FVON UPDATES.

NOVEMBER 2025

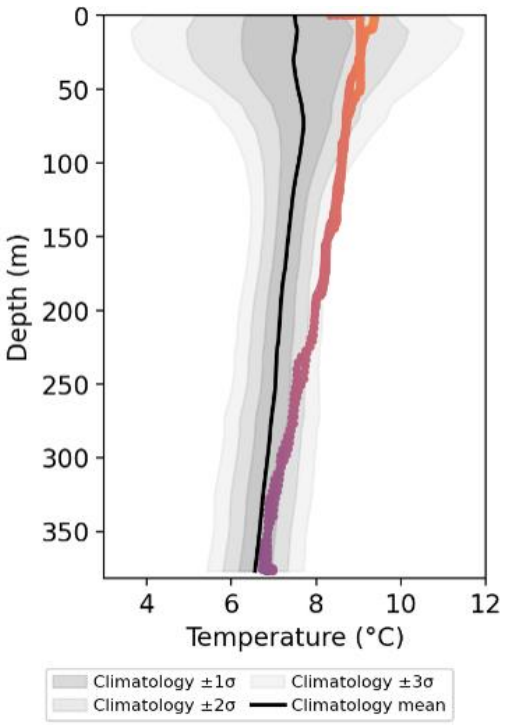
Trawler in the Bering Sea. (Photo Credit: Cory Lescher, Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers)

DESIGNING PILOTS FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT: THE NORTH ATLANTIC ARC WORKSHOP

On 4 December, FVON hosted a two-hour virtual workshop inviting stakeholders from Canada, Greenland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, the United Kingdom, and nearby regions to discuss the "North Atlantic Arc" project. This project is an opportunity to establish a coastal observing network throughout the North Atlantic Ocean that provides broad impact and collective benefits for a range of public and private stakeholders.

During the workshop, Cooper Van Vranken and Chris Cusack presented FVON's vision for sustained and actionable ocean observing with mutual benefits for fishers, policymakers, scientists, and a range of blue economy industries. Victor Turpin (OceanOPS) provided insight into existing data coverage and delivery across the region, and national representatives led breakout room discussions in which participants contributed both public and private demand for ocean data and the regions where data collection would most benefit their sector.

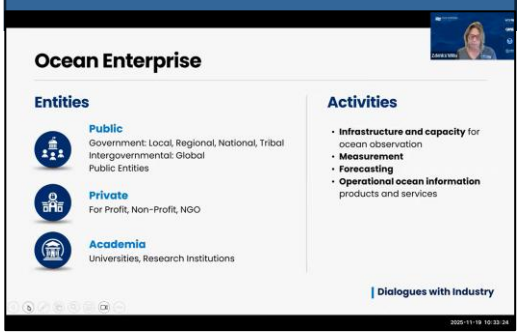
Many thanks to all who participated! This was an exciting new format for co-designing a new FVON program. A workshop report with the meeting recording, presentations, and other materials is coming soon.



IMOS-FishSOOP plot illustrating measured subsurface temperatures (in color) in comparison with typical conditions (in black; standard deviations in gray).

DIALOGUES WITH INDUSTRY SERIES WRAPS

The *Dialogues with Industry: Ocean Observing of the Future* series concluded on 19 November with exceptional engagement. Across all three dialogues, FVON was well represented by Cooper Van Vranken, Emilie Breviere, and Patrick Gorringe, who contributed to discussions spanning emerging technologies, data infrastructure, business models, and market maturity. Recordings are available on the Ocean Enterprise YouTube playlist.



DATA IN ACTION

INTRODUCING NEW CLIMATOLOGY PLOTS & THE IMOS OCEANCURRENT PORTAL

The Fishing Vessels as Ships of Opportunity Program (FishSOOP) operating across Australia and the South Pacific has launched a new way for fishers to use the data they collect.

Fishers are now able to view ocean temperatures at depth in comparison to historical data, offering insight on anomalies for the location and time of year. If temperatures are warmer than usual (see example at left), fishers can make decisions in real time to adapt and optimize operations.

This information is also available in the new IMOS OceanCurrent portal, which features anonymized observations shared via the Australian Ocean Data Network (AODN) and contextualized with CSIRO Atlas of Regional Seas (CARS) climatology data and satellite-derived sea surface temperatures.

Many thanks to Dr. Véronique Lago (IMOS) for her work on the climatology plots and David Griffin (CSIRO) for leading work on the OceanCurrent portal, as well as the essential contributions of the fishers involved in FishSOOP.

Data sourced from Australia's Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) – enabled by NCRIS and operated by a consortium led by the University of Tasmania. Find the data on AODN. These updates were originally published in the IMOS-FishSOOP newsletter. Subscribe and read more on the website.

WEBINAR: OCEAN DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE & PROFITABLE FISHERIES, PART II

Interested in hearing about more applications of FVON data for fishers?

In October, Cooper Van Vranken (ODN) and Linus Stoltz (CFRF) shared how FVON data in the United States, Italy, and elsewhere is used to fish smarter: optimizing fishing gear deployment, catching clams, improving stock assessments, and more. View the recording here.

Next week, Moninya Roughan (IMOS-FishSOOP), Julie Jakoboski (AMOS), and Naoki Hirose (SFiN) will showcase innovative examples of FVON data products throughout the Pacific and surrounding waters. **Register here** to listen in on particle tracking, marine heatwave forecasts, and real quotes from fishers on time and fuel savings.

8 December, 17:00 EST | 9 December, 09:00 AEDT

SENSORS, TECH, & INNOVATION

FVON SENSOR INTERCOMPARISON STUDY UPDATES

The FVON Sensor Intercomparison Study Task Team, chaired by Michela Martinelli (CNR-IRBIM), has completed Phase 1 testing of sensors against reference CTD instruments. Draft reports focused on both quantitative performance and user experience are almost complete, and feedback from manufacturers has been integrated into the results. The team analyzed offsets of each sensor relative to the reference CTDs, including potential depth-dependent effects, across multiple parameters. These reports will be circulated to participating sensor companies and published on FVON's Zenodo, along with accompanying R and Python scripts on GitHub. Phase 2 testing of sensor performance on multiple fishing gear types will begin early next year.

SCOOP: A ONE-STOP MARKETPLACE FOR OCEAN TECH

The Synchro initiative — in partnership with LandSeaLot, JERICO, EMODnet, and CoastPredict — is advancing Solutions for Cost-Effective Ocean Observation Platform, otherwise known as SCOOP: an online marketplace bringing together ocean observing technologies and services in one place. The Synchro initiative is a UN Ocean Decade endorsed project and aims to help technology developers improve their systems and bring emerging marine technologies into wider use.

GO2DAT EARNS UN DECADE PROJECT STATUS

The Global Ocean Oxygen Database and Atlas (GO2DAT) is now officially an Action of the UN Ocean Decade. This initiative accelerates development of shared oxygen data infrastructure and minimum viable data products drawing on EMODnet, Argo, NOAA, and more. Michela Martinelli and Cooper Van Vranken of FVON are advisors of GO2DAT.

IN THE NEWS

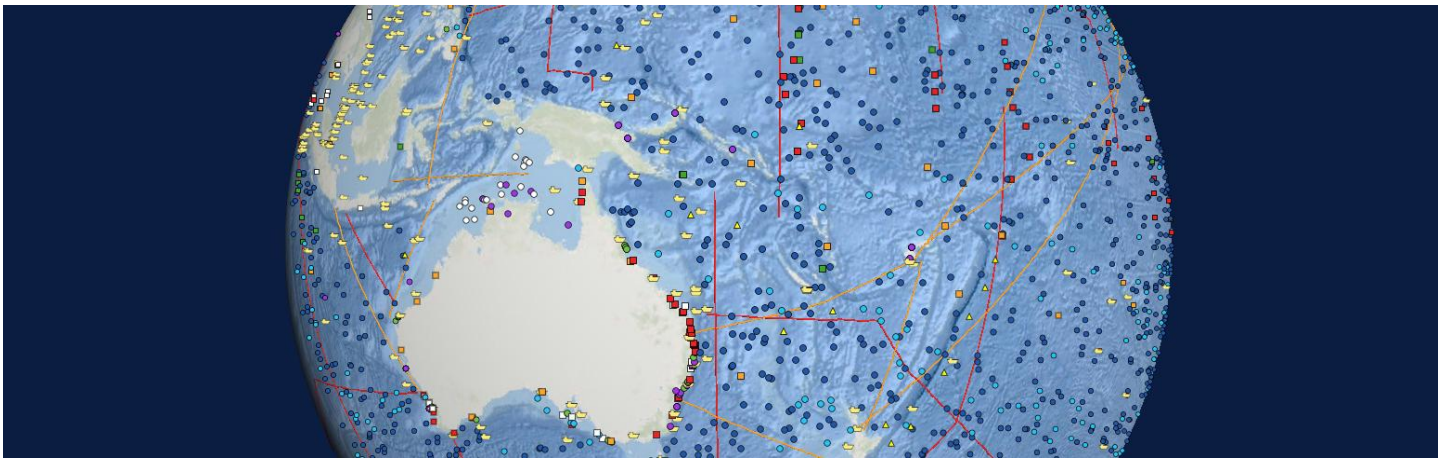
OSBOURNE STUART & THE FVON-BAHAMAS STORY

Chris Cusack (EDF) and Osbourne Stuart (FVON-Bahamas) watching a storm pass on Moore's Island, The Bahamas. (Photo Credit: Leslie Von Pless, EDF)

Environmental Defense Fund just released a new feature article and short film highlighting FVON-Bahamas. Osbourne Stuart is a fisher from Moore's Island whose experience during Hurricane Dorian continues to motivate his participation

in the pilot: "[Hurricane Dorian] was life changing. We had to start from square one because everything was destroyed…. I hope nobody have to go through that. No more."

THE NEW GOOS STATUS REPORT 2025



In situ operational observations collected by Global Ocean Observing System networks and feeding into OceanOPS. Purple datapoints represent FVON networks. Credit: https://www.ocean-ops.org/goosreport/#stats-section

The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Status Report 2025, a renovation of the annual GOOS report card, was released on 20 November. The report highlights the status of GOOS observing networks and features FVON as a key emerging network.

A "TRANSFORMATIONAL INITIATIVE"

French Polynesian PI-FVON installation team aboard a vessel. (Photo Credit: Lui Bell)

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) published an article highlighting the importance of IMOS-FishSOOP in providing "transformational" subsurface data for a range of applications, including marine heatwave and tropical cyclone forecasts. The article not only discusses the uses of the data, but also the need for more innovative partnerships between scientists and fishers, particularly in Small Island Developing States.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CS-MACH1 MARINE CITIZEN SCIENCE DATA SCIENCE WORKSHOP

3-4 February 2026 | Ostend, Belgium
Registration is open until 15 December for the CS-MACH1 Marine Citizen Science Data Network Workshop. Sessions will cover data-flow challenges, scaling citizen science, demonstrations of the CS-MACH1 tools, and participant-driven problem-solving.

NORTHEAST COOPERATIVE RESEARCH SUMMIT

26 February 2026 | Riverhead, NY, USA
The 2026 Northeast Cooperative Research Summit is coming up early next year. Consider attending and connecting with eMOLT program leads, participating in breakout discussions and the research prioritization exercise, or contributing a presentation.

OCEAN SCIENCES MEETING

22-27 February 2026 | Glasgow, UK
FVON will have a strong presence at OSM26 and is looking forward to the opportunity to meet other members of the community. Be sure to register and arrange for travel and accommodations as soon as possible!

FVON COMMUNITY SIDE EVENT
Room M4 SEC or join online | 25 February 2026 | 14:00-16:00 UTC
This meeting convenes the FVON Member Committee and Steering Committee alongside other partners to advance a shared vision for transforming how ocean data is collected, financed, and used. The FVON Steering Committee will present its strategy for engaging stakeholders across science, industry, and local communities to ensure that data systems are sustained, comprehensive, and deliver collective benefits. The discussion will explore innovative financial mechanisms, incentives for technological development, and pathways for collaboration that link international frameworks with small-scale community needs. FVON will also present case studies that demonstrate implementation of these tactics in early pilot design, including the North Atlantic Arc project. Participants will gain insight into FVON's approach and identify opportunities to partner and expand its model to new regions and sectors.

INNOVATING OCEAN OBSERVING FOR EARTH SYSTEM PREDICTION AND SOCIETAL BENEFIT
Hall 4 SEC | 25 February 2026 | 16:00-18:00 UTC
This session highlights emerging observing approaches that strengthen ocean contributions to Earth System prediction. Topics include innovations in subsurface and coastal observing along with advances in integrating these data into global forecasting systems. Speakers will explore challenges and solutions in data quality, national observing infrastructure, and sustainable public-private funding models. There is particular emphasis on how enhanced ocean observations improve forecast skill and deliver societal benefit, including co-design methods, high-density data assimilation, and target applications.

RESILIENT COASTS: ASSESSING AND MANAGING OCEAN-RELATED RISKS
Hall 3 SEC | 27 February 2026 | 08:30-10:00 UTC
This session showcases advanced techniques for detecting and forecasting coastal risks, spanning pollution events, marine heatwaves, extreme weather phenomena, and compound multi-hazard scenarios. Presentations highlight the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence, cost-effective observation systems, and new approaches to equitable cloud-based data access and modeling infrastructures.

EGU 2026: EUROGOOS SESSION ON THE DIGITAL TWIN OF THE OCEAN

3-8 May 2026 | Vienna, Austria

Abstracts are now open for the EGU 2026 session "The Copernicus Marine Service and the European Digital Twin of the Ocean (OS4.8)." This session will explore advances in modelling, forecasting, in situ observing systems, AI applications, and DTO development. Abstract deadline is 15 January 2026 at 13:00 CET.

ICES ANNUAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE

15-18 September 2026 | Brest, France

FVON will convene a theme session titled "Building Partnerships for Novel Oceanographic and Fisheries-Dependent Data" at the ICES Annual Science Conference 2026. Topics will include the state of the art in fishing vessel-based observing systems, sensor technologies for gears and vessels, applications of these data, and data management for interoperability.

CALLS FOR EXPERTS

CALL FOR CASE STUDIES: SEAFOOD AND FISHERIES EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Seafood and Fisheries Emerging Technologies (SAFET) is seeking case studies to share through its new tool, SEA-TECH-IN-MOTION. This project map will visually showcase global technology success stories for varying fisheries challenges and support replication across other parts of the world. To submit a case study, contact info@safet.fish.

DIVE A LITTLE DEEPER

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