

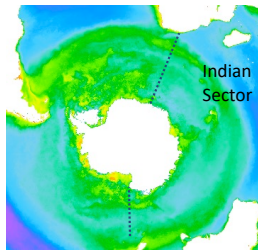
Proposed SOOS Regional Working Group: Southern Ocean Indian Sector (SOIS)

SOOS Request for Assistance.

The Southern Ocean Observing System (SOOS) is an international initiative that aims to facilitate the collection and delivery of essential observations on variability and change of the Southern Ocean systems to all international stakeholders through the design, advocacy, and implementation of cost-effective observing and data delivery systems. SOOS requests assistance in developing the community, best practices, and initiatives through community Working Groups (WG). These WGs will provide critical information that will be incorporated into a maturing SOOS. SOOS will provide the WG with (i) a means of incorporating grass roots ideas into a lasting international system, (ii) mechanisms for enhancing collaboration and resources, and (iii) a means for achieving citations of developed products along with a presence on the world-wide web.

SOOS Working Group SOIS Objective

To assist delivery of coordinated and, where possible, standardized observations of essential physical, chemical and biological variables in the Southern Ocean's Indian Sector (SOIS) in support of the Southern Ocean Observing System.



Terms of Reference

The WG will fulfill the following terms of reference over the next 5 years:

1. Develop and enable regional-scale observing encompassing the six themes of SOOS in the SOIS using SOOS best practice for the observing system.
2. Identify and assemble legacy data sets and sampling techniques of ships and stations in the SOIS in order to provide best practice sampling protocols for parameters¹ to enable their standardization, which may include adoption of standards from other international programs. Sampling approaches and recommendations will be made available on the SOOS Web site.
3. Based on the experience in the SOIS, identify gaps and bottlenecks in the observation systems and contribute to SOOS in addressing these issues. Facilitate co-ordinated observations between different nations in the region and, where possible, facilitate coordinated multi-disciplinary (physical, chemical and biological) observations. Plans, operations and meta-data will be made available on the SOOS web site to help collaboration amongst the international community.
4. Facilitate and, when needed, develop procedures to achieve efficient sharing of data across the science community according to SOOS data policy.
5. Convene focussed sessions at national and international meetings, including SCAR and SCOR, and facilitate synthesis products, to increase the awareness of the science community to the importance of the SOIS.
6. Provide support to SOOS International Program Office (IPO) by providing annual reports to be available at the SOOS SSC annual meeting, as well as providing content for the IPO website/newsletters on the activities and outcomes of the SOIS.
7. Develop a funding plan to sustain the WG activities.
8. Have products coming out of the WG acknowledge SOOS
9. Contribute to international initiatives assessing the state of the SO

Participants

A minimum 2 co-chairs from different countries is required; however large WGs are encouraged to have an executive committee or structure that can share the administrative burden and help the group to work efficiently. Ideally, there would be representation from each country with research activities in the SOIS within all relevant¹ disciplines. These representatives would be requested to coordinate input into the WG activities from participating nations and help facilitate coordinated, standardized observations in the future. Participants would help organize workshops and meetings to facilitate the work of the WG. If approved, a call will be made for expressions of interest by scientists, particularly from these countries who are knowledgeable about observations in the sector, to participate in the working group.

Products and Outcomes

- Table of existing sampling practices of ships and stations in the region posted on SOOS Web site, along with planned activities.
- Identification of gaps in observations and possible means of coordinating between nations to deliver a comprehensive suite of observations from the region.
- Agreement for data sharing among the science community and provision of data streams to SOOS.
- Publications in a peer-reviewed journal on latest evidence for dynamics and change in the region and future research priorities.
- Deliver innovative products identified as SOOS contributions, which can be used by researchers to solve science and management problems.
- Documentation and guidelines to facilitate national operators following the best practice for collection of data on priority variables.

Mode of Operation

The group will work remotely and opportunistically at scientific conferences until funding can be arranged for the group's activities. The SOKI wiki is proposed to be used to facilitate the delivery of the terms of reference.

Strategy & Milestones

The first task of the Working Group will be to develop a strategy for the next 5 years to deliver the products and outcomes identified above along with an implementation strategy for the region.

Facilitator and SOOS SSC Sponsor

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¹ Physics, chemistry, biology, and/or sea ice