



SOUTHERN OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

SOOS DATA MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

● NAME

The Southern Ocean Observing System Scientific Data Management Sub-Committee (SOOS DMSC)

● KEY GOAL

To identify and coordinate cost effective, collaborative mechanisms for managing and publishing observational data that is considered to be within the purview of the SOOS initiative so that SOOS end users have ready and free access to relevant data and products.

● OBJECTIVES

1. Provide advice to the SOOS Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) and the SOOS Project Office on the data management requirements for the SOOS initiative.
2. In collaboration with SOOS partners (and other international data exchange initiatives of relevance) develop a practical, sustainable and cost-effective strategy for the long-term management and timely publication of SOOS observations.
3. Encourage SOOS partners and others to publish relevant data via the SOOS web site and associated data infrastructure.
4. Act on requests and suggestions by the SOOS SSC and SOOS scientific community for new developments in data management products and strategies
5. Explore opportunities to secure funding for SOOS related data management and data publication initiatives

● GOVERNANCE

The DMSC is comprised of up to 15 members who have professional data management expertise and who are affiliated with international and national data centres and scientific data programmes. The DMSC will be led by a Chair, who will be appointed by the SSC and EXCOM. To ensure adequate communication between the SSC and the DMSC, the Chair of the DMSC will also be a member of the SOOS SSC.

DMSC members will be selected on the basis of their expertise and knowledge in developing collaborative data management systems for large multi-national, multi-disciplinary scientific data observation programs. Members will generally

be employees of oceanographic institutions and data centres. To ensure that SOOS leverages existing systems and data management expertise, as far as is practical, DMCS members will also be selected on the basis of their association with other data initiatives of significance to SOOS. As members are selected to represent specific data communities, length of membership is not time limited but is dependant on the members' continual involvement in said community, and level of commitment and activity as a DMSC member.

The SSC and EXCOM will oversee the activities of the DMSC. The Executive Officer has regular contact with the DMSC Chair to ensure alignment of DMSC activities with the SOOS Data Management objectives.

● **RESOURCES**

The DMSC is not funded and attendance at meetings is on a self-funding basis. Funding for workshops and activities will be sought as required. Most Committee activities will be undertaken via electronic forms of communication.

● **OPERATING CONTEXT**

To achieve its goal the SOOS DMSC will draw extensively on the software systems and data content and service standards of the Australian Ocean Data Network (AODN). The AODN Development Office (AODN DO), co-located with the SOOS IPO at the University of Tasmania has agreed, in principle, to provide an administered instance of its metadata directory and portal system for use by SOOS partners. The SOOS data management framework will therefore be rooted in the use of these systems, extending the functionality and services as required to meet its specific objectives.

Whilst the DMSC will develop a framework for data sharing and data publication around the existing AODN systems and coordinate partners to successfully collaborate in building upon this base level of infrastructure, it is the SOOS partners who will need to cooperate to implement conformant data services and products that make up the SOOS data infrastructure.