

Forum for Operational Oceanography

The National Innovation and Science Agenda meets a growing blue economy – opportunity knocks?

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Opportunity knocks?

- Australia has a vast ocean territory underpinning its valuable and growing blue economy – this is a comparative advantage for the nation
- Our national marine science capability is strong, though gaps and priorities have been identified
- Australian Government believes innovation and science will harness new sources of growth and economic prosperity (think blue!)
- Publicly funded science is expected to engage with industry and translate research into impact





Oceanography



What do we want the role of FOO to be?

- So far...
- Organised an inaugural FOO conference in 2015 (123 people)
- Working Groups established in two of six priority areas
- Website and quarterly communications, 'list' grown to >200
- Steering Committee active, covering all 'four pillars'
- FOO having some influence e.g. on IMOS
- Second FOO conference organised in 2017...
- It's still early days for FOO (and we're all volunteering our time!)
- So far it has been about awareness, information, discussion



Here's how our European colleagues* are thinking about operational oceanography

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* Thanks to EuroGOOS for this diagram

- 1. Identify priorities
- 2. Develop underpinning science & technology
- 3. Foster cooperation
- 4. Requirements for new products & services
- 5. Contribution to sustained observing

Let's use this as a 'strawman' for AFOO



- 1. Identify priorities
- 2. Develop underpinning science & technology
- 3. Foster cooperation
- 4. Requirements for new products & services
- 5. Contribution to sustained observing



Current status



- So far AFOO has largely been about <u>fostering cooperation</u>
- Some priorities identified at FOO 2015, with voluntary WGs for two of six
- Some indirect influence in science & technology (e.g. IMOS)
- Some indirect influence in sustained observations (e.g. AOOP)
- No role in requirements for new products & services



FOO and the national innovation and science system (1/2)

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Industry and Government users

- The national innovation and science system is made up of:
- Institutions
 - Each with a distinctive role
 - CSIRO, BOM, Universities, Consultants etc.
- Infrastructures
 - Underpinning, supporting all
 - IMOS, NCI, MNF, EO satellites etc.
- Programs
 - Providing focus, scale, synergy
 - ARC programs, CRCs, R&D TI etc.
- Users and Stakeholders
 - Industry and Government

FOO and the national innovation and science system (2/2)





Industry and Government users



- FOO has made a good start in fostering cooperation between most of these elements
 - Institutions
 - Infrastructures
 - Users and Stakeholders



- However there is no current engagement with funded Programs that
 - give priorities 'teeth'
 - enable new products and services

Opportunities exist for FOO in the national innovation and science system



So what do we want the role of FOO to be?



a la Europe?



What could it look like?



Summary

- Valuable and growing blue economy + National Marine Science Plan + National Innovation and Science Agenda + FOO = opportunity knocks?
- FOO has made a good start in raising awareness, sharing information, stimulating discussion
- It could do more (European example)...
- Funded programs/projects will be required to affect change, and opportunities do exist
- Setting priorities and requirements for new products and services are arguably the next steps





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THANK YOU

FOR DISCUSSION...

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