



Happy Birthday BODC!

FROM FRIENDS AND FAMILY...



Ed Urban, Executive Director Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research

I congratulate BODC on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. I've worked with BODC for almost 20 years on data publication and data management for large-scale international projects.



I learned early in my tenure as Executive Director of SCOR that BODC is the “gold standard” among national oceanographic data centers. With the Joint Global Ocean Flux Study, BODC helped SCOR develop data management procedures for new research projects such as IMBER and GEOTRACES. BODC hosts the GEOTRACES Data Assembly Centre and has assisted in producing two important, widely-cited data products. BODC's success has rested on attracting talented staff who understand ocean data, helping scientists submit their data and making these data accessible openly.



I wish the best to BODC for the next 50 years of maintaining excellence in ocean data management.

Professor Stephen de Mora, Chief Executive, Plymouth Marine Laboratory

Congratulations to the British Oceanographic Data Centre on its 50th birthday. The UK marine community is indebted to everyone who has worked over the years at BODC providing us with such a fundamental facility. BODC serves as a great repository of ocean data of all sorts that are readily accessible.

A Golden Anniversary is well worth celebrating. Best wishes for the next 50 years.



Nick Owens, currently SAMS Director, previously IMER/PML, Newcastle, PML, BAS, SAHFOS

Well done all – great achievement to make 50 – you’re just growing up really! We have nothing without data and you keep us right. I have fond memories of my time at sea with BODC colleagues – the ‘data police’! 40 years of interacting and still counting!

Have a great meeting / party.



Computer Room – ancient history!



Greg Reed, UNESCO IOC

I would like to congratulate the BODC on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. BODC has been a member of the international network of IOC data centres for the last 50 years and has made a significant contribution towards the exchange of oceanographic data. BODC has taken a lead role in the development and maintenance of standards for the management and exchange of data, specifically through the NERC Vocabulary Server and also the IODE SeaVox community for content governance.



In 2017, BODC achieved the status of accredited National Oceanographic Data Centre, demonstrating their capability to provide data and services of the highest quality, in compliance with agreed standards and the requirements of the IOC oceanographic data exchange policy. Again, I congratulate BODC on this very important occasion.

Yutaka Michida, JODC (and outgoing IODE Chair)

It is my great pleasure to write this message to all of you including previous members. I would express my highest congratulations to you on BODC's 50th Anniversary, on behalf of IODE community and also in person.

It is needless to say again here that BODC has been a leading NODC in the IODE community since its establishment 50 years ago. BODC has always been in a central position in oceanographic data and information management.

Oceanographic data and information management community in Japan including myself has learnt a lot from BODC for the last 50 years. We have kept a close cooperation between BODC and Japan and its JODC through IODE activities. I believe that we can establish even closer cooperation in oceanographic data and information management for the UN Decade of Ocean Science and then Seabed2030 for the first 10 and 20 years, respectively, toward the centennial anniversary in 2069.

I do hope that the BODC will keep enhancing its functions as a national oceanographic data center in the UK and as a leading center in global ocean data management.



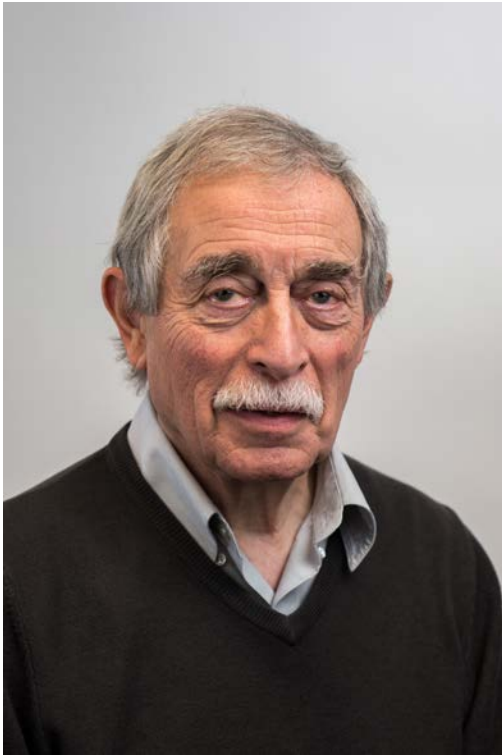
Toby Sherwin, emeritus Professor of Oceanography, SAMS and UHI



Congratulations to BODC on reaching 50 years. During my professional life at Bangor and then SAMS I witnessed BODC grow to become a, if not the, world premier data archive facility. I believe that a significant reason for this was the enthusiasm shown by its staff who recognised the importance of what they were doing. When working on international projects colleagues from other countries would often express their envy that we had such a strong and helpful organisation backing up our research efforts. I particularly think of the nimble way that BODC quickly established themselves as the go to place for our glider data. I was also always more than happy to have a member of BODC staff on board when I led an Ellett Line cruise. To have someone who was thorough about ensuring the proper recording and archiving of a complicated multidisciplinary cruise was to have a big burden of responsibility taken off one's shoulders. Thank you. I wish BODC and all its staff the very best for the future.



Peter Liss, Emeritus Professor, UEA



The UK oceanographic community of truly blessed in having BODC to deal with its data. BODC is widely recognised as a fantastic data centre both in UK and internationally. Everyone who uses it knows what a great job you all do - technically excellent, quietly efficient, friendly (in gently pointing out our errors!), always there with advice when we ask for it and quickly responding to users' needs. The community could not ask for more. As chair of MEDIN, I am well aware of the great job the team based at BODC/NOC do for the wider UK community of marine data users. Please continue to provide the premium service for the next 50 years!



Rorie Edmunds, Acting Executive Director World Data System International Programme Office



Congratulations on your 50th anniversary; may the BODC continue to deliver a high quality data service in the future.

WDS values BODC's contribution as a valuable and active component of WDS through the Network Membership of both the NERC Environmental Data Centres and the IOC's International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE).



Have a great celebration!

Bob Gelfeld, US NODC (retired)



I have many fond memories of my association with BODC and its staff. I began work as an oceanographer with the US National Oceanographic Data Center. I grew in an environment of close collaboration and sharing with the BODC staff. I remember how Meirion Jones helped me learn the nuances of international data management. As I quickly became involved in IODE, it was the support and guidance of BODC staff that enabled to me help forge the path of data management and cooperation. With the help and advice of Lesley Rickards and Roy Lowry, I was able to represent the US on the cutting edge of data management.

I remember fondly my visits to BODC at the Bidston Observatory and in Liverpool. The hospitality, congeniality and thoughtfulness shown to me are lasting memories. Over many meals and many, many beers, Meirion, Lesley, Roy and I were more than international colleagues; we were great friends.

My best wishes to all. On May 8th I'll raise my glass in toast to you all. Happy 50th Anniversary – job well done!



Congratulations BODC on your 50th anniversary!

We have had a long and productive cooperation over many projects and it is a pleasure to congratulate you on achieving this milestone!

From the early days of the MAST Data Committee ...where Meirion may remember planning a project called MOOSE! – full of inspiration after a midnight visit to a Norwegian Hells Angels bar... later sitting together in a park in Tenerife with a beer brainstorming about the options for a European Common Data Index (CDI) approach, which is now our backbone ...

to the present challenges of SeaDataCloud, where the BODC vocabularies play a key role...

We have enjoyed many good times and great results.

Wishing you the very best for the coming years – may your work continue at the same high standard and with the same enthusiasm and commitment.

Dick Schaap - Maris



Bob Keeley (MEDS, Canada, retired)



Congratulations on 50 years for BODC

- Lots to say, but one contribution leaps to mind
- my introduction to BODC was to GF3
- GF3 inspired our use of parameter codes in our archive rebuild
- This translated into a format scheme for Argo floats
- This migrated to the data dictionary used in SeaDataNet
- The evolution of a GF3 concept has had a profound effect that BODC should be proud to have started and still be involved with



David Pugh, visiting professor, NOC

The 50 years of BODC matches closely my time in Oceanography. Early memories, as BODC evolved at Bidston, include Merion Jones consuming innumerable black coffees and even blacker cigarettes, adopting BODC tape formats for PSMSL data exchange and sitting on the Board that appointed a very quiet Lesley Rickards, fresh from a physics PhD in Newcastle.

When I left Bidston the same Lesley raided my office for a vanload (not literally) of my sea level data, all on punched cards. This data has recently been returned intact, after 40 years, for some new work on Irish and UK sea level trends. A former NERC Marine Sciences Director told me “if you lead with managing data you lead the science!” Long live marine data. Long live BODC.



Antonio Novellino, ETT S.p.A.



I've been working with the colleagues from BODC for the past 10 years and I had the great opportunity to meet many nice and kind colleagues who always provided me with prompt and very high quality support.

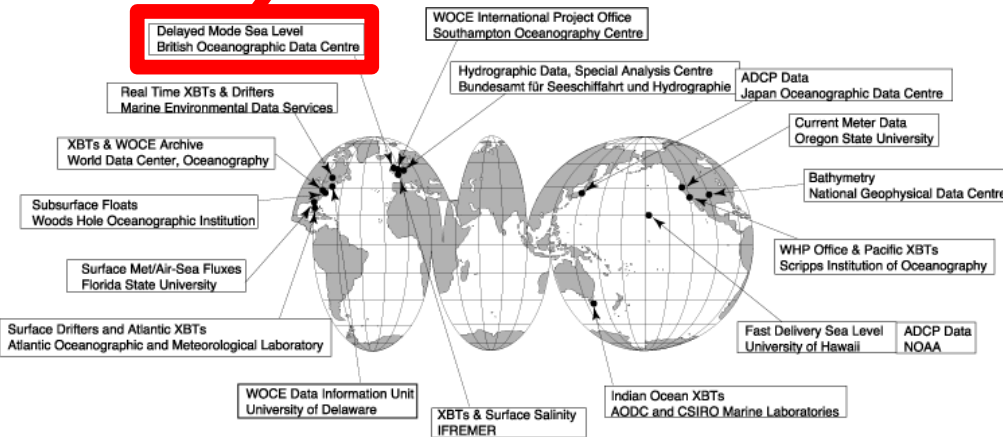
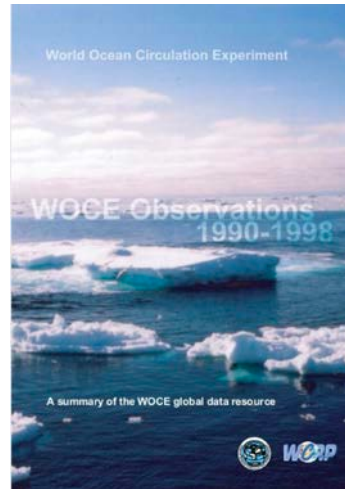
The almost daily interactions went beyond the work relationship so I really would like to congratulate with you BODC friends for this important anniversary celebration and wish you all the best.



John Gould - former director WOCE, CLIVAR and Argo project offices



.....1990 - 2002
Delayed-mode sea level



“BODC played a key role in designing and building the WOCE data system – a forerunner of the 21st century systems one which we rely today.

Congratulations on 50 years of innovation and dedication.”

Andrew Willmott, POL Director 2005 - 2010 Director of Science and Technology, NOC, 2010 - 2013

When I joined POL in 2005 as Director I was woefully ignorant about data curation. You did a brilliant job explaining how BODC facilitate *Defra's* mantra of “collect once, use many times”. BODC is truly a world leading marine data centre that embraces the internet to deliver a range of data to a wide range of stakeholders. I am always impressed with the fact that BODC is an international leader in data archiving and curation, developing standards for metadata used internationally.

Let me say to all staff of BODC, “keep up your excellent work and a happy 50th birthday to BODC”. I would like to be with you today to raise a toast (glass of rum?) to wish you every success for the next 50 years of marine data management and related data science.



Sergey Belov, head of subdivision, NODC of Russia, International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE), Co-Chair

Dear BODC colleagues, On behalf of National Oceanographic Center of Russia, as well as International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE), I would like sincerely congratulate you reaching this Anniversary. It is not a surprise that BODC is one of the leaders in our domain, sharing its broad and innovative experience in data management globally. BODC Vocabulary Service is a great confirmation of this. It was and still is a great pleasure to work together with our BODC colleagues in joint activities. Also it is always a great fun having a pint of beer after the meeting day. So continue the same course and never slow down despite of the force of headwind and keep your sails always open!



Bastien Morel, January 2016 –December 2016



BODC staff made my year in Liverpool unforgettable

Thanks so much for your welcome, kindness and friendship

Best wishes from France and enjoy BODC special birthday



Anne Che-Bohnenstengel, retiree from BSH Hamburg, Germany



It has always been a pleasure to work together with the BODC in all the years as reliable partner in projects such as SeaSearch, SeaDataNet, POGO and ODIP.

The many years of teamwork, especially in the Technical Task Group, assisting each other to achieve optimum results have been most fulfilling.

**Congratulations to 50th Anniversary
and keep up with the excellent work!**

Fiona Carse, July 2003 – July 2004

I worked at BODC from 2001-3, looking after the EDIOS database. Since leaving, I have been a data manager at CEH Lancaster, a data analyst at SEPA and am now a marine observation specialist at the Met Office, mostly looking after Argo floats and seals.



Friedrich Nast

Former director of the NODC of Germany, BSH Hamburg



It is not always easy to lead a ship safely through challenging situations. BODC has navigated successfully the seas during the last 50 years, and, within the family of NODCs, BODC is the flagship in marine data handling.

But BODC was not sailing alone through the years but within a fleet of sailing fellows. Sailing together with the BODC crew always was a pleasure, they always lent a helping hand - in everyday work but also in strategically setting the course.

So guys at BODC, I thank you for your friendly support and help, congratulations to the 50th Anniversary and I wish you for the next 50
FAIR WIND and a FOLLOWING SEA.



Geoff Williams, Jan 2006- Jun 2008



Happy 50th
Anniversary,
BODC. Keep up
the good work!



Laura Webster, October 2003 – October 2004



Huge congratulations and Happy 50th Anniversary to all at BODC! Great to hear that it's going from strength to strength. Here's to the next 50 years and beyond!

All the best,

Laura Webster (née Bird)

2003-2004



Libby MacLeod, 1970s – February 2018

Many happy returns to BODC on your 50th anniversary. May the BODC team continue to deliver data in the efficient, helpful and friendly manner that was the ethos during the 40 odd years I was a part of it!



Maria-Jesús García, Retired Head of IEO Data Centre



My deepest congratulations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of BODC, an excellent reference for the Spanish Oceanographic Data Centre.

The participation of BODC colleagues in working groups (ICES-MDM), committees and international programs (i.e. IODE, GLOSS) as well as in European projects (SeaSearch, SeaDataNet, EDMONET, etc.) has been very relevant for the whole scientific community.



My sincere congratulations and thanks to all of them: Lesley Rickards, Elizabeth Bradshaw, Roy Lowry and Mark Hebden, etc, with whom I repeatedly had the opportunity to share work and experiences.

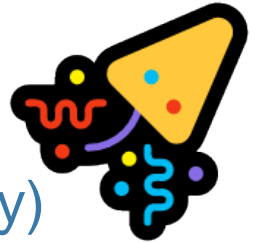
My best wishes for BODC in the next 50 years, hoping that the excellent collaboration between both Data Centres will continue over time, as is currently maintained through Mark Hebden and Elena Tel.

¡¡Felicidades!!

Michael Hughes, October 2003 – January 2007

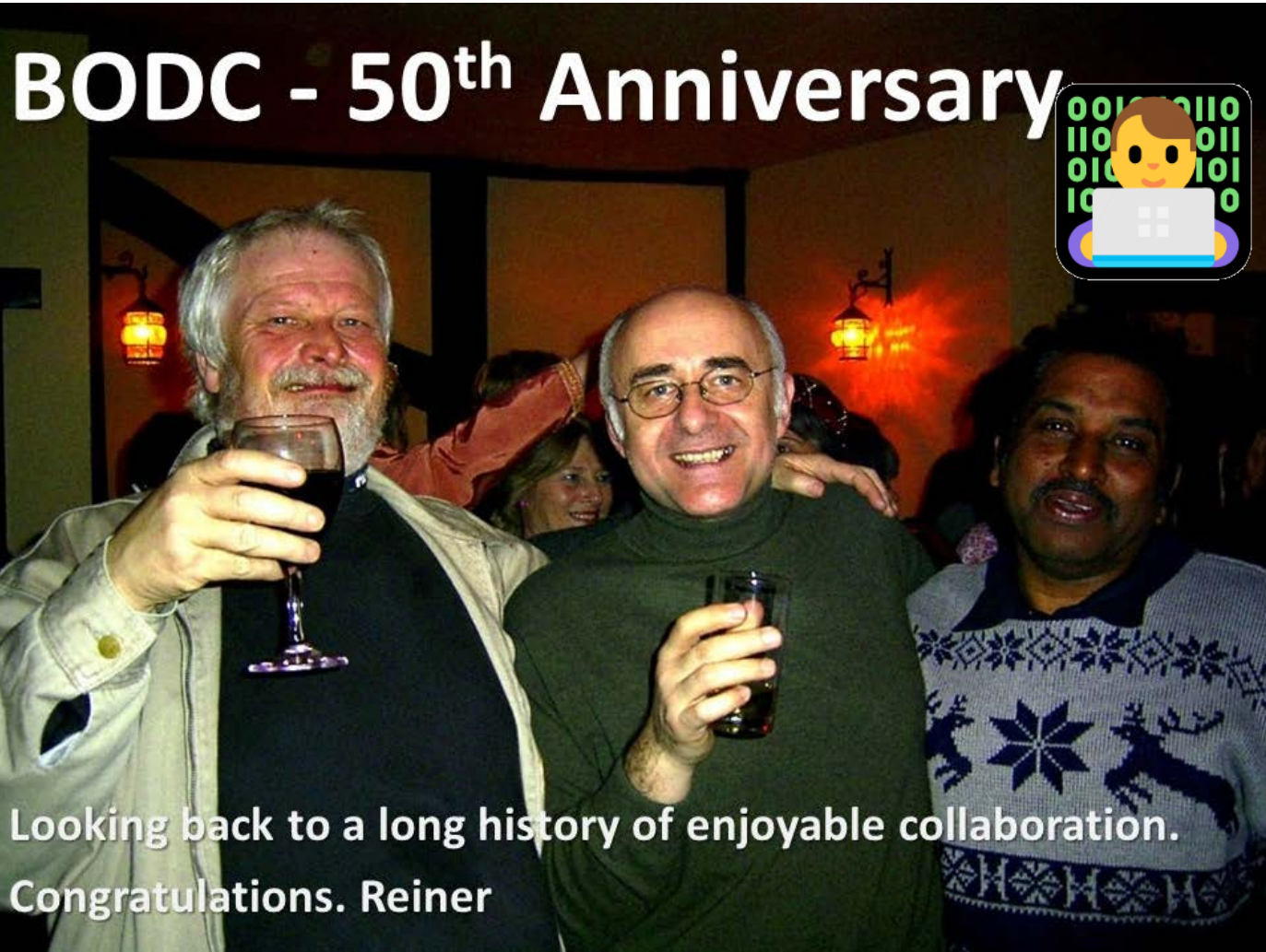


(worked on the birth
of the data/parameter dictionary)



Congratulations on 50 years of amazing work! Thanks to BODC for giving me my first “proper” job working on the metadata dictionary back in 2003 at the old Bidston Observatory. I have very fond memories of working with the team and it gave me a great platform to pursue my future career as a data scientist.

Reiner Schlitzer, AWI



Half a century!

Congratulations to one of my favourite teams, serving a terrific science community with solid, innovative information services, and showing the rest of us how it can be done. I've thoroughly enjoyed working with (or at least interacting with) Roy, Adam, Olly, Rob, Justin, Gwen, Lou, Alex and Graham over the last 15 years. Keep it up guys!



Simon Cox, Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO



Jim Crease sends congratulations to BODC on its 50th anniversary



Jim Crease – one of the first scientists to join the National Institute of Oceanography 1949 on its formation, and a major contributor there to research in marine physics. He was leader of the Marine Physics Group from 1974-1986, which led to a wider interest in data management. He guided the early days of BODS. Now 91 and still going strong!

Pam Draper sends congratulations to BODC on its 50th anniversary

Pam Draper (previously Edwards) – the MIAS Data Scout (retired 1988) whose job was to visit as many UK marine organisation as possible to search out data. Pam says “Surely BODS’ data bank must have been one of the earliest scientific ones? Going round to mostly University scientists I found that they had not come across the concept before, making it even harder to persuade them to part with “their” data! Being so early in that field meant that we were dealing mostly with analogue or hand-recorded data, thus adding to the problems of acquisition.”

Sam Jones (SAMS), October 2009 – February 2012

Dear BODC, **congratulations on your 50th year!** I really enjoyed my time in UK Argo along with Justin, and it's great that Kamila has carried on that fine tradition. Though the SQL has faded, the memories live on. Best wishes for the next 50 years!



Going through old photos, I was reminded of the brief but successful BODC–NOCL mountaineering society campaign circa January 2012 (photo: Hebden?).



Roger Proctor



Congratulations BODC on reaching 50!

My first introduction to BODC, or MIAS as it was then, was in 1977 when I'd just started as a NERC PhD student on Bidston Hill. As the Annual Report for 1977 says "A fine-mesh model of the Irish Sea was developed by a NERC postgraduate student for study of three-dimensional current motion in the Liverpool Bay area, in relation to the measurements made in spring 1977", and today I can still find those measurements, which I helped collect, in the BODC databank! Although I enjoyed contacts with BODC over the following years I never really appreciated the contribution BODC has made to British and world oceanography until I went to Australia in 2008 to develop the Australian Ocean Data Network; then I quickly recognised the BODC world-leading expertise in data management ... and copied a lot of it! So thank you all for your great work and tremendous success over the years, and long may it continue!



George Slesser

Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen, 1974-2015

Congratulations BODC on 50 years in oceanographic data management.

During this time a lot of advances have been made from punched paper tape and the odd sliced finger (try winding up paper tape) to data accessibility after two or three clicks of a mouse. Who could have guessed?

During all this time BODC was covering my back picking up the errors in my data submissions for which I was always very grateful. Working with BODC personnel was never onerous and always a pleasure. MDMWG and UKMED meetings I attended made me very aware of the expertise and high regard BODC has in national and international oceanographic data management circles.



I wish BODC all the best in your 50th anniversary celebrations and here's to the next fifty years of BODC pushing oceanographic data management ahead with the new technologies that are sure to be developed in the coming years. This is what 40 years in data management did to me!



John Hughes, 1993-1997

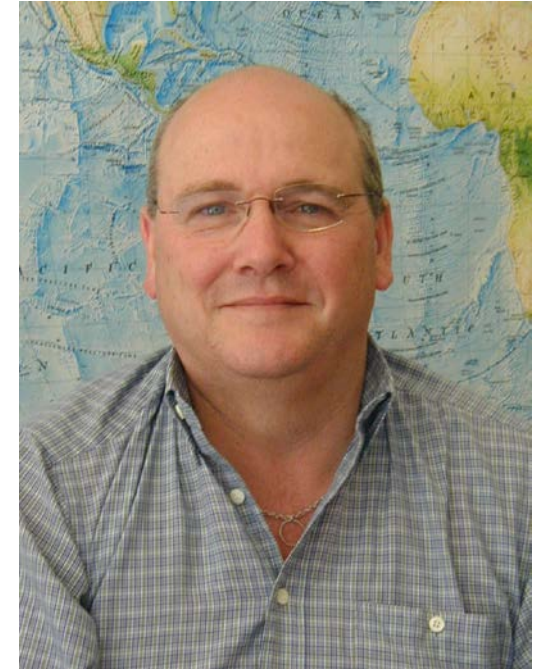


"Proud to have started my career in one of the turrets of the Observatory building. Good times working in a great team. Best wishes to Lesley and Roy for employing me, Polly, Jake and Richard for putting up with me, and Steve for all I learned.



Roland [Rolly] Rogers, Lt Cdr RN [Retd] Emeritus Fellow NOC, FSUT, FIMarEST

I have had the privilege of working with BODC for around 30 years. Firstly, as an oceanographer with the Royal Navy, through BODC's relationship with the UK Hydrographic Office. BODC passed important data to UKHO for inclusion in the RN's operational databases, one of many examples of BODC's work serving the public good. My second relationship with BODC was as co-member of the UK delegation to the IOC. I witnessed at first hand the great respect the international community had for the Centre and the individuals who served in important bodies such as IODE. Finally my last years at NOC demonstrated how adept BODC is at rising to new challenges, in this case developing data management and quality control for marine autonomous systems.



Exemplary service to both the UK and international marine scientific communities along with the vision and willingness to embrace new technologies shows the quality of the organisation and the people who make up BODC. I wish BODC a very happy 50th birthday and 'fair winds and following seas' for the next fifty years.



Dave Hartley, UK Hydrographic Office, retired



May I add my congratulations to the staff of a very professional and valuable institution whose work will, no doubt, be of increasing importance as time goes on, especially with the increasing concern about our valuable waters.

I hope that BODC and UKHO continue to enjoy a very good and mutually beneficial relationship and I enjoyed the many times we represented our nation at conferences, etc. You will recall that I particularly enjoyed the accompanying social aspects: all part of serving one's country!

Once again: Well done BODC and here's to the next 50...



Ian Leggett, Managing Director, OceanExpert Ltd Independent Metocean Consultancy - Oil and Gas & Offshore Renewables, Edinburgh



Delighted to hear that BODC has reached the magnificent milestone of its 50th anniversary. I was a keen user of the services particularly in the 1980's and 1990's when working for Shell. Much of the data obtained helped me get a better understanding of North Sea conditions and also helped in the derivation of metocean statistics for the design and operation of oil and gas platforms. Incidentally 2018 was my 40th anniversary in the metocean business so I am not too far behind!

Once again congratulations and here's to the next 50 yrs!



Garry Dawson, Oceanographic Data Manager, UK Hydrographic Office 2001-2014



Congratulations to all my friends past and present at BODC on 50 years of excellent work helping to protect and understand our oceans and 50 year's dedication to maintaining the UK's high profile in the international community. The invaluable historical records that you hold will be as much in demand in the next 50 years as they were in the past 50 years if not more.



Phil Woodworth, Emeritus Fellow, NOC

BODC provides an excellent example of a national data centre in providing a professional repository for all the long-term ocean data that a country needs, and in ensuring that the data collected at public expense by scientists are looked after and made available to anyone who wants them. May the good work continue for the next 50 years.



Rita Poikane
Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology
Agency of Daugavpils University

Rita Poikane and Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology wishes BODC wide seas to discover and safe sailing through the data pool.

Thanks to BODC colleagues for good (data) visibility over the sea!
Best wishes and fantastic party to celebrate BODC's 50th Anniversary!



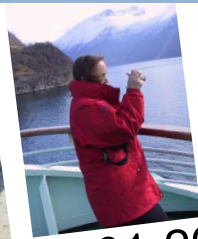
EUROGOOS
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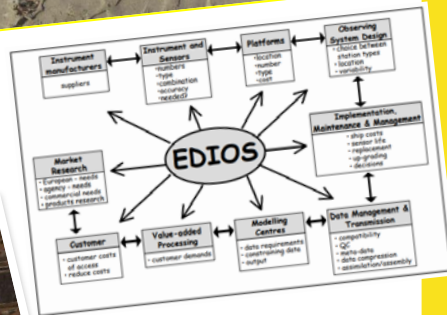
Rijkswaterstaat
Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management

EMODNET
SEADATACLOUD
SEADATANET-2
SEADATANET
NODC

Thanks for all the years of close COOPERATION on marine data !!



2001-2004



Niels



Kees



Pieter

Rijkswaterstaat - NL
congratulates
BODC
on its 50th anniversary



Anne Brazier
Secretary to the Marine Science Co-ordination
Committee (MSCC), NOC



Wishing BODC many congratulations in reaching this milestone.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with such charming, talented and good looking people over the last thirteen years. Long may BODC reign.



Bill Turrell, Marine Laboratory Aberdeen

When I joined the Marine Laboratory Aberdeen in 1986 MIAS/BODC was already 17 years old; I clearly remember the annual visit of Pam Edwards (later Pam Draper), chasing us to submit our bottle data as well as our current meter data (on spooled tapes from mechanical Aanderaa RCMs).

Everyone valued Pam's visit, to keep us on our toes, but also to safeguard our data. By submitting

data annually to MIAS we knew it would receive an additional, external QC check for errors (in data and metadata), it was safer than only being archived by us and it could be accessed globally and used by others in the wider science community, especially by the climate change community

These reasons were important to us then, and are still important to us; this is why we value so much the work of BODC. Throughout my career I have also extracted data generated by others from the BODC databases. Many papers we wrote here about the slope current, the deep flows around Scotland, and the North Sea shelf circulation could not have been done without data supplied by BODC.

Happy Birthday to BODC, and please keep the great work going!



Chris Jones, Tides Technical Lead UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO)

The Tides Team at the UKHO send their very best regards to BODC in reaching this milestone!

Congratulations on 50 years of excellence in data-collection, storage, quality-control and dissemination, the likes of which has been of great use to UKHO in its support of safety of life at sea, both for Defence and Merchant Marine, including data collected under the auspices of MIAS.



Colin Griffiths



Earliest memories – Pam Edwards would visit SMBA, Dave Ellett was always very keen that the Marine Physics group was in full attendance for Pam's visits.

Endless conversations with Meirion in the Observatory, for some reason they would always end with discussions on the merits of the Welsh rugby team.

Sitting down with Steve with my latest data offering – Steve would then label a folder 'SAMS attempted accession'.

Lesley's endless patience.

Happy days.

Congrats to BODC, enjoy the day Mark, regards to the gang.



Graham Alcock (ICOT, IOS, POL, CCMS, 1972 – 2000)



Many congratulations on reaching 50 to BODS/MIAS/BODC - that's nearly as many name changes as Bidston! The ethos (character and spirit) of an organisation is set by the person in charge, and I was privileged to know several of the Directors.

But the real work is done by the organisation's staff and I congratulate those past and present who built BODC into the world-class organisation that it has been for years. My association with BODC culminated after my early retirement when I worked with Gaynor, Polly and Lesley on two reports on the Climate of UK Waters, for the UK Government. They epitomised the work ethic of BODC: consistent and high-quality work, high productivity, and effective teamwork and cooperation.

It was a pleasure. Haere rā.





Begoña Pérez Gómez

Puertos del Estado (Spain)



I would like to start this message by expressing my gratitude for your support and help during all these years. I have very nice memories of my first and short visit to BODC at Bidston Observatory in 1992, as a young and inexperienced tide gauge network operator, and my first meetings with Phil Woodworth, Lesley Rickards, Ian Vassie or David Blackman, among others, who patiently explained and shared with me their experience and knowledge. It has been a great honour and pleasure to collaborate and work with you, always in a constructive and positive way, allowing me not only learning but also feeling your kind friendship.

Congratulations of course for all your successes, you have to be proud of all these years, I wish you sincerely a really happy 50th anniversary and good luck, of course, for the next 50!

Denise Smythe-Wright, IAPSO President, ex-MIAS and NOC (retired)

Happy Birthday BODC.

I can't believe that it is almost 40 years since I first became aware of your existence as a rather naive post doc. Little did I know then that only months later I would be working for MIAS, not quite doing research, but looking after publications and publicity for MIAS and IOS in general. It was a great opportunity.

It allowed me to be part of the Holiday Committee, which banned radioactive waste dumping at sea and then catapulted me into International WOCE and back into research.

Thank you BODC. You have provided me with data and coped with my cruise data for nearly for 40 years.

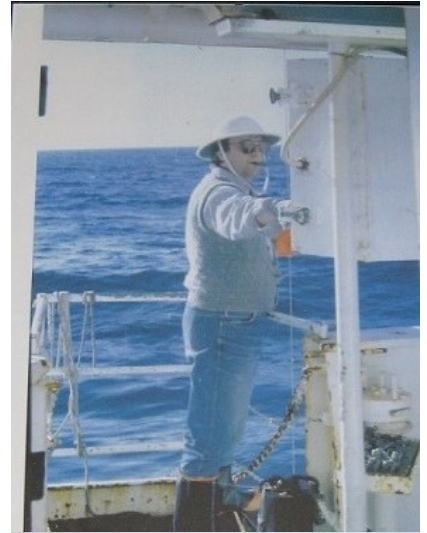


Lotta Fyrberg and Jan Szaron Present & Former Swedish National Co-ordinators for IODE

The Swedish National Oceanographic Data Centre wishes to join the Oceanographic Data Management World to congratulate you on your 50th Anniversary! Like all of us you have been on a sometimes, bumpy road with reorganizations, changing of acronyms, budget-restrictions/fighting. Development needs changes and you certainly can look back with satisfaction on your achievements and contributions. Just to name a few:

- Meirion T Jones: the father of the ground breaking GF3-Format
- Lesley Rickards: 1.58m above ground, 2.00m as Chairman of IODE
- Roy Lowry: the heavyweight (in all senses) champion of Vocabularies

It has been a real pleasure working with BODC through the years and we are counting on you continuing to be one of the strongest pillars in IODE! All the Best to All of you in BODC

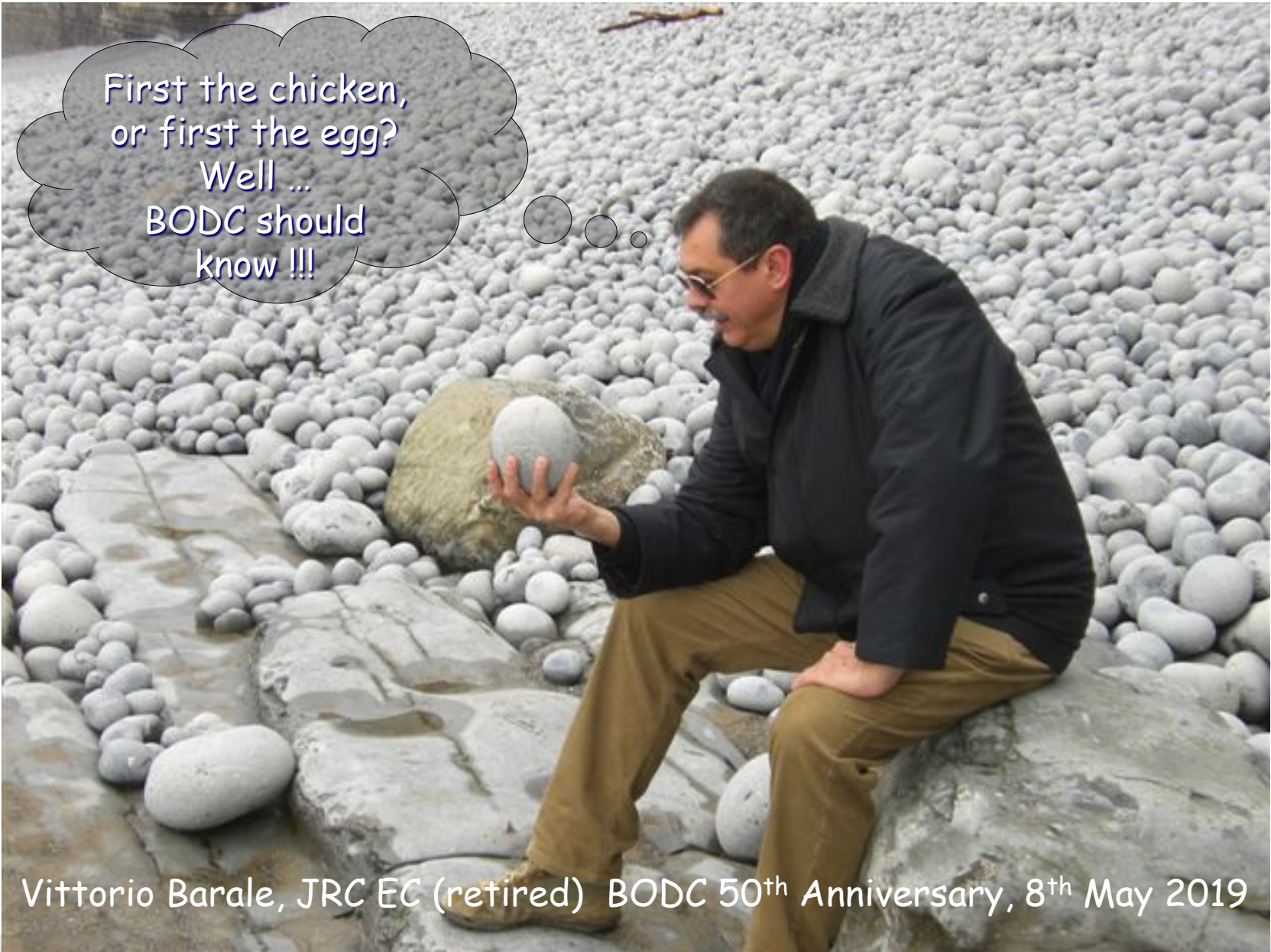


Alessandra Giorgetti, OGS

With great gratitude I underline how high-level expertise and fruitful collaboration with BODC has contributed to the success of EMODnet Chemistry during the last 10 years! BODC represent a qualified reference for the Italian National Oceanographic Data Centre.

Happy anniversary!





First the chicken,
or first the egg?
Well ...
BODC should
know !!!

Vittorio Barale, JRC EC (retired) BODC 50th Anniversary, 8th May 2019



**National
Oceanography Centre**
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



noc.ac.uk