



International Association  
for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans

## International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO)

<http://iapsso.iugg.org>

### INTRODUCTION

IAPSO has the prime goal of ‘promoting the study of scientific problems relating to the oceans and the interactions taking place at the sea floor, coastal, and atmospheric boundaries insofar as such research is conducted by the use of mathematics, physics, and chemistry.’ IAPSO works mainly through 1) biennial scientific assemblies; 2) working groups; 3) commissions; 4) services; and 5) website information. Of special importance to IAPSO is the involvement of early career scientists as well as those from least developed countries.

IAPSO maintains formal liaison with other scientific commissions and committees. These include the ISC's Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). For more information see <https://iapsso-ocean.org/>.

### ADMINISTRATION

The IAPSO Bureau was renewed in July 2019 during the IUGG General Assembly in Montreal and two additional members were added in 2020 after an online election.

It now comprises:

President: Trevor McDougall (Australia)  
Past President: Denise Smythe-Wright (UK)  
Secretary General: Stefania Sparnocchia (Italy)  
Treasurer: Ken Ridgway (Australia)

The Executive Committee comprises the Bureau members and

Vice-Presidents: Agatha de Boer (Sweden)  
Hans van Haren (The Netherlands)

Members: Edmo Campos (Brazil)  
Juliet Hermes (South Africa)  
Joellen Russell (USA)  
Yukio Masumoto (Japan)  
Jae-Hun Park (Republic of Korea)  
Alejandra Sanchez-Franks (UK)  
Christa von Hillebrandt-Andrade (USA and Puerto Rico)  
Peter Zavialov (Russia)

The IAPSO office is located at the Institute of Marine Science of the National Research Council of Italy, Trieste and day-to-day business is managed by Secretary General (SG), Stefania Sparnocchia. The SG is responsible for the IAPSO website. A page on the Facebook social network is also active with the aim of facilitating the spreading of information in the community (see <https://www.facebook.com/iapso.iugg.org>).

IAPSO finances are managed by the Australian-based Treasurer, Ken Ridgway.

## ACTIVITIES

### Virtual Atmosphere-Cryosphere-Ocean seminar series (VACO-21), 19-23 July 2021

VACO-21 replaced our postponed joint assembly with IAMAS and IACS in Busan (South Korea). Rather than having a general call for abstracts, VACO-21 consisted of a reduced number of invited speakers. The program was organized over 5 days from Monday 19 July to Friday 23 July 2021. Over the week, 187 individuals joined the audience. Recordings of the excellent presentations are available here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP3bCxu-NIglNmeoHgGxEQ/videos>. IAPSO contributed with the talks of 4 invited speakers.

One day of VACO-21 was dedicated to the presentations of the Early Career Scientist Awardees, which for IAPSO were the two ECS medal winners

Thomas Wahl	Bigger ships or less flooding? How tidal changes affect flooding along the U.S. coast ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOI6VGp93HY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOI6VGp93HY</a> )
Jessica Fitzsimmons	Micronutrient trace metal dynamics in the Arctic Ocean ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytrP3JAIFT0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytrP3JAIFT0</a> )

During the same week, IAPSO awarded the Prince Albert I Medal for 2021 to Prof. Carl Wunsch, who presented the Prince Albert I Memorial Lecture entitled "Physical Oceanography 1970 and Onwards: Through Outstanding PhD Theses". The Award Ceremony is available here: [http://iapso.iugg.org/images/stories/\\_imagesMedal/Albert\\_I\\_medal/IAPSO\\_Award\\_Ceremony\\_2021.mp4](http://iapso.iugg.org/images/stories/_imagesMedal/Albert_I_medal/IAPSO_Award_Ceremony_2021.mp4).

### 2023 General Assembly

The next General Assembly of IUGG, involving all of IUGG's Associations, is scheduled for Berlin, 12-19 July 2023, and the organization of this meeting is well underway.

### A new IAPSO website

The IAPSO website has been restored and since April 2022 it is accessible at the new address [iapso-ocean.org](http://iapso-ocean.org).

### IAPSO Early Career Scientist Working Group

The IAPSO Early Career Scientist (ECS) Working Group was established in 2018, chaired by Alejandra Sanchez-Franks (United Kingdom) and co-chaired by Malin Ödalen (Sweden). This IAPSO ECS group has now produced a website <https://www.iapsoecs.org> and a twitter account [https://twitter.com/iapso\\_ecs?s=20](https://twitter.com/iapso_ecs?s=20) for this working group, where the newsletters, job and research

cruise opportunities and ECS-related events get routinely updated. The IAPSO ECS network now reaches over 230 members through the mailing list, and has over 400 followers on Twitter.

### **IAPSO Best Practice Study Groups**

IAPSO has begun to fund IAPSO Best Practice Study Groups, expecting to fund two of these every two years year (<https://iapso-ocean.org/funding-opportunities/best-practices-study-groups.html>). An IAPSO Best Practice Study Group will address an issue whose resolution will assist in the conduct of oceanographic research. In carrying out oceanographic research, a choice must frequently be made between a few options for measuring data, analysing data, processing software, or modelling a system. The reasons for choosing between competing methods are often not well documented and the relative strengths and weaknesses of these routes are usually not published or well known. Each Best Practice Study Group will receive up to US\$12,000 towards the costs of a meeting. In January 2020 we chose the first two such IAPSO Best Practise Study Groups, and in January 2022 we selected a further two Best Practise Study Groups, with another two expected to be selected in 2023.

### **IUGG/IAPSO support to scientific meetings**

IAPSO endorsed the following two scientific meetings that were supported by IUGG:

- The **Second World Conference on Meteotsunamis** was held in Menorca, Spain, on 18-20 May 2022 (<http://2cm-menorca.ime.cat/>). Three years after the beacon event of the First World Conference on Meteotsunamis ([www.izor.hr/mts2019](http://www.izor.hr/mts2019)), this conference showcased the best of meteotsunami science, including the consequences of the volcanic explosion in Hunga-Tonga, January 2022.

### **Announcements of future meetings**

- 28th IUGG General Assembly, July 11-20, 2023, Messe Berlin – City Cube, Berlin, Germany (<https://www.iugg2023berlin.org/>).

### **New IAPSO/IACS joint Commission on Ice-Ocean Interactions**

The IACS and IAPSO Joint Commission on Ice-Ocean Interactions (JCIOI) was formally established in January 2021, with the aim to facilitate community efforts to fill critical knowledge gaps in ice-ocean interactions. The primary focus of the joint commission will be on ice-ocean interactions in Antarctica and Greenland, including ice shelves, tidewater glaciers, icebergs, and melange dynamics. The Terms of Reference for JCIOI have been published, and will be made available via links on the parent organisation websites. JCIOI members are currently organising a workshop on ice-ocean interactions to be held in mid-late 2022.

Submitted by Trevor McDougall, IAPSO President , and Stefania Sparnocchia, Secretary General (August 2022)