

# Integrated Marine Debris Observing System (IMDOS) Annual Steering Committee Meeting

Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences, Sopot, Poland  
19-20 March 2026

## AGENDA

### Objectives of the meeting

- Strengthen the mandate of IMDOS and its role and position in the marine debris observations landscape
- Expand the IMDOS community engagement and impact through activities of the IMDOS Task Teams supported by the coordination office
- Develop an action plan for the next 1-2 years

### Hybrid format - Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89557099264?pwd=Ovv1JuFoJgOncxgBgaz4Mlqs0Lnwjb.1>

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Day 1 - Thursday 19 March		
9.00-9.15	Welcome and meeting logistics	IOPAN
9.15-9.30	Presentation of the agenda and the organization of the 2-days	Artur
9.30-10.00	Updates from the IMDOS Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highlight the impacts of IMDOS in 2025</li> <li>Secretariat, resources</li> </ul>	Daphne
10.00-10.30	<b>IMDOS</b> communication strategy Presentation of the website, social media, visual ID, articles  <i>How do we better engage the marine debris observing and modelling community to expand IMDOS participation and impact? What should the role of the IMDOS online directory be?</i> <i>How to best connect with the Global Plastic Hub?</i>	Artur
10.30-12.30	<b>Overview of the IMDOS Task Teams</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each task team will give a brief summary of their 2025 activities and/or the next steps envisaged.</li> <li>Plenary discussion on the Task Team modus operandi, coordination and communication needs</li> </ul>	Alex
<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14.00-16.30	<b>Towards coordination of Data harmonization initiatives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate a global mapping of known data harmonization initiatives</li> <li>Ensure sufficient regional coverage</li> <li>Discuss recommendations for IMDOS coordination – 4 parallel breakout groups (3 on site, 1 online)</li> <li>Summary of breakout discussions in plenary</li> </ul> <p><u>Guiding questions for breakout groups:</u>  <i>Which major initiatives are missing from the mapping? What are the existing vs missing connections between them?</i>  <i>What are the priorities for IMDOS to help better coordinate this space?</i>  <i>What concrete actions are needed? What is the estimated timeline and resource needs?</i></p>	Amy and Stefano (TBC)
<i>Coffee Break [some time during the session]</i>		
16.30-17.30	IMDOS planning of cooperation / funding	Daphne
	Dinner hosted by IOPAN (place TBD)	

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<b>Day 2 - Friday 20 March</b>		
9.00-11.00	<p><b>Towards harmonizing monitoring &amp; assessment guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5' presentations in plenary from key initiatives developing harmonized guidelines: microplastics / floating macroplastics / beach litter / seafloor litter / drones</li> <li>• Breakout group discussion on the needs for promotion of existing and development of new monitoring guidelines – 4 groups (3 on site, 1 online)</li> </ul> <p><u>Guiding questions for breakout groups:</u>  <i>How can IMDOS help disseminate and promote global adoption of existing guidelines?</i>  <i>What are the main challenges (e.g. region specificities) hindering the adoption of the guidelines?</i>  <i>Are training courses on these guidelines needed? Should IMDOS organize workshops or online webinars?</i>  <i>What guidelines are missing? How can IMDOS facilitate their development (e.g. convene expert workshops)?</i></p>	Alex (TBC)
<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11.15-13.00	<p><b>Marine Plastics Debris EOVS</b></p> <p>Presentation of the <a href="#">Marine Plastics Debris EOVS</a>, progress and way forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further development of the Marine Plastics Debris EOVS Specification Sheet. Work in breakout groups (3 on site, 1 online)</li> <li>• Current version of the document will be provided ahead of the meeting. Groups will be asked to review and finalize sections on requirement setting, observing approaches and data management.</li> <li>• Plans for public review and presentation to the GOOS Steering Committee.</li> </ul>	Artur
<i>Lunch Break</i>		
14.30-16.00	<p><b>Events &amp; Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for major events foreseen for 2026 and beyond (UNOC, UN Decade)</li> <li>• Abstract + presentations</li> <li>• Towards OceanObs'29</li> </ul>	Daphne
<i>Coffee Break</i>		
16.15-16.45	<b>Summary of actions &amp; priorities for 2026</b>	
16.45-17.00	Information on next in-person SC meeting, wrap-up and closing remarks	