

CIESM Congress Session : Observing systems

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Moderator's Synthesis

The session argument for debate was focused on the need for an integrated and comprehensive Ocean Observing System to provide information for oceanic and atmospheric forecasting and for global environmental change research. Concepts such as future developments in ocean science, based on science drivers, ocean instrumentation and technological developments and strategic frameworks for cooperation as “One Planet One Ocean” were also tackled.

The need for observing systems as fixed-point measurements, floats and gliders was discussed and analysed with respect to their level of readiness, specially focusing on Europe. Particular interest was expressed for the EMSO-Eric program orienting the discussion to the benefits of such programs for the scientific community.

Finally, the difference between observing systems and networks was debated, with a conclusion that a network consists of observing systems of the same type (and not the contrary), for example floats that are components of EuroARGO. Networks should preferably be developed within the framework of programs that will guarantee their long-term viability.

