

National and multilateral initiatives, existing or under development, include:

- IOC programme on the international exchange of data and information;
- GOOS, a cooperative programme of States and the organizations of the United Nations system on ocean observation and the related ARGO project;
- the efforts of FAO relating to information on status and trends with respect to fisheries and marine living resources, including the development of an international plan of action (IPOA) and assistance in national capacity-building in fishery statistics; the IOC-WMO Joint Technical Commission on Oceanography and Marine Meteorology;
- the development and implementation jointly by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United States of America of GEF-supported ecosystem-based international waters projects involving 16 countries in Africa;
- United Nations University's Fisheries Training Programme for practising professionals from the fisheries sectors in developing countries; the European Union (EU) Programme for Scientific and Technological Cooperation with Developing Countries and, within its framework, research on oceans and seas by the Research and Development Programme of EU (INCODEV);
- the multilateral programme, Census of Marine Life, to assess and explain the diversity, distribution and abundance of marine life in the world's oceans, and its component, Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), designed to be an online, worldwide atlas of marine life;
- existing regional and global mechanisms to promote the access of developing countries to science and technology; regional cooperation along the lines of active scientific cooperation in the North-East Atlantic within the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES);
- training and technical assistance available in developed States, for example, the United States, including educational and training programmes, fellowships and scholarships, clearing houses, databases and web sites;
- the Canadian International Development Agency's "Strategy for Ocean Management and Development";
- Norway's programme of assistance in developing national regulations relating to the conduct of marine scientific research in waters under national jurisdiction and its contribution to the trust fund for facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf by developing States; and
- International Marine Projects Activity Centre (IMPAC) of the Cooperative Research Centre for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area of Australia, facilitating cooperation in the areas of fisheries management, coastal planning, management and research, and policy development for oceans governance.