

MarineGEO Protocol Development and Revision Process

Current draft: 10.16.2020 by Matt Ogburn

Overview

MarineGEO employs standardized, community driven protocols to implement a science program that generates comparable data at a global scale. The purpose of this document is to outline the process by which those protocols are developed or revised. Protocol development and review is coordinated by the TMON Working Group. Ideas for new MarineGEO protocols should be sent to the working group leads Matt Ogburn (OgburnM@si.edu) or Valerie Paul (PaulV@si.edu). Protocol development, testing, and revision follow the workflow outlined below. Protocols, fieldsheets, and datasheets will be reviewed after the first year they are implemented, and further revision requests should be sent to the working group leads for consideration by the working group.

Protocol Workflow

1. Define the purpose or need for the protocol or protocol revision and priority scientific question(s).
2. Decide whether or not to pursue protocol development or revision (TMON Work Group).
3. Identify one or more protocol leads to guide development and determine who should be involved/consulted in the process (both internal experts and external subject matter experts).
4. Collect community-accepted protocols and evaluate for efficiency and suitability to address questions of interest. Assemble comparison table of variables.
5. Evaluate whether components need to be added, subtracted, or modified to meet MarineGEO needs and answer priority scientific questions. Align with Essential Ocean Variables based on GOOS and other common data standards.
6. MarineGEO Central assists with formatting protocols.
7. Protocol review and approval by TMON Work Group.
8. MarineGEO Central sends review out to Network, Data Work Group, and external subject matter experts for broader review and revisions as needed (new protocols and major revisions only).
9. Develop fieldsheets and datasheets and test protocol at one or more sites.
10. Final revisions as needed by leads and TMON Work Group.
11. Post protocols to the MarineGEO website and send notification to the network.