



## International Association for Biological Oceanography (IABO)

<http://www.iabo.org/>

To celebrate the 55th anniversary of the establishment of the International Association for Biological Oceanography, we have renewed the association's logo. Consistent with the original emblem, the new logo design and colors are inspired in the "Fresco of the Dolphins", a mural in the Knossos Palace in Crete which is estimated to have been created between 1800-1400 BC to represent the natural underwater world.

The goal of IABO is to promote the advancement of knowledge of life in the ocean through the study of marine biology, biological oceanography and other related sciences.

Logo by The Turquoise Well

### **IABO message to the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) in its 100 anniversary**

*The International Association for Biological Oceanography (IABO) was founded in 1964 and is one of the scientific members of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) under the umbrella of the International Science Council (ISC). IABO also serves the Executive Committee of the Scientific Committee for Oceanic Research (SCOR).*

*The goal of IABO is to promote and advance knowledge of life in the ocean through the study of marine biology, biological oceanography and other related sciences. IABO also promotes interdisciplinary communication between marine biologists and other ocean stakeholders by organizing and supporting international forums such as the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity.*

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*IABO congratulates its parent organization, IUBS on its centenary year and wishes the organization success in continuing to achieve its mission of facilitating interdisciplinary cooperation among biological scientists under the principle of unifying biology through diversity.*

## Summary of IABO activities 2018-2019

### (1) Organization and structure

IABO has updated the terms of reference and the organizational structure to adapt it to the present times and needs. These have been reviewed and approved by the Committee.

## International Association for Biological Oceanography (IABO)

### Terms of Reference and organizational structure

#### Background and goals

The International Association for Biological Oceanography (IABO) was founded in 1964 and is one of the scientific members of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS: <http://iubs.org/>) under the umbrella of the International Science Council (ISC: <https://council.science/>). IABO also works with the Scientific Committee for Oceanic Research (SCOR: <http://www.scor-int.org>) serving as a reporter for SCOR related programs and as a liaison between SCOR's working groups and the SCOR Executive. In accordance with the objectives of IUBS of promoting the study of biological sciences and of facilitating interdisciplinary scientific research, the goal of IABO is to promote the advancement of knowledge of life in the ocean.

To address this goal, the main objectives of IABO are to:

- Promote the study of marine biology, biological oceanography and other related sciences
- Promote interdisciplinary communication between marine biologists and other ocean stakeholders by organizing and supporting international forums
- Encourage international networking and collaboration between organizations and individuals with similar aims and interests around the world
- Recognize and award outstanding accomplishments in marine biodiversity science

#### Organizational structure (as for April 2019)

IABO is composed by an Executive Committee, three Task Groups and a Community of Practice. The **Executive Committee** is formed by the President, Past-president, Secretary and the chairs/co-chairs of each of the three Task Groups.

The **Task Groups** are:

- **Task Group 1 – Science:** responsible of reviewing the annual Working Group proposals submitted to SCOR and approved during SCOR's annual meeting.
- **Task Group 2 – Recognition:** responsible for seeking nominations for the annual Carlo Heip International Award for outstanding accomplishments in marine biodiversity science and of examining, discussing and evaluating the nominations.
- **Task Group 3 – Communication:** responsible for (1) linking to collaborating networks such as the GOOS Biology and Ecosystem Panel and its partners in biological observations, the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network of GEO BON, the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), etc., (2) to keep the website (<http://www.iabo.org/>) updated and post relevant news, (3) to manage the MARINE-B list, and (4) to manage social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)

The IABO **community of practice** is represented by the MARine Research Information NETwork on Biodiversity (MARINE-B) which communicates through an email list. The MARINE-B email list shares

information on career opportunities (studies, scholarships, jobs, internships, etc.) related to marine biology and biological oceanography. The community of practice also shares news through the IABO Facebook page.

Members of the three task groups with the Executive will be responsible for the planning and organization of the World Conferences on Marine Biodiversity (WCMB) which are held every 3-4 years. The first WCMB was held in Valencia, Spain (2008), the second in Aberdeen, Scotland (2011), the third in Qingdao, China (2014), the fourth in Montreal, Canada (2018) and the fifth will take place in Auckland, New Zealand (13-16 December 2020).

The WCMB will be the official meeting venue of the IABO community. During this conference, an open assembly of the community of practice will be held to elect the Executive and Task Group members. The executive will be elected taking account of the recommendations of a nominating Committee of three, consisting of the Past-President and two members of the executive. The terms of office of the President is the period between consecutive WCMB (~3-4 years) and is not eligible for re-election for a consecutive term. The terms of office of the Secretary and Task Group members are also 3-4 years (time between two consecutive WCMB) and they are eligible for re-election, providing that not more than two terms of office in the same category are served consecutively. After two consecutive periods in one category, members may be elected to serve on a different category. The organizing Chair and the immediate Past-Chair of the WCMB will be members of Task Group #3 on Communication.



**Note:**

Originally, national IABO representatives were nominated by their national science academies. IABO currently does not have a process to alternatively select national representatives, either by election or nomination, therefore, in this IABO re-structuring, the figure of “National representatives” disappears because the individuals are not nominated by any national academy nor official government organization but supporting IABO on their own behalf without championing any

institution nor country. IABO aims to have a diverse composition of its Executive Committee so it broadly represents the international community in terms of nationality, ethnicity, gender, and culture. To broaden participation as much as possible, any person or individual scientist can be part of the community of practice and/or of the executive and task groups.

### **Financial support**

IABO has no funding base nor sources of revenue, therefore, the work of the executive and the task groups is entirely voluntary. This is a severe constraint on embarking on and supporting new initiatives. It is envisioned that funds will be raised through the organization of the WCMB that will allow to support at least basal activities of the Executive and Task Groups. IABO receives in-kind contribution from the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) in providing the commemorative medal for the International Carlo Heip Award. SCOR also provides funding (around US\$ 3-5K in total) to co-support students from developing countries to attend the WCMB.

### **Benefits of being involved in IABO**

As mentioned before, IABO has no funding and all work by its members is voluntary. However, some of the benefits of being involved in IABO are:

- Increased opportunities for networking and scientific collaboration with international peers and groups, which may facilitate scientific and technological exchanges, capacity-building opportunities, and help access new sources of funding
- Increased opportunities to engage in SCOR working groups and research projects and participation in the selection process for new SCOR working groups
- Increased opportunities to engage in the organization of the WCMB and participation in the conference
- Increased opportunities to engage in the UN Decade for Ocean Science and Sustainability
- It can support and endorse (sponsor in-kind) scientific meetings and proposals as contributing to the IABO goals and as of scientific merit

## **(2) Collaboration**

IABO continues to encourage international networking and collaboration between organizations and individuals with similar aims and interests. Some of these are the GOOS Biology and Ecosystems Panel, the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON), the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) and the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS).

Some of the goals shared by IABO with these organizations are to:

- build a unified and globally consistent ocean observing system that includes biological measurements
- encourage open access and data sharing
- enhance existing observation capacity
- use the best available resources
- implement best practices and international standards
- enhance global capacity
- ensure continuity and sustainability of global marine biological and ecosystem observations

### (3) Communication

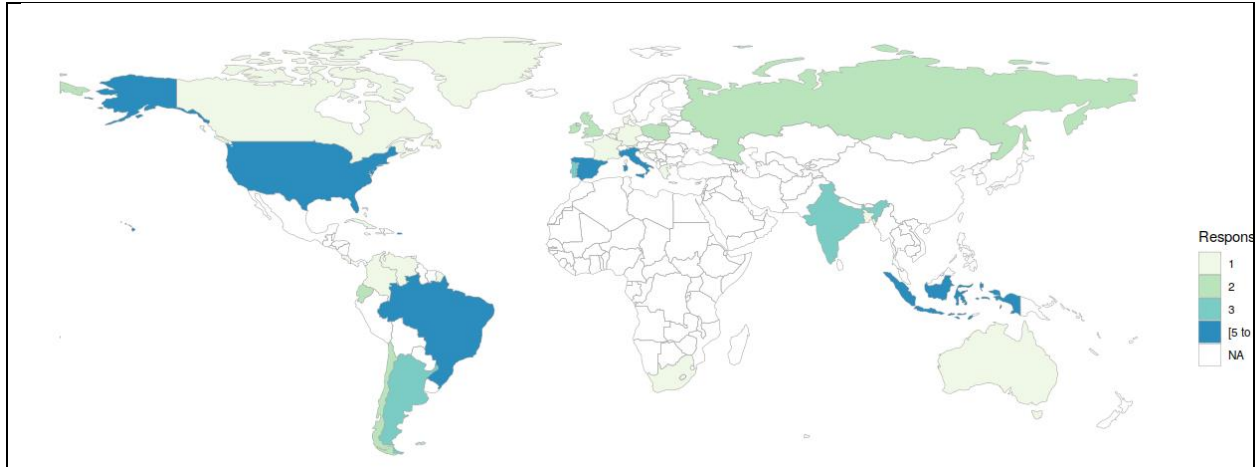
The IABO email list, MARINE-B, has over 1,350 subscribers. A Facebook page was launched in May 2018 and currently has 253 members and growing. MARINE-B provides news and relevant information related to biological oceanography, marine biology and biodiversity, including funding, job and studies opportunities, relevant papers and reports, conferences, etc. MARINE-B is administered by Mark Costello and Patricia Miloslavich the Facebook page is administered by Suchana Chavanich and Patricia Miloslavich.

A version of the new logo was also posted in the Fb page:



### (4) 'Recruiting' new members - Expression of interest to join IABO

An online survey carried out in August 2018 was completed by ~70 people interested in being more involved with IABO. The survey collected information on institutional affiliation, career level and professional skills



From this list of people who expressed interest in participating in IABO, additional members to contribute to the Task Groups will be identified along with a Chair or Co-chairs for each of the groups and they will be invited to join IABO. Additionally, efforts are being made to expand subscription to the MARINE-B list in Africa through the West Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), in the Indian Ocean through the International Indian Ocean Expedition-2 (IIOE-2) newsletter (The Indian Ocean Bubble), and in South America through the MBON Pole to Pole project.

#### (5) Current composition of IABO

##### ***President,***

Patricia Miloslavich – University of Tasmania (Australia) and Universidad Simón Bolívar (Venezuela)

##### ***Past-President,***

Mark J. Costello – University of Auckland (New Zealand) (Past President, Past Secretary): Member of the Communication team as organizer and chair of the 2020 WCMB.

##### ***Secretary,***

Suchana Chavanich - Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)

##### ***Other members and their Task Groups:***

- Siew Moi Phang – University of Malaya (Malaysia): member of the Science team
- Matt Frost – Marine Biological Association (UK): member of the Communications team, linking with the European Network of Marine Stations (MARS) of the World Association of Marine Stations (WAMS).
- Tina Molodtsova – Shirshov Institute of Oceanology (Russia): member of the Science team
- Daniel Lauretta– Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales (Argentina): member of the Recognition team
- Isabel Sousa-Pinto – CIMAR, University of Porto (Portugal): member of the Communication team, linking with the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) and Euromarine
- Sun Xiaoxia - Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (China): member of the Science team
- Philippe Archambault – Université Laval (Canada) (Past Chair of the 4th WCMB). Member of the Communication team as past chair of the WCMB.

