

FVON UPDATES.

MAY 2025



MEET THE MEMBER COMMITTEE

*Kwame Agyekum
Mbiru Moses Mapombe
Lancelot Blondeel
Ainhoa Caballero
Carles Castro Muniain*

*Naoki Hirose
Hellen Kizenga
Véronique Lago
Terry McConnell*

*Filipe Nhanquê
Linus Stoltz
R. Venkatesan
Z. Aleck Wang*

The Member Committee has officially joined the FVON community! Between establishing pilot programs around the world, engaging and building trust directly with fishers, providing critical industry insights, connecting ocean data to tangible benefits in science and fisheries, and more—their work ensures that FVON remains grounded in the real needs of the fishing community while advancing toward a sustainable blue economy.

The Steering Committee is excited to connect with and support you. Please reach out if you have questions or achievements to share!

Thank you for all of your support. Welcome to the team!

DIVING INTO THE CARIBBEAN, SOUTH PACIFIC, BANGLADESH, & THAILAND

FVON ENTERS AN AGREEMENT WITH IOCARIBE

Cooper Van Vranken (Ocean Data Network) presented FVON and its impacts in The Bahamas at the [Eighteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions](#) (IOCARIBE XVIII), resulting in overwhelming support for implementing FVON throughout the region.

Leading up to IOCARIBE XVIII, FVON attended the WMO Hurricane Ocean Panel (RAIV HC-47), which focused on ocean observations in the Caribbean. After the meeting, the Hurricane Committee recommended collaborations between FVON and Caribbean countries, stating that the “expansion of FVON through the region can significantly increase ocean observations, with the potential of improving hurricane forecasting.”



*Chris Cusack on location in The Bahamas.
(Credit: Mark Schroepe)*

FVON was highlighted once again at the [16th Session of the Observations Coordination Group](#) (OCG-16) during a [presentation](#) by Scott Glenn (Ocean Gliders) and during discussions of expanding the FVON-Bahamas pilot or creating a new FVON network in the region with the support of CoastPredict.

In the invitation to the IOCARIBE XVIII meeting, the group stated that they “fully support the inclusion of FVON and are grateful for the opportunity to highlight its relevance and growing regional collaboration.” This sentiment was reflected during the meeting, when member states discussed enshrining the implementation of FVON as an obligation for joining IOCARIBE—a resolution which was met with enthusiasm from the representatives present.

After the meeting, IOCARIBE included FVON in a key recommendation:

The Secretariat entered into a new partnership arrangement with the Fishing Vessel Ocean Observing Network (FVON) to establish the appropriate framework for the cooperation of new partnerships, including FVON, to identify and pursue opportunities for collaboration, technical assistance, and co-development of observing systems.

The Bahamas pilot provides critical support for [hurricane forecasting](#) in the Caribbean, and FVON is excited to continue collaborating with fishers and driving impact.

SOUTH PACIFIC INSTALLATIONS

Moninya Roughan (UNSW Sydney) and her team have been traveling across the Pacific to instrument fifty vessels with deck units and sensors by September 2025, rapidly expanding subsurface data collection in key geographies throughout the South Pacific Ocean. So far, vessels are collecting data in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Fiji.

Leading this effort is the Pacific Community (SPC), the NGO that is leading the Pacific Islands (PI-FVON) trial in collaboration with IMOS and UNSW. The subsurface measurements are critical for monitoring the movements of tuna as the oceans change and safeguard the food security and economic well-being of fishers all over the region.

COLLABORATIONS IN THAILAND

Thank you to Dr. Tanuspong Pokavanich and his colleague, Kong Yalisa, for presenting to the Steering Committee on the beginning stages of a fishing vessel observing program in Thailand!

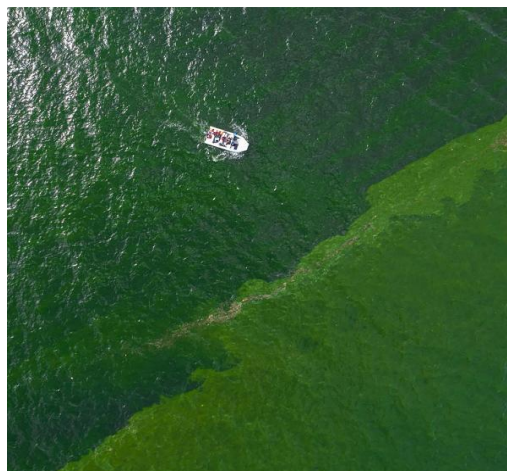
Thailand has a pressing need for ocean observing systems, particularly in the Gulf of Thailand, where the region’s shallow waters support a massive fishing fleet and are heavily influenced by seasonal monsoons, pollution, eutrophication, and recurring harmful algal blooms, which regularly cause fish kills. Despite these challenges, continuous oceanographic measurements are almost nonexistent. Oil spills, hypoxia events, and growing economic initiatives are underlining the importance of real-time, high-quality ocean data for effective fisheries management, environmental protection, and disaster response.



FVON Co-Chairs (Cooper Van Vranken, Miguel Santos) at the OCG-16 meeting.



Moninya Roughan on location in Papua, New Guinea.



An aerial view of a plankton bloom off the Chon Buri coastline. (Credit: Napat Wesshasartar / REUTERS)

Fishers in Thailand have shown a willingness to pay for data and tools that improve their efficiency, and JFE is providing sensors. Shin Kida, Nick Hirose, and the rest of the Smart Fisheries Network (SFiN) team are prepared to offer modeling support. With these contributions, there's a strong opportunity for expanding ocean observing in Thailand. FVON is excited about the momentum and ready to support in any way possible.

SHOUT OUTS ●

THE COASTAL COMPLEMENT TO ARGO

In the [new editorial](#) titled “Demonstrating observation impacts for the ocean and coupled prediction” and published in *Frontiers in Marine Science*, Peter Oke et al. highlighted FVON as a valuable initiative for shelf observations:

“Argo is the foundational ocean observing platform for subsurface properties in the deep-ocean ([Johnson et al., 2022](#)). But Argo doesn't routinely observe the continental shelves. A new initiative, called the [Fishing Vessel Ocean Observing Network](#) (FVON, [Van Vranken et al., 2023](#)), offers a complimentary platform. In this Research Topic, [Kerry et al.](#) use a 4D-Var system in the Tasman Sea to show how fishing vessel-collected subsurface temperature data can improve shelf-sea forecasts. Similarly, [Hirose et al.](#) demonstrate how data from low-cost sensors on Japanese fishing vessels enhance coastal forecasts. Both studies highlight the value of integrating non-traditional platforms to fill observational gaps and improve coastal ocean forecasts.”

EARTHX - BRAVE NEW OCEAN SUMMIT

Cooper Van Vranken represented FVON at the EarthX summit in Dallas.

Cooper sat on the Expert Panel on Innovation in Ocean Technology – Including the Emergence of AI (pictured below).



SUPPORT FVON COMMUNICATIONS ●

Show some support by following and sharing FVON's new social media channels on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter \(X\)](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#). And, if you haven't seen it yet, look through the revamped [FVON website](#). A huge thank you to Carles Castro Muniain (Ocean Data Network) for making it all happen!

OUR OCEAN COMMITMENT

Chris Cusack (Environmental Defense Fund) represented FVON at the [Our Ocean Conference](#) (OOC) in Busan. Ahead of the conference, FVON submitted a commitment to supporting sustainable oceans:

By 2030, tens of thousands of fishing vessels around the world are collaborating with FVON in ocean observation. We will ensure that fishers receive direct benefits from data collection and work to drive a step-change improvement in our understanding of marine ecosystems that powers an equitable and sustainable blue economy.

EDF published a [blog post](#) featuring the OOC and FVON's attendance, as well as a [Twitter \(X\)](#) post, to accompany FVON's [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter \(X\)](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) campaign. Stay tuned for a press release on the event, which will be shared with media outlets and published on the [FVON website](#).

UPCOMING FVON WEBINAR

[Seafood and Fisheries Emerging Technologies](#) (SAFET) and the [Global Ocean Observing System](#) (GOOS) will be co-hosting a webinar showcasing the direct benefits fisheries are receiving from FVON data, including improvements in stock assessments and overall economic resilience. More details with the time, date, and registration link of the webinar will be shared in the coming weeks.

Thank you to everyone in our tentative speaker list: George Maynard ([eMOLT](#)), Michela Martinelli ([AdriFOOS](#)), Moninya Roughan ([FishSOOP](#)), Nick Hirose ([SFiN](#)). If you're interested in presenting, please contact autaylor@edf.org.



Figure from [Hirose et al.](#) demonstrating the automatic transmission of data directly to a fisher's Android device.

DIVE A LITTLE DEEPER ●

<https://www.fvon.org/>

[LinkedIn](#) [Twitter \(X\)](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

FVON FISHING VESSEL
OCEAN OBSERVING
NETWORK ●