

**The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations
Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

Spring/Summer NEWSLETTER 2010

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**The IOC celebrated its 50th
Anniversary on 8 June. Check out the
dedicated [website](#) for anniversary-
related events!**

“I think there are a lot of things to be excited about in terms of where we are going with IOC,” says Wendy Watson-Wright the new Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for IOC.

“Providing ocean products and services for a societal benefit — I think that’s incredibly motivating,” she says. **IOC In Focus:** [Meet Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright](#)

Regional News

(WESTPAC) **IOC In Focus:** [First Regional Training and Research Center on Oceanography Established in China](#). The center focusing on Ocean Dynamics and Climate (ODC) will be developed as a platform for young scientists in the region.

Capacity Development:

IOCEA VI – The Regional Committee met



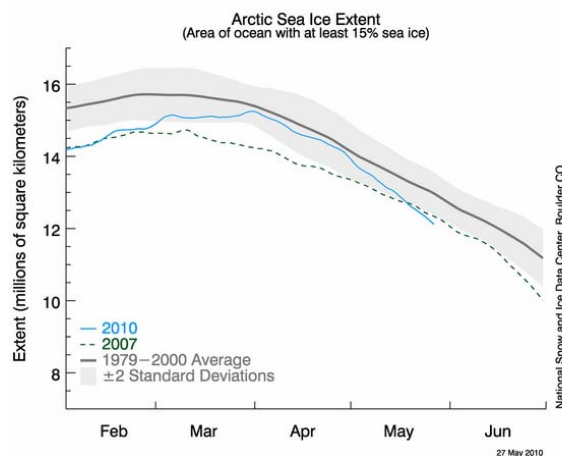
again after a break of 10 years. The decisions reached were encouraging - to establish a self supporting IOCEA regional project office, and an informal group to replicate WIOMSA. The main results will be presented under Agenda Item 4.3 during the 43rd Executive Council meeting in Paris 7-16 June. **IOC:** [Capacity Development](#)

Observations:

Oil spill response requires a wide variety of ocean state information, the sort of data which GOOS strives to maintain and make publicly available. Recent achievements in making satellite data available in real time have greatly improved the ability of emergency responders to track the spill and coordinate efficient cleanup efforts. In the past, cleanup crews couldn't get satellite images until much later, so by the time they had their hands on the pictures, the conditions they depicted were out of date.

IOC/GOOS News: [The GOOS data aids response to Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill](#)

John Lyman, an oceanographer at [NOAA's Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research](#), led an international team of scientists that analyzed nine different estimates of heat content in the upper ocean from 1993 to 2008. The **Argo profile data** were used to calibrate the older data and show that the warming signal can be discerned as six times larger than noise estimates. The researchers claim the warming of 0.16 degree C, is 80% of the excess heat captured by greenhouse gas effect in the past 16 years. **IOC/GOOS News:** [Argo data show 16-year Ocean Warming Trend](#)



In what might become **the greatest melt back of Arctic sea ice to date**, GOOS data has helped to describe and monitor in near real time the extent of Arctic Sea Ice. A combination of warmer than average weather systems and a thinner than average ice sheet from last winter, may result in a record melt back of the Arctic Sea Ice this summer. **OOPC** is monitoring the Arctic Sea Ice Extent on its [State of the Ocean website](#).

GOOS is a partner to the ENHANS project to improve understanding of

critical phenomena associated with extreme natural events and to analyse impacts of the natural hazards on sustainable development of society; promote studies on prediction of extreme events; disseminate knowledge and data on natural hazards; and establish links and networks with international organizations through a consortium of experts of ICSU Unions and several major intergovernmental and multi-national organizations involved in the project. **GOOS News:** [Discover the new ENHANS project](#)

Ocean Sciences:

A meeting of the joint IOC-ICES Study Group on Nutrient Standards (SGONS) was held in Paris, France on 23-24 March 2010. It focused on the ongoing activities of SGONS and plans for extended international collaborations to establish global comparability of the nutrient data from the world's

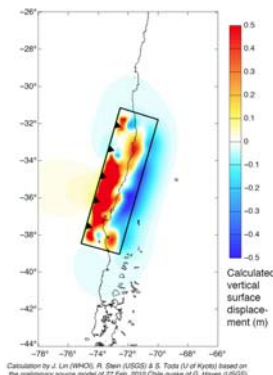
ocean. **IOC meetings:** [2010 Paris Meeting of the Joint IOC-ICES Study Group on Nutrient Standards \(SGONS\)](#)

The Monaco Blue Initiative supported by H.S.H. Albert II of Monaco and implemented by the Oceanographic Institute and the Foundation Prince Albert II of Monaco, gathered 37 patrons of the ocean—including the Executive Secretary of the IOC, Wendy Watson-Wright—in April to discuss ways to protect the ocean. During the two day workshop, the group launched its 2010 initiative focusing on the deep sea biodiversity and large marine species. **IOC In Focus:** [The Monaco Blue Initiative](#)



The 5th Global Oceans Conference, held in UNESCO headquarters in Paris, addressed the challenges and opportunities posed by the emerging international consensus on a new climate regime. Mitigation, adaptation, and financing issues will profoundly affect oceans, coasts, and small island States, which are at the frontline of climate changes. Thus, it is imperative that the importance of marine and freshwater ecosystems and resources and their vulnerability to climate change are emphasized and that integrated ecosystem-based principles and approaches be fully incorporated in the shared vision for long-term cooperative action and in the adaptation, mitigation, financing, and technology strategies and measures. **IOC In Focus:** [Global Oceans Conference 2010](#)

Early Warning:



A series of severe earthquakes hit Central Chile on Saturday, 27 Feb. The major one off Concepcion at 06:34 UTC had a magnitude of 8.8. Every hour the system coordinated by UNESCO and operated by national agencies kept updating the established tsunami warning focal points and media accessing the system. **IOC In Focus:** [Chile earthquake and tsunami 27 Feb 2010](#)

During a tsunami, knowing how to react saves lives. On 18 May 2010, with the help of volunteers from the Secretaria Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo del Ecuador, residents in Esmeraldas, Ecuador, evaluated their risk and considered what they should do in the event of a tsunami. Such a threat is not unprecedented. **IOC In Focus:** [Raising Tsunami Awareness](#)



Visit the [IOC Calendar](#) for upcoming events in 2010 such as:

8-16 June: [43rd Session of IOC Executive Council](#)

21-23 June: [IOC-SCOR GEOHAB Open Sci Mtg on Benthic Harmful Algal Blooms](#)

9-16 July: [7th annual meeting of the Indian Ocean Global Ocean Observing System](#)