

Summary: New technologies and approaches are emerging to vastly improve ocean observations. Cabled observatories are an example of a paradigm shift, providing a relative abundance of power and bandwidth for observations covering scales from cm to km and times from seconds to decades. Sensors traditionally only available in laboratories can now be adapted for in-situ observations. The potential for interdisciplinary collaboration is significant. To leverage this, an ocean observation Research Coordination Network (*RCN: OceanObsNetwork*) is proposed.

The RCN will include members of the ocean observing community and end-users of information from universities, government and industry. The Steering Committee has representatives from observatories and international/national organizations. Networking activities include annual workshops, quarterly teleconferences, information access through the RCN web site, etc.

Steering Comm. Member	Institution	Location
Simon Allen	IMOS (CSIRO)	Australia
Pierre Bahurel	MyOcean/Mercator	France
Stewart Bernard	CSIR	South Africa
Paul DiGiacomo	NOAA & GEO CZCP	United States
Albert Fischer	GOOS/IOC/UNESCO	France
Masao Fukasawa	JAMSTEC	Japan
Milton Kampel	INPE	Brazil
Peter Pissierssens	IODE/UNESCO	Belgium
Iain Shepherd	European Commission	Belgium
Christoph Waldmann	University of Bremen	Germany

Intellectual Merit: The goal of the RCN is to foster a broad, multi-disciplinary dialogue, enabling more effective use of ocean observatories and observing systems consistent with national and international efforts. The major RCN activities are: increasing observing systems sustainability; stimulating inter-disciplinary cooperation; facilitating open data exchange; promoting interoperability; improving the flow of information to key stakeholders; and expanding effective capacity building. The timing of the RCN is ideal as observatories offer new observation environments particularly suited for multi-disciplinary collaboration. The further uptake of common standards and instrumentation will expand transportability of results and use of observations in modeling. The RCN will also be a forum for integration of space-based and in-situ measurements. Broad participation of physical and biological/biogeochemical oceanographers will be invited through presentations at ocean science and other meetings. Inclusion of nonscientist end users and decision makers in the RCN will be strongly encouraged. The proposed RCN will be the seed for a long-term, sustainable international forum on observatories for scientists and users of ocean information.

Broader Impacts: The impacts of the RCN are at multiple levels. Stimulating collaboration, particularly across disciplines at an international level, will provide for new and innovative research outcomes. This will encourage new partnerships. The RCN will provide younger scientists with opportunities to lead technical task teams under senior Network mentors and facilitate both technical and leadership capacity building in under-represented groups. An emphasis on interoperability and exchange of data will both allow closer cooperation between observatories and also support improved global modeling. Interfacing with end users of information, whether in the government, academia or industry, will increase use of data, providing more visible impacts of observatories and ocean observing systems. Observatories are major investments and broadening the user community will help long-term sustainability of the systems.