

DRAFT

28 April, 2014

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NOAA OBSERVING SYSTEM MONITORING CENTER (OSMC)

Under the guidance of the NOAA Climate Observation Division (COD); and in coordination with the NOAA Data Management Team (DMT), and the JCOMM In Situ Observing Platform Support Centre (JCOMMOPS); in support of the goals of JCOMM and the NOAA Global Earth Observations Integrated Data Environment (GEO-IDE), and its Unified Access Framework (UAF), and NOAA programs pursuing ocean/climate research, state estimation, and forecast, the OSMC shall:

1. Participate in and advance the development of community standards, practices, and tools that promote increased i) usability and interoperability of diverse ocean/climate scientific data streams; ii) discovery of those data streams by users; and iii) access to those data streams;
2. Utilize these standards, practices and tools to improve the availability of ocean and climate observations by making them more easily discoverable; more timely; more readily accessible through the scientifically-useful analysis and visualization applications; and more readily understood through documentation;
3. Utilize these standards, practices and tools to broaden the range of ocean-climate data that are accessible through a common set of standards and protocols, notably including the ocean observation feature types of point time series (e.g. moorings, tide gauges), vertical profiles (e.g. Argo profiles, CTD and XBT casts), surface horizontal tracklines (e.g. surface drifters and ships), and 3D tracklines (e.g. gliders), and including both real-time and delayed mode data sources;
4. Utilize these standards, practices and tools to track through statistical metrics, the effectiveness of the ocean-climate observing system at producing scientifically useful data that addresses societally relevant goals;
5. Develop and maintain a Web site which provides i) a point of access to the integrated data streams and attendant metadata; ii) access to the statistical metrics on the effectiveness of the ocean-climate observing system; and iii) information about the standards, practices and software tools that to guide and inform users who desire interested users
6. Facilitate broad discoverability of ocean/climate observations through promoting and assisting in the production of high quality, standardized metadata (e.g. ISO 19115); and the inclusion of these metadata records and the corresponding service endpoints for access to the data in community search environments;
7. Act as a focal point for data management planning among NOAA OAR-funded ocean/climate observations programs.