

Argo extensions and the IOC, a brief history of recent communications:



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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

EVOLVING CAPABILITIES OF THE ARGO PROFILING FLOAT NETWORK

- IOC/INF 1344, June 2017
 - An informational document reminding IOC of Argo extensions submitted to IOC Assembly XXIX.
- IOC Decision 6.1.1 of Assembly XXIX, July 2017
 - IOC response to IOC/INF 1344 requesting further information, particularly with regards to Biogeochemical-Argo.
- IOC Circular Letter, February 2018 - in draft form by IOC staff
 - Annex I - Evolving capabilities of the Argo profiling float network to monitor large-scale ocean biogeochemistry.
 - Annex II - A proposed approval framework for additional new parameters for Argo.
 - Annex III - Draft decision for IOC

History

- IOC/INF 1344 information paper about BGC Argo and other Argo extensions was presented to the IOC General Assembly in 2017 – introduced by Toste Tanhua, GOOS SC co-chair.
- Assembly was very interested and exercised about this item. They requested (Dec.6.1.1) more information about the new parameters, how they are measured and what they will be used for
- Response paper is nearly complete – has been developed by Argo and IOC office

Next steps: 1

Two key issues are being dealt with:

1. Acceptance of 6 new BGC parameters (O_2 , NO_3 , pH, Chloro., Particles, Irradiance) into Argo for global implementation and operation under existing arrangements for EEZ measurements/ notification
2. A process for how future new parameters might enter the Argo data stream: experimental, global pilot, global implementation

Next steps: 2

- Draft paper exists and is close to finalisation
- Translation and presentation to the IOC Executive Council in a few weeks

Key remaining question:

- How to phrase request, are we requesting “approval” by IOC?

AST actions: When document is finalized, Argo representatives could help educate their IOC representatives on this issue to garner further support.