

UK Integrated Marine Observing Network (UK-IMON)

Last updated 13th March 2020

1. UK-IMON Terms of reference

Remit:

The objective of the UK-IMON is to ensure that UK sustained ocean observing, including physical, chemical and biological components, meets policy, societal, scientific and operational requirements. The UK-IMON will promote collaboration and integration across all UK led ocean observing activities and ensure (1) it is sustainable, cost-effective and fit-for-purpose; (2) it develops, adopts and uses best practices; (3) it provides access to observational data, methods and metadata. The UK-IMON will also ensure that appropriate capacity and capability exists to meet UK contributions to and leadership of national and international ocean observing and coordination initiatives.

These objectives will be met through the regular assessment, evaluation and communication of ongoing UK sustained ocean observing activities, managed alongside a programme of community engagement to promote sharing of information and to identify future needs, opportunities and risks. The UK-IMON will also provide expert advice and guidance on ocean observing activities to the Marine Science Coordination Committee (MSCC) and other bodies to help meet the UK marine science strategies as well as UK contributions and commitments to international ocean observing activity, such as GOOS and G7 initiatives.

Group Structure:

There are 3 levels of engagement with the UK-IMON; Executive Team, Executive Team Partner and Member. The UK-IMON will be led by an Executive Team, headed by a Chair and vice-Chair who will be responsible for regular reporting of group activity and progress directly to the MSCC. The remaining Executive Team will consist of invited representatives from institutions, organisations and industries that contribute significantly to the UK marine observing system. The UK-IMON Executive Team will meet twice a year with ongoing activity coordinated by the group Chair and vice-Chair. Executive Team Partners will include community representative groups with related interests, but that do not necessarily participate actively in ocean observing. UK-IMON membership is open to UK parties participating in, or with interests in, ocean observing.

Membership of the UK-IMON Executive Team will be reviewed annually in line with the Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. A programme of work will be undertaken by the Executive Team and other UK-IMON members towards meeting its objectives.

The UK-IMON will ensure dissemination of information and visibility to UK-IMON membership via a 6-monthly summary of activity and to the broader ocean observing community by maintaining an up to date website and through participation at relevant community meetings and conferences. UK-IMON members will have the opportunity to request future actions and activity to the Executive Team and may propose new Executive Team members for annual review. Representatives from interfacing groups and stakeholders will be invited to contribute to UK-IMON Executive Team meetings and ongoing activity. UK-IMON representatives will actively engage with partner groups and organisations to ensure relevant information and expertise is appropriately disseminated and community input, feedback and advice can be provided to the Executive Team.

Objectives:

The UK-IMON objectives are to:

1. Work towards establishing an optimal UK sustained ocean observing system that incorporates and combines best practice field, laboratory, analytical and ocean modelling capability.
2. Ensure the effective collection, delivery, storage, accessibility and security of data from UK sustained ocean observing.
3. Provide regular assessment of the capability, suitability and cost-effectiveness of an integrated UK sustained ocean observing system to meet evolving UK policy, societal, scientific and operational requirements.
4. Identify emerging requirements, opportunities and risks by maintaining appropriate expertise within the Executive Team, Executive Team Partners and membership and through regular community engagement.
5. Ensure that the UK ocean observing system maintains a balanced approach to marine science disciplines and adopts a whole system approach, including coastal, shelf and open ocean and interactions at land-ocean, air-sea and deep-shallow ocean interfaces.
6. Maintain visibility and accessibility within the ocean observing community to ensure dissemination of information related to UK ocean observing and associated best practice.
7. Be the point of contact for national and international enquiries and advice on UK sustained ocean observing.

These objectives will be met through regular meetings of the Executive Team, biannual reporting to the MSCC and membership, and through regular participation in ocean community meetings, workshops and conferences.

Measures of success:

Achievement will be assessed through

- Efficient delivery of UK-IMON data to Data Archive Centres and operational services.
- Annual assessment of UK ocean observing capacity and resilience.
- Uptake of UK-IMON endorsed best practices in ocean observing.
- Regular feedback from UK-IMON membership and stakeholders.
- Demonstrable contribution to national and international ocean observing initiatives.
- Regular presentation of UK-IMON activities and outcomes at relevant UK and international meetings.