

IOC

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO was established in 1960 as a specialized mechanism of the United Nations system to coordinate ocean scientific research and ocean services worldwide. The work of IOC focuses on: (i) development, promotion and facilitation of international oceanographic research programmes to improve understanding of critical global and regional ocean processes and their relationship to the sustainable development and stewardship of ocean resources; (ii) planning, establishment and co-ordination of an operational global ocean observing system to provide the information needed for oceanic and atmospheric forecasting, for oceans and coastal zone management by coastal nations, and for global environmental change research; (iii) provision of international leadership for education and training programmes and technical assistance essential for systematic observations of the global ocean and its coastal zone and related research; and (iv) assurance that ocean data and information obtained through research, observation and monitoring are efficiently handled and made widely available. IOC collaborates with other relevant organization within and outside the UN system to pursue these objectives. The IOC is composed of its Member States (currently 129), an Assembly, an Executive Council and a Secretariat. More information on IOC is available at <http://ioc.unesco.org>.

Selected IOC activities in the Mediterranean

Listed below are some of the major activities IOC have supported in the Mediterranean over the past ten years:

- Co-sponsor of The International Research programme in the Western Mediterranean (PRIMO) and the Programme on Physical Oceanography of the Eastern Mediterranean (POEM).
- Co-sponsor of the MedGLOSS network of tide gauges <http://medgloss.ocean.org.il/>
- Co-sponsor of Regional Workshop for Member States of the Mediterranean: GODAR-IV Global Oceanographic Data Archaeology and Rescue Project); <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0010/001035/103573e.pdf>
- Organizer of Training Course on Management of Marine Data and Information for the Mediterranean Region; Valletta; 1995; <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0010/001035/103564e.pdf>
- Co-sponsor of the Medar/Medatlas project (<http://www.ifremer.fr/sismer/program/medar/>)
- Co-sponsor of the MedGOOS meeting in Valetta, 1997 and in Rabat 1999 (http://ioc.unesco.org/goos/MedGOOS_mtg.htm)
- Co-sponsor of cruises in the Mediterranean and several post cruise workshops under the Floating University Program. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001125/112575eo.pdf>
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001113/111362eo.pdf>

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001216/121650e.pdf>
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0010/001065/106513eo.pdf>
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001125/112596eo.pdf>

- Organiser and co-sponsor the Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Mediterranean and its Geological/Geophysical Series;
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001211/121156eo.pdf>
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001162/116275eo.pdf>
<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/ibcm/ibcm.html>
- Co-sponsor of an advanced course on Integrated Coastal Area Management in Nice, 2000
- Co-sponsor of Second International Conference on the "Oceanography of the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea: Similarities and Differences of Two Interconnected Basins" which will be held during 14-18 October, 2002, at the Cultural and Convention Center (CCC) of the Middle East Technical University (METU), in Ankara, Turkey.
http://www.ims.metu.edu.tr/2002_Ankara_Conference/
- Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA) involving Tunisia and Morocco in the southern Mediterranean region (2001-2003)
(<http://partners.odinafrica.net>)

Finally it should be mentioned that IOC currently is developing a Science Plan for a Unified Mediterranean Programme. A draft document is expected to be completed in the 2. half of 2002 where after it will be circulated to the community for comments.

Additional documents: Science of the Mediterranean Sea and its applications. UNESCO., Paris, 29-31 July 1997. IOC Workshop Report No. 155. (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001163/116337eo.pdf>).