

AGENDA: OBSIC Operations Subcommittee Meeting - June 2026

Dates: June 10–11, 2026

Location: Austin, Texas (or Hybrid via Zoom)

In Person:

- Zach Eilon, UCSB (committee, Chair)
- Anne Becel, Columbia (committee member - rotating off)
- Wenyuan Fan, SIO - UC San Diego (committee member)
- Emily Roland, Western Washington (committee member - new member)
- Joshua Russell, U Syracuse (committee member - new member)
- John Collins (WHOI/OBSIC PI)
- Andrew Barclay (WHOI/OBSIC)
- Gail Christeson (NSF)
- Tara Clemente (UNOLS)

Remote:

- Matt Wei, URI (committee member - rotating off)
- Brandon Shuck, LSU (committee member)

Meeting overview:

The OBSIC (Ocean Bottom Seismology Instrumentation Committee) operations subcommittee meeting was the first in-person meeting for 18 months. OBSIC provided a comprehensive review of recent activities, data submissions, the instrument fleet, and facility updates. The committee discussed the challenge of making OBSIC data metrics/metadata more discoverable, and improving visibility of available datasets. The committee heard technical presentations about improving OBS data quality, including clock correction methods for stations without timing information, tilt and compliance corrections, and the development of a Python module for automated data processing. The committee, with NSF input, discussed the current and future state of funding, and strategic imperatives for OBSIC in that context. The committee discussed the potential for (future) instrument fleet rejuvenation. The committee also discussed the barriers preventing early career scientists and non-traditional marine geophysicists from submitting OBS proposals, with discussions centered on how to broaden the PI pool and strategies to encourage community expansion and enrichment. This included online outreach mechanisms and the possibility of in-person symposia focused on promoting OBS science.

Wednesday, June 10 (0800-1700)

Morning session: Facility status, operational reviews, and technical performance.

- **Introductions & Admin**
 - Code of Conduct review
 - [Terms of Reference](#) review
 - Introductions
 - Approval of previous minutes
- **OBSIC Facility & Management Report (WHOI/John)**
 - **Facility Update and 2025–2027 Operations Review**
 - Review of 2025-2026 cruises, tech burden, cruise evaluation forms\

Action item: Solicit post-cruise eval. forms to improve completeness of this archive.

- **Data Management**
 - Review of data archiving status, metadata quality, Data Metrics Hub, Navy screening and redaction of limited datasets.

Action items: Make legacy OBSIP experiments more visible on OBSIC website. Liaise with NGF-DMC regarding pointers to the OBSIC Data Metrics hub.

- **Instrument Fleet** review, status of broadband, short period, rapid response pools, instrument request trends.
 - New [instrument availability](#)/inventory tool for prospective PI use
- **Review of upcoming 2026-2027 experiments and scheduling**
- **International permitting** - Discussion of recent impacts to experiments (info on these zones is already solicited in ship-time request form)

Action item: Possibly: add question to informational budget request re permitting requirements/plans.

- **Data distribution and metrics**
 - Sensor testing and benchmarking, personnel changes and loss of engineering expertise
 - OBSIC Metrics hub - now with 26 experiments processed. Advanced data products, information about data excisions, data quality evaluation, hourly PSDs, station orientation, timing corrections [clock drift corrections currently only available on OBSIC website]

Action item: Coordinate with NGF-DMC, NGF-DPSAC and Engagement AC to make these products better known and more easily accessible.

- OBSIC data processing software - piloting tilt/compliance corrections, pre-calculated transfer functions, and OBS data processing Python module (inc. in GeoLab), with goals to make this public (at least for a Beta testing community) within several months.

Action item: When available, introduce this tool via public webinars and engagement with DPSAC. Public-facing github with OBSIC tools.

Afternoon session: Strategic planning and long-term concerns

- **NSF Report, state of funding**
 - NSF internal structural reorganisation, discussion of likely state of funding.
 - Discussion of alternative experiment strategies - international collaboration, large-PI groups, but challenges with these models.
 - Discussion of Langseth/active-source ship outlook
 - **Instrumentation outlook**
 - Testing of SPOBS prototypes on upcoming cruise
 - Possibilities for recapitalization of SPOBS pool over time, review of current technologies
 - New Manta design/builds - 42 new BBOBS available (but requires 7 sensors from existing fleet to equip all 42 OBS)
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Thursday, June 11 (Half Day, 0800-1200)

Morning session: Outreach and wrap-up

- **Community building: growing the PI pool**
 - Limited PI pool over last decade, with strong tilt towards late career.
 - Discussed systemic barriers preventing early-career scientists and non-traditional marine geophysicists from submitting OBS proposals.
 - Discuss Assistance Mechanisms: e.g. Mentorship frameworks, workshops, outreach, field manual, webinars (cf. InterRidge; [Rifting and Rifted Margins YouTube seminar](#); [Seafloor Explorer](#); UNOLS youtube channel)
- **Active-source seismic processing workshop report** (Harm Van Avendonk & Anne Becel)
 - Summary of seismic processing workshops conducted in 2015 and 2025, detailing the structure, participants, and outcomes of both events.
 - Workshops included hands-on training in OBS and MCS data processing, with 20 students participating in the 2015 OBS workshop and 16 students in the 2025 seismic processing workshop
 - Effectiveness of integrating scientific context with practical data analysis training
 - Reviewed positive student feedback, benefits of peer interaction and hands-on experience
- **Community building: engaging the broader community in OBS science**
 - Outreach goals:
 - Share/promulgate access to OBS data (and training in its nuances)
 - Stimulate new ideas for use of OBS instruments, motivating science
 - In-person networking for strengthening of community
 - Mentorship for ECI proposals
 - Ideas for community building activities
 - Workshops - discussed feasibility, timing, and funding for user workshop or OBS science symposium.
 - Targeted Outreach - discussed development of regular technical lecture series, open-source software demos, data processing short courses.
 - At-sea outreach, including pre/post cruise in-person engagement e.g. at local schools

- Possibilities for piggybacking on events - AGU, MSROC annual meetings, NGF.

Action item: engage with various conference organisers to explore possibility of coordination.

- **Committee business**

- **Rotations** - Anne Bécel, Matt Wei rotating off, replacements suggested. Will go through appropriate channels to have confirmed by MSROC.
- **Future meetings** - virtual Fall/Winter 2026 meeting planned