Reference c) Available operational oceanographic products are to be used to initiate a dialogue with the users by showing the potential applications within applied science.</p> <p>Term of Reference d) Through its work as interface between users and producers, WGOOFE has the opportunity to influence product development such that it considers the user needs appropriately.</p> <p>Term of Reference e) More focused training allows for users to improve their skills in the handling of operational data products they may not be familiar with, whilst providing data providers a platform to demonstrate the advantages and limitations of their products.</p>

Summary of work plan	<p>Year 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transition the WGOOFE website to ICES to be hosted through the SharePoint system. - Inform providers of WGOOFE work in terms of visibility of their operational products and current “rankings” by users. - Establish a focussed dialogue with the users, including other ICES WGs to provide a route for inclusion of operational, high-quality data in the integrated management process carried out under the ecosystem approach. <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise with the ICES training committee to develop an appropriate training course in the availability and use of oceanographic and environmental data. - Define subject matter for Fact sheets most relevant to ICES Expert Groups and begin the drafting process (outline, ...) <p>Year 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrate the use of operational environmental data in the ICES integrated annual assessments. - Finalise Fact sheets for distribution to relevant Expert Groups
Working Group expected deliverables/ outputs (e.g. publications, datasets, advice, networking tools)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WGOOFE website hosted at ICES: members of ICES expert groups interested in operational oceanographic data products and their application to science and advice [Spring 2012] - Fact sheets highlighting products, their application within the ICES community [January 2015]
Resource requirements	No specific resource requirements beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting, and participation from ICES data centre, particularly for the website migration.
Participants	The Group should have participants from international organizations dealing with operational services and/or development of operational techniques, and participants that are identified of users of such products.
Secretariat facilities	None.
Financial	No financial implications.
Linkages to ACOM and groups under ACOM	A close link with WGECO and any other assessment working groups that are trying to integrate environmental drivers into the assessments.
Linkages to other committees or groups	There would be a strong interaction with other experts groups within SSGSUE, as well as SSGRSP and SSGEF. These include WGZE, WGPME, WGHABD, WGOH, WGIPEM and the regional sea programmes. Later also with the ICES Advisory Programme.
Linkages to other organizations	The WG must interact with IOC/JCOMM/GOOS/EuroGOOS (and its regional ROOSes, such as ArcticGOOS, NOOS, IbiROOS) and GMES/GEOSS. The group should also have a close relationship with MyOcean2.

Annex 4: Recommendations

Recommendation	For follow up by:
1. WGOOFE recommends that Patrick Gorringer attends WKOOI (Workshop to Define the Ocean Observing Needs for ICES) for WGOOFE and that Rodney Forster, Bee Berx attend via WebEx.	SCICOM and WKOOI
2. Continue working with WGOOFE to move the WGOOFE website from Ifremer to ICES.	ICES Data Centre
3. To work with WGOOFE to develop an appropriate training course in the availability and use of oceanographic and environmental data.	ICES Training Group
4. The profile of the WGOOFE website should be increased on the ICES website and data area.	ICES website manager and PUBCOM