

U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System

OceanObs'19 Debrief

Friday, September 20, 2019

PacIOOS, University of Hawaii



IOOS DEBRIEF FROM OCEANOBS'19

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The OceanObs'19 conference is a community-driven conference that brings people from all over the planet together to communicate the decadal progress of ocean observing networks and to chart innovative solutions to society's growing needs for ocean information in the coming decade.

OVERALL, OCEANOBS'19 WILL STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE GOVERNANCE OF A GLOBAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM, INCLUDING ADVOCACY, FUNDING, AND ALIGNMENT WITH BEST PRACTICES AND TO DESIGNATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCT DEFINITION, INCLUDING PRODUCTION AND TIMELY DELIVERY AT THE APPROPRIATE SCALES (GLOBAL, BASIN, REGIONAL, NATIONAL) TO SERVE USER NEEDS. THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM WILL BE BUILT FOCUSING ON A SINGLE OBJECTIVE EACH DAY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TIME TO ANSWER TO THE PROPOSED QUESTIONS.

In September, the international, decadal conference [OceanObs'19](#) was held for the first time ever in the United States. Approximately 1,500 attendees came to Honolulu, Hawaii, to learn, share, and develop recommendations on how to grow and sustain global ocean observing capacity over the next decade.

On Friday, September 20, the IOOS community gathered to debrief from the conference and set goals to maintain momentum moving into the UN Decade of Ocean Science starting in 2020.

Guiding questions for the IOOS debrief:

- What inspired you?
- What did you learn?
- How can we maintain the momentum?



Proposed next steps:

- Engage with the UN Decade of Ocean Science
- Create a U.S. call to action, presented to the White House Summit on Ocean and Technologies, IOOS Federal Advisory Committee, and more
- Seek more opportunities for co-development among RAs

What inspired you?

The conference brought together ocean professionals from all over the world. IOOS community members were inspired by the teamwork and level of commitment of the community to come together, as seen by the collaboration in the community white papers. The conference made a significant effort to increase inclusion and diversity. The importance of indigenous knowledge was recognized throughout the conference, resulting in the [*Aha Honua Coastal Indigenous Peoples' Declaration*](#), which goes hand-in-hand with the [Conference Statement](#). The conference also took time to highlight young professionals and their contributions to the community.

IOOS community members were inspired by the evidence that the model is effective. IOOS was highlighted as a model federal-regional approach for its dedication to meeting stakeholder needs.

What did you learn?

The IOOS regional model is unique in its approach to stakeholder engagement. Many of the recommendations for observing systems are already in place in IOOS, and IOOS is leading the way in the data to services value chain. With this, the challenges faced regionally and nationally are also present globally.

The systems of science are ready to be updated, especially through including indigenous and early career voices. IOOS community members also had the opportunity to learn more about ocean impacts and their urgency.

IOOS members commented on the increased focus on microplastics, the progression of Essential Ocean Variables in the conversation and the momentum of genomics, the greater emphasis placed on biological observing, technology advances, and the proliferation of **F**indable, **A**ccessible, **I**nteroperable, **R**eusable (FAIR) data standards.

Actions to maintain momentum

In order to maintain the momentum of OceanObs'19, the debrief participants set goals to:

- **Engage stakeholders** early and often to assess requirements and needs. If accepted, IOOS would like to utilize the UN Decade of Ocean Science Town Hall to engage with stakeholders.
- Incorporate **social science**
- Incorporate **indigenous knowledge**

- Actively mentor and volunteer

The IOOS community is already engaging with the efforts of the UN Decade of Ocean Science and will continue to do so. U.S. IOOS should create a plan for the Regional Associations to engage with the efforts, and solicit proposals for projects addressing UN Decade topics. IOOS can also contribute certified RA data.

IOOS should create a U.S. call to action as Phase 2 of the IOOS 20th anniversary celebration. This will communicate the urgency of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes information and a bold vision on how to improve the system. Topics will include Filling Critical Gaps, resilience, sea level rise, severe weather and more.

U.S. IOOS should engage in international leadership, work with global partners, and strive to become an international resource for training and idea exchange.

The IOOS community should develop and improve data products, improving science communication. Consideration should be given to hosting a science communication and outreach workshop and improve the ability of the community to communicate the urgency of ocean information.