



Endorsed

OceanSITES Data Format Reference Manual

NetCDF Conventions and Reference Tables, Version 1.4

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Essential Ocean, Climate, Biodiversity Variable(s): General data Format Manual and not restricted to specific EOVS

Supporting or other variables: General data Format Manual and not restricted to specific other variables

Network(s): OceanSITES

Sensors: NA

Endorsed by (GOOS PANEL, eg OCG, BIOECO): OCG Ocean SITES

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Brief description of community review process: The review process for our format specification is carried out by the OceanSITES Data Management Team, which is open to all data managers and observationalists in the network. The process is initiated by ongoing review of external community standards, such as the Climate and Forecast specification, changes in ocean observing best practices, or by evolving needs of data providers, due to new types of content being included in the OceanSITES program. A chief editor is responsible for summarizing and coordinating changes discussed at monthly meetings, with an open community review period, and formal acceptance by the OceanSITES Steering Committee, prior to official publication.

This manual has been endorsed by the GOOS Observation Coordination Group - OceanSITES panel of Experts as a globally accepted best practice for the format of the files that are used to distribute OceanSITES data, and to document the standards used therein.

The GOOS best practice endorsement process has been developed by the GOOS and the Observation Coordination Group (OCG) in conjunction with the Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS).

The aim is for global networks (eg the International Argo programme through GOOS OCG) or groups of experts (eg. the GOOS Biogeochemical Panel) to endorse and share methods which have reproduced superior results for confidence in and uptake by the broader ocean community.

The endorsed methods can range from standard operating procedures to field manuals and have been adopted by community review as 'globally' accepted methods. Following best practices improves the reproducibility of science research, and interoperability across disciplines and datasets by standardizing methods and data collection. It allows for research to be more efficient, leads to quality datasets, and supports future proofing data.

Endorsed GOOS best practices have been through a strong identifying process. They have been adopted and used by established ocean observers and therefore represent a strong basis for the ocean science community. The document will be updated and re-endorsed as appropriate.