

Call for expert nominations for the Author Team of the Atlantic Ocean Observing System Blueprint 2019

Vision

Providing 97% of the Earth's water and 95% of its biosphere, the ocean is a crucial source of water, food, energy and raw materials, and acts as a medium for tourism, transport and commerce. Valued at US\$ 2.4 trillion by one estimate, the global ocean has been ranked as the world's seventh largest economy. Sustained ocean observing is crucial to understand the oceanic environment, provide data products and services, help mitigate climate change, and drive the Blue Economy in a responsible and sustainably way. Furthermore, studies demonstrate that the economic benefit of the integration of the ocean observing efforts, with the necessary data analysis and product distribution, implemented at the global, ocean basin, and regional scales, generate positive dividends much greater than its costs.

There is therefore a strong rationale to advance the current system components to obtain an international, more sustainable, more efficient, more integrated, and fit-for-purpose ocean observing system that will improve the value for money, extent, completeness, quality and ease of access to Ocean data to jointly deliver comprehensive ocean information to assess current trends and predict future scenarios.

Internationally, sustained ocean observation is coordinated through the UNESCO-IOC Global Ocean Observing System ([GOOS](#)), which is also a contribution to the Group on Earth Observations ([GEO](#)) Blue Planet initiative. But also a number of related programs and projects working to develop and implement effective ocean observing capacities, improving their efficiency and their timely and high quality information delivery. Despite that the current ocean observing system remains fragmented especially for *in situ* observations. In addition, several of the networks and individual contributions are not well resourced and lack long term funding perspectives. There is therefore a strong rationale to advance the current system components towards a more sustainable, better-coordinated and more comprehensive Atlantic wide ocean observing system to jointly deliver integrated ocean information to assess current trends and predict future scenarios.

An internationally developed **Blueprint of Integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System** will be presented at the OceanObs19 conference and benefit from the work of [AtlantOS](#) and similar projects.

The Blueprint shall:

- Lay out progress and plans to integrate existing ocean observing activities into a more sustainable, more efficient, and more fit-for-purpose Integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System, which the ambition to be integrative, user-responsive, multi-national, multi-sectoral and purposeful.
- Include a strategy for improved capacity development and emphasize the role of resource mobilization for observations of the entire Atlantic Ocean.
- Emphasize the importance of encouraging and enhancing the community-based interest and participation.
- Define system enhancements, and emerging priorities when applying the framework of ocean observing and benefiting from platform and data sharing.
- Propose mechanisms to support and enhance new partnerships between science, governmental service, private sector and civil society.

The activities of the **Author Team of the Atlantic Ocean Observing System Blueprint 2019** will start in February 2017 (see preliminary timeline at the end).

Terms of References

The Atlantic Ocean Observing System Blueprint Author Team is expected to finish its work by mid-2019 and should

- Develop a consultative document that defines the purpose and vision together with regional examples to demonstrate the capability and potential of such an observing system
- Engage partners for feedback and input to the evolving draft document
- Manage an engagement process with the identified five stakeholder communities
- Facilitate an open review process
- Spin up, as required, broader sub-teams to complete certain tasks

The Blueprint is expected to have 50 pages and a first possible outline is given in the Appendix.

Characteristics of the Team

The Author Team shall consist of about 10 people, whereby 2 or 3 people are from each broad stakeholder community identified at the AtlantOS annual meeting:

Ocean information users: i) service providers (governments, regions, UN system), ii) business community (private sector), iii) science community (CLIVAR Atlantic, Future Earth Oceans activities (IMBER, SOLAS, Future Earth Coasts),...), iv) civil societal (NGOs, WWF, Greenpeace, IUCN, ...)

Ocean observation funders/supporters: i) private, ii) national, iii) regional

Observation providers: *in situ* and satellite, public, private, and regional observing governmental frameworks, research institutions (POGO)

Assessment users: OSPAR, IPCC special report, SDGs, IPBES, WOA, NGOs, ...

Regional OOS/ocean groupings: EuroGOOS, IOOSS, AORA, IOC regions, UNEP regional seas, ICES, ...

For the nomination process we will take into account a balance of the regions, gender and disciplinary experience. The team will be supported in part by the AtlantOS project office but should be in a position to bring some resources to the project.

Qualifications of the Team

Applicants should:

- High scientific or professional standing and several years of work experience
- Represent and consult with a broad community
- Have time, enthusiasm and connections to the wider Atlantic observing community
- Work efficiently in an international and interdisciplinary team

Nomination Process and next steps

Submit your self-nomination under the following website:

<https://www.surveymonkey.de/r/B8GSSFY>. Please fill in all required information.

The **closing date** will be the **6 January 2017**.

After the deadline the selection of the Blueprint Author Team will be done by end of January.

Preliminary Timeline

Winter 2016	Terms of Reference published, open nominations process launched
January 2017	Team named and in place
February 2017	Possible first (personal or teleconference) meeting of the team
November 2017	Consultation of very first draft of document with the community
2018	Refine Blueprint, presentation with key groups, international meetings,
Early 2019	Final draft accomplished for broad review process
Summer 2019	Final document submitted
September 2019	Presentation to OceanObs'19
Fall 2019	Implementation of Atlantic Blueprint

Secretarial support will be provided.
Please, contact for further questions:

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