

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

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Annex: 1

Subject: Thirteenth session of the Ship Observation Team, to be held in Plouzané (Brest), France from 1 to 4 April 2025, in a hybrid format

Action required: (1) Provide participants information through the registration form to the organizers **by 31 January 2025**

(2) To check the list of national focal points for Ship Observation Team programmes and notify required changes to the Secretariat

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Ship Observations Team (SOT) was created to build on synergies between the three groups involved in coordinating global ship-based observing programmes, i.e. the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Scheme, the Ship of Opportunity Programme (SOOP), and the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP), with a view to working towards a full-integration of ship-based observing systems on commercial and research vessels, within a multiplatform Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

Membership to the Team is open, and comprises operators of VOS, SOOP and ASAP networks, as well as representatives from other groups using ships as observing platforms. It also includes representatives from: monitoring centres; data management centres; telecommunication providers; manufacturers; scientific advisory bodies; and data users.

On behalf of WMO and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), I have the pleasure to inform you that the thirteenth session of the Ship Observations Team (SOT-13), will be held from 1 to 4 April 2025 and hosted by the OceanOPS, at the IFREMER Oceanographic institution Campus, in Plouzané (Brest), France, as a hybrid meeting. The SOT Executive Committee has planned to meet prior to SOT-13, on 31 March 2025. SOT task teams may organize pre-session meetings on 31 March, and this information will be made available through the [event website](#).

As an SOT member you are cordially invited to nominate one or more representative(s) to participate in the SOT-13 session. As the session will be conducted in a hybrid format, people will be able to join the events virtually as well. Intended participants are requested to register for the session through the [event website](#). Individuals planning to participate in person must register through the link at their earliest convenience, but **before 31 January 2025**.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Mr Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary, IOC/UNESCO
Dr Joanna Post, Head, Ocean Observations and Services Section | Director Global Ocean Observing System
Ms Estelle Grueter, Chair, Standing Committee on Earth Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks (SC-ON)/INFCOM
Dr David Legler, Chair, OCG/GOOS
Dr Huai-min Zhang, Chair, SOT
Mr Joel Cabrie, Vice-Chair, VOSP
Dr Justin Parks, Dr Tammarin Morris Co-Chairs, SOOPIP
Mr Rudolf Krockauer, Chair, ASAP

Kindly note that according to established procedures for the SOT, financial assistance by WMO or IOC will not be available for the participation of delegates at the session. In due course, the provisional agenda, local and accommodation information, and all related documents will be posted on the [event website](#). Documentation and discussion at SOT-13 will be presented in English only.

I would also like to invite you to check the list of SOT National Focal Points (please see details in the [annex](#)) and report any discrepancies or changes required or nominate new contact points if needed, following the instructions in the annex.

The SOT-13 will consist of a common session for the three programmes: the fifteenth session of the VOS Panel (VOSP); the seventeenth session of the SOOP Implementation Panel (SOOPIP); and an ASAP panel session. A special session of the meeting will provide Members / Member States with a chance to report on their national activities related to the SOT. Each country is invited to provide only one consolidated national presentation on its SOT-related activities (i.e. VOS, SOOPIP, ASAP, and Port Meteorological Officers (PMO)), as appropriate. Detailed information on national report sessions will be made available through the event website.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the VOS focal point(s), SOOPIP member(s) and ASAP focal point(s) of your country, as appropriate.

I look forward to your favourable response and to your continuous and active participation in ocean observing activities, and particularly the SOT.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Ko Barrett
for the Secretary-General

THE SHIP OBSERVATIONS TEAM CONTACT POINTS

The Ship Observations Team (SOT) is maintaining lists of contact points for itself as well as for its subprogrammes.

WMO Members and IOC member states operating ship-based observation programmes are invited to coordinate at the national level and nominate **one** SOT Focal Point for each Member/Member State. They may also nominate one or more contact point(s) for the SOT subprogrammes (VOS, SOOP, ASAP), and Port Meteorological Officers (PMOs).

The current lists of focal points are available from the web pages detailed in the table below. Members are invited to check these lists and report discrepancies or required changes or new nominations to the attention of the SOT Technical Coordinator at: support@ocean-ops.org.

Lists	Summary	Website
SOT	National Focal Point (one contact point per country)	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7011
VOSP	National Focal Point(s) of the Voluntary Observing Ship Panel (one or more contact point per country)	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7013
SOOPIP	National Focal Point(s) of the Ship of Opportunity Programme Implementation Panel (one or more contact point per country)	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7014
ASAP	National Focal Point(s) for the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (one or more contact point per country)	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7012
PMOs	Port Meteorological Officers useful contacts	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7015