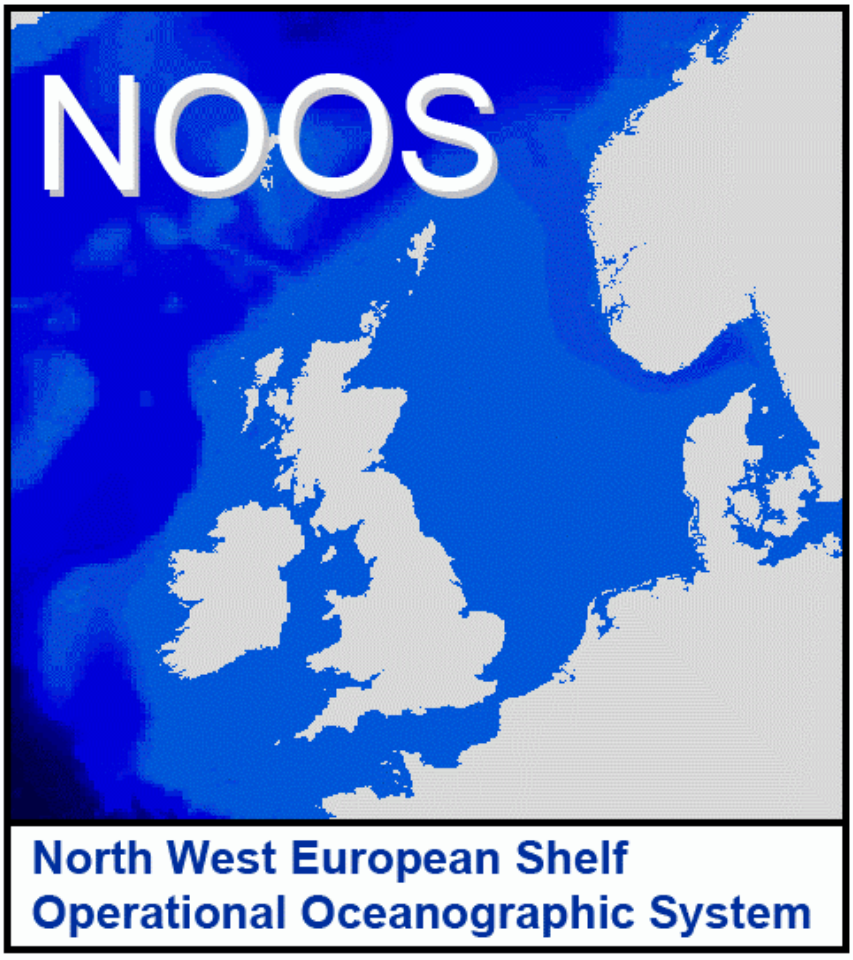
NOOS Annual Meeting 2011



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BSH and HZG, Hamburg, Germany

Document history

	Name	Organization	Date
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Commented by	***H. Wehde***	***IMR***	***09/11/2011***
Commented by	***Steering Group***		***13-19/12/2011***

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Welcome words by Stephan Dick and Kees van Ruiten

Introduction of participants

See list of participants

Thematic Workshops (27/10/2011 PM)

Presentation on the NWS data management system and NOOS portal (Tobias Gies and Kai Soetje)

Tobias Gies presented the work on the the NWS data management system carried out at BSH supported by the MyOcean project. Presently data of approx. 250 different platforms (buoys, fixed platforms, drifter, Argo floats, vessel and ferrybox data) are available. Output formats are netCDF (OceanSITES version),
netCDF (OpenDAP-Dapper version), netCDF (CF), ODV, ASCII, CDI Metadata and MyOcean index-files. For all data different quality control and validation procedures are carried out on routine basis.
Kai Soetje started with the existing NOOS Portal (http://noos.cc) and stressed the need for more products and up to date information on the NOOS web pages. More NOOS partner should have web editors. Kai Soetje promised to distribute a manual for NOOS Web Editors.
Furthermore he presented the structure and access to the new NOOS insitu portal which can be found at *ftp.bsh.de/outgoing/rcnws* (for user/password please contact Stephan Dick or Kai Soetje). A prototype of a graphical user interface was presented. There is still a need for more data (e.g. FerryBox, fixed stations, river run-off, more biochemical and delayed mode data) and better meta data which should be directly linked to the observations.

In the discussion the importance of quality control and good meta data was highlighted.

NOOS strategic plan

EuroGOOS (Hans Dahlin):
As background for the work on the new NOOS Future plan Hans Dahlin informed about EuroGOOS activities. At present the major issue is the ongoing discussion about the future of EuroGOOS resulting in the recommendation to transfer the unincorporated association into an Economic Interest Grouping (EIG), following the example of EUMETNET. The EuroGOOS Office and the Board has drafted a three-year workplan for EuroGOOS including actions that are requested from ROOSs. ROOSs have the main role in building and operating access to in-situ data. The EuroGOOS Office is continuing efforts to find external funding to support the ROOSs in this work. The main supporting project is at present EMODnet Physics Project.

NOOS Future Plan (Kees van Ruiten)
There is a need for an update of the NOOS Strategic Plan which was published in 2001 for the years 2002 – 2006. Kees van Ruiten introduced into a first version of the new NOOS plan. The draft plan is based on discussions in the Steering Group and on a dedicated meeting held on the 27th -28th of September 2011 in Copenhagen (participants: Kees van Ruiten, Hans Dahlin, Patrick Gorringe and Henning Wehde). Kees presented the NOOS vision and main strategic principles.

Presentation about developments on **NOOS products** (Henning Wehde):
Henning stressed the need for more NOOS products that should be provided on a regular basis. NOOS should be more proactive and he proposed examples where NOOS could increase the work on indicators relevant for users. A list of propositions he proposed, not aiming for completeness can be found below:

- Position of fronts
- Area and volume of specific water masses
- Upwelling indexes
- Currents, temperature, salinity and turbulence
- Particle and tracer distributions from given sites (spawning, oil production….)
- Fluxes of nutrients (though given sections)
- Timing (of peak spring bloom) and strength of primary prod.
- Light in water column
- Transport, growth and distribution of zoo-plankton
- Transport, growth and distribution of selected fish larvae
- Contaminant exposure on plankton and benthic ecosystems
- Sedimentation (resuspension)
- Overlap between species (prey and predators)

NOOS Future Plan cont. (Kees van Ruiten)
Parallel to the need for an update of a strategic NOOS plan, BOOS has updated a plan for the Baltic area. Urmas Lips, chairman of BOOS, explained priority areas and visions from the BOOS plan (vision 2015) which was adopted by BOOS AM in May 2010.

Based on the work of the BOOS group, Kees van Ruiten presented a summary of **priority areas and visions** adapted from BOOS related to a sustainable NOOS-infrastructure for the NWS-observations and services. For each priority given in the adapted BOOS list different visions had been given which were discussed and modified by the plenum.

<u>Priority 1: Services and Products for Users (availability)</u>
Vision –NOOS members provide the basic and necessary information according to needs and requests from national and local users.
The Sentence ' NOOS is the key provider of services and information to European and regional users in NWS-Area' was deleted as this would need many resources and seems not to be realistic within the next 5 years.

<u>Priority 2: In situ network and remote sensing data (availability)</u>
No wish for changes of the vision – Integrated NWS wide network of near real time measurements, which meet the needs of NOOS production system (on-line information system, operational forecasts etc), is established and updated according to emerging needs, technological development and best practices.

Priority 3: NOOS Integrated Forecasting System (availability)
It was suggested a modified vision – In the NWS Area a (core) service is providing basic forecasting products and analyzed data for physical and ecosystem parameters with best available quality.
Also ensemble forecasting should be part of the vision.

Priority 4: Increased visibility of NOOS (accessibility)
Users who want to get information about the NWS-Area should have a look at the NOOS homepage first.
Kai Soetje mentioned that NOOS could increase visibility by make links between NOOS member homepages and the NOOS page (and also links from NOOS to national pages), more presentations, establishing a newsletter, more responsibility to products as well as more editors of the NOOS web pages.

Priority 5: Data dissemination (accessibility)
Vision – NOOS data dissemination are adapted to international standards and in line with the EU Inspire directive
There is a need to use standards for sharing data within NOOS and to produce data in several formats (e.g. also ASCII) for different needs of users.

Priority 6: Research and Development (reliability)
Vision – The operational oceanographic system and its products are developed in close cooperation with scientists and are in line with mature and recognized concepts within the research community.
There is a general demands on R&D for all priority areas, so R&D should be not an own priority but part of the other priorities.

Priority 7: Well organized structure for NOOS (sustainability) (new)
was discussed later

After discussion of priorities Kees presented for each priority area **actions** which are necessary to reach each vision.

On observational infrastructure (deployment and acquisition):
It is important actions to support and improve the exchange of experience on new measurement technologies as well as observation and monitoring systems. Also the development of a coordinated monitoring program on NWS-scale is an important action.
Training of students at NOOS member institutions, summer schools etc. can help to improve the observational infrastructure.

On integration into models and products (data-assimilation, forecasting models)
NOOS has to develop a downscaling strategy in operational modeling including the link of GMES Marine Core Services (MyOcean, ECOMF) to national / local models. Examples have to be given for the support and coordination of downstream services for use in National policy evaluation, monitoring and operational issues.
Remark by S. Legrand: Note that the EuroGOOS new working group on Coastal and Shelf Seas Modelling (COSMO) shares the same objectives. This new WG is co-chaired by Paolo Oddo (INGV) and Ole Krarup Leth (DMI).

The sentence about the improvement of ecological modeling and provide tools to integrate ecological relevant oceanographic parameters into marine conventions should be rerwritten by Dave Mills and Jon Rees.

On the dissemination of information (Services and portal)
A main action will be to coordinate, foster and harmonize the exchange of insitu data in collaboration with EEA, ICES, EuroGOOS and Emodnet. Presently it is not clear enough how to come from voluntary, willingness and thrust between partners to more solid base for operational support.

On the governance of the NOOS-Network
Kees presented ideas to strengthen the governance of NOOS and possible ways to obtain solid (long term, well organized) and broad (diverse user community) support on national level for Pan-European services.
A possibility would be to create a NOOS bureau with money to produce certain products. Many NOOS members had objections against the idea to make real commitments or high level agreements from national responsible authorities within NOOS as well as to make guarantees on national fundings. After discussion it appeared not to be feasible or desirable to change the MoU and to make new commitments by high level agreements or guarantees on national funding. It was recommended to build on the existing MoU and not to change the structure of NOOS completely.

Business Meeting (28/10/2011 AM)

4.1 Approval of Minutes of the previous NOOS-AM (Hamburg, 09/09/2010).

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. A couple of issues were discussed in more detail, .e.g..

- Availability of wave data from the UK. John Siddorn will try to make those data available but has to talk to Met Office wave observations team.
- Some issues with metadata in the NOOS data portal will be clarified by K. Soetje
- K. van Ruiten will take care of making referencing stations available
- The situation concerning transport calculations at DMI will be clarified. New partner of transport data will be MetOffice.

NOOS letter to MYOCEAN
H. Dahlin reported about P. Bahurel's response to the letter sent to the MYOCEAN board, as agreed at the last meeting. One message was that there will be more money for contacts with end users in MYOCEAN-2.

H. Dahlin informed the participants that Glenn Nolan will be the EUROGOOS representative in MYOCEAN-2.

There will be a multimodel approach in MYOCEAN-2 at least and only in the CAL/VAL part.

4.2 Review on status of NOOS-services, projects partners, web-site

EHYPE
- John Siddorn gave a talk about the UK Met office assessment of EHYPE data
- the EU project FIELD_AC is user of E-HYPE data

Bathymetry:
There was some discussion about bathymetries and respective errors
- S. Legrand wrote report on bathymetries
- there is a discussion group on bathymetries

Review on National Initiatives

This review is synthesized in the NOOS member reports available on the NOOS website: http://www.noos.cc/index.php?id=159

B. Hackett gave some information on river run-off data
- there are some problems to get permission to access English data, negotiation are ongoing
- there are some technical problems concerning data provision from the Netherlands
- Bee will check data policy in Scotland (SEPA)
- There is a MYOCEAN microproject "MyRiver" and an EU Coordinated Action OPERR

J. Siddorn talked about the model sensitive to river run off data.
- Data from 1500 rivers were used.
- The impact was quite evident

S. Legrand reported about drift modeling intercomparison of met.no, BSH and DAMSA models concerning the accidents of the vessels "Full City" and "MF Godafos". A password protected ftp-box has been set up. The goals are to
- create a real case database for validation and comparison
- create a "light" service

S. Dick talked about the work on transport analysis
- UK Met office is new participant
- A three model (UK Met office, MUMM, BSH) comparison was performed concerning water, salt, heat transports. The biggest differences were found for salt. The best correlation was found between UK Met office and BSH model. Fluxes through the Dover strait are close to values reported in literature.
- It would be good to extend the model domains to the North and to add more models

J. Rees talked about MSFD data requirements and the EMECO initiative. There will be new/other descriptors related to litter and commercial fisheries. The question is how NOOS can contribute to the EMECO activities. J. Dahlin was proposing a "data broker" role of NOOS. Bee mentioned the output of the ICES working group WGOOFE concerning the question whether operational oceanography address the needs of fisheries and environmental scientist (Berx, et.al.. 2011, Oceanography 24(1):166–171)

(www.tos.org/oceanography/articles/24-1_berx.pdf). The problems of duplication of data in different databases have been discussed.

MyOcean, Emodnet, EEA and national needs and opportunities

P. Gorringe gave a presentation on EMODNET. The metadata follow the EMODNET/INSPIRE standard.
There is some similarity with SEPRISE, but NRT data are available. ROOS data are already included and there is a link to WP2 of JERICO

The question was risen how to link the NOOS data portal to EMODNET. Funding opportunities have to be investigated.

There was some discussion about the interplay of the different existing data portals. Some participant expressed their concerns that the respective initiatives are not well coordinated, which may confuse potential users of the data. There was also some concern that EEA will start yet another initiative to implement it's own data portal.

EuroGoos- Business (legal status, relevant activities)

see 3.2

4.6 Changes in the NOOS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The next part of the business meeting was concerned with a revision of the MOU. There was agreement that a final decision about a new MOU could not be made at this meeting. There was also agreement that the MOU should be modified in such a way that new high level signatures are not necessary, e.g., by adding an appendix which gives details on the existing text.
Some participants voted for not distinguishing between “associated” and full members any more.

Elections or reappointments of Steering Group Members.

- Thanks were expressed to Kees van Ruiten for his valuable work as chair of NOOS.
- Sheena Fennell (MI) and Henning Wehde (IMR) were elected/reelected as members of the steering committee
- Henning was proposed as new NOOS Chairman.

Steering Group Meeting (28/10/2011 PM)

Attending: Kees, Henning, Sebastien, John, Sheena, Stephan, Bruce, Hans, Patrick

1.1.1. NOOS plan, future of NOOS

There is a need to do the services more efficient and to strengthen the governance of NOOS. The former motto of NOOS ' *Efficient shared production of ocean monitoring and forecasting services for the European NW Shelf*' is still valid.
The discussions from the thematic workshop on that theme were reflected and continued followed by discussions on the way ahead for finalizing the NOOS Future plan. There is a need to make the present NOOS plan and e.g. the list of visions more logic (for example R&D is not a vision but a general demand for all priority areas).
Since Kees van Ruiten stepped down as the Chair of NOOS, the election of the new Chair was conducted. Henning Wehde was elected unanimously by the members of the Steering Group.

In the further course of the meeting a strategy for writing the NOOS plan was discussed. First priority should be to determine the visions of NOOS and priorities and then define actions for each vision.
A small group should update the list of visions based on the discussion within the Thematic Workshop at the AM and its minutes.

Action: Henning will lead the group and will start with compiling a first draft. That draft will be circulated in the Steering Group including Kees van Ruiten and Mike Bell (Met.Office) which both have shown severe interest and will come with valuable input. Following that iteration the draft will be further discussed in smaller groups with the NOOS members. The aim is to have a first version at EuroGOOS AM 2011.

5.2 External Projects/Initiatives

In the further course of the meeting NOOS external projects and Initiatives that impact the NOOS community were discussed

5.2.1 MyOcean

It was again highlighted that the FP7 MyOcean/MyOcean II project is just a vehicle (among others) for getting better marine GMES services. The progress within MyOcean and the Core Services have to be taken into account when writing the NOOS strategic plan. However, as there are many other important activities it should not determine the NOOS strategy too much.

5.2.2 EMODNET, NOOS Insitu Portal

It was discussed how EMODNET can support the work of BSH for building up and maintaining the NOOS Insitu Portal. Not only the provision of money should be taken

into account. In order to share the workload, the cooperation between NOOS members, the exchange of experience or the provision of software code etc. from other NOOS members should also be considered. In addition EuroGOOS offered that Patrick Gorringe can spend some of his time to improve the InSitu portal in view of meta data availability.

Actions: Henning and Patrick G will discuss with EuroGOOS the possible support . Stephan will check with Kai S. what would be the additional effort and needs at BSH.

It is a challenge that there is no common standard on metadata information available. Metadata within MyOcean Insitu TAC are not good enough (just recommendations).
Actions: Patrick Gorringe to discuss with Kai S. the needs for available metadata information and the way ahead for improving the system

5.2.3 GMES In Situ Coordination project from EEA

Within the frame of the GISC project the EEA conducts a workshop on insitu data coordination on 03.-04.11.2011. The overall aim of the workshop is to reach a common consensus amongst participants on the approach to the long term organisation of GMES marine in-situ component including next steps and actions. The workshop should provide a forum to the main stakeholders of the GMES marine in-situ components to give input to the EEA on the main issues and concerns that need to be addressed for in-situ co-ordination. The ROOSs should form the basis for the insitu portals. Henning (NOOS), Willi (Ferrybox), Hans, Patrick and Peter Ehlers (EuroGOOS) had been invited.
As no representatives of national members are invited the outcome of the workshop can be doubted.

5.3 WG on Monitoring

It was proposed to revitalize the WG on monitoring. There is interest of several NOOS members (Kai H., Sheela, Henning, Willi, Kees). Potentially money from Jericho can be used to do part of the work.
Action: Henning to contact Kai H. to form a new WG

5.4 MoU

It was proposed to add the changes of the MoU as an Annex, send the modified version to the NOOS members and ask for agreement until next annual meeting.
Action: Henning to draft and sent around in the Steering Group for iteration and later sent out to the NOOS partners

5.5 Web Portal

There is a need for more web editors. When information and a manual on typo3 is sent to the NOOS group each member should be asked to appoint a web editor.
Sian can also put news from NOOS members on the web pages.

5.6 Next Steering Group Meeting

The next Steering Group Meeting will be in March/April 2012 in connection with the MyOcean Annual Meeting 2012.