

50 years of BODC

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**British Oceanographic
Data Centre**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

British Oceanographic Data Service – The Creation

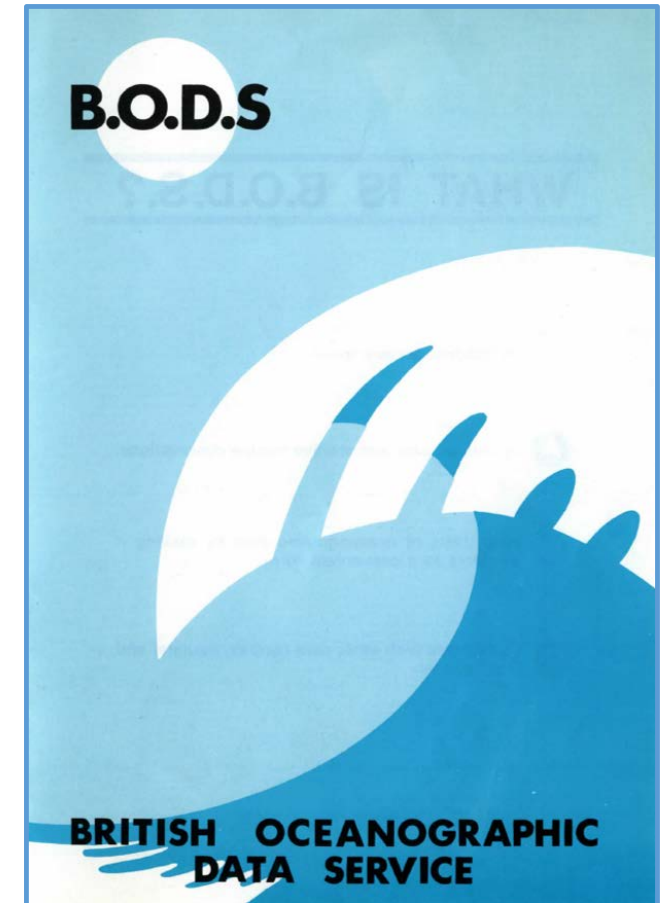
- Roots**
- * International Geophysical Year – 1958
 - * World Data Centre System
 - * IOC/IODE network of NODCs – 1961 onwards
 - * Perhaps the UK should have one?

1967: NERC led panel to consider the case with:

MAFF Lowestoft, DAFS Aberdeen, Hydrographic Office, Met Office, MBA Plymouth, SMBA Oban, Liverpool University, Southampton University and NIO Wormley

1968: Panel report to set up BODS accepted by NERC

1969: BODS established at NIO Wormley



1969 – 1975: The Early Days at Wormley

Managing data ** Servicing requests ** Developing data systems

Grand Challenge: to set up a national oceanographic data bank capable of handling any type of data

*Common format ** parameter codes ** plain language text
** support of a DBMS ** a new mainframe computer!*

1973: Formation of the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences

1975: Transfer of the National Oceanographic Data Base team to Bidston

1976-1977: Going up a Gear!

1976: DoE/ DoI directed NERC to put significantly increased resources into

a) a marine information service and

b) a data banking facility for offshore data

*** Marine Information & Advisory Service set up November 1976**

* MIAS Advice & Enquiries Group at Wormley

* MIAS Data Banking Group at Bidston

*** Implementation of the NODB system**

* system specifications finalised

* software by IOS Data Processing Group

* system available March 1978



(mainframe operational March 1978 – with 0.7 Mbyte memory and 100 Mbyte online disc units!!)

1978 – 1988: The National Oceanographic Data Base

- * arrival of the cavalry (Steve, Andy, Lesley, Roy, Mairi)
- * data centre for the UK Offshore Operators Association (UKOAA)
(data from weatherships, DB/1 & DB/2 and oil rigs)
- * national banking of wave, current, sea level & CTD data
- * major upgrades in data conversion and screening software
- * developing IOC's GF-3 format and its supporting software

(data archaeology - a costly and inefficient process – funding difficult)

1988 & 1989: Going up another Gear

(NERC's Marine Science Directorate – era of community research programmes)

Two new challenges: pro-active data management and innovative products

- * Project Data Centre - NERC North Sea Project and NERC BOFS
- * Data Products – UK Digital Marine Atlas and GEBCO Digital Atlas
- * **rebranded - British Oceanographic Data Centre (April 1989) – 5 extra staff**
- * EODAN Report
- * International CMI on floppy disc



1990 - 2000: A Decade of Achievement

(data managed from original collection to publication on CD-ROM)

*** Project Data Centre for NERC Projects:**

North Sea, BOFS, UK WOCE, LOIS, Arabesque, PRIME, ACSOE, AUTOSUB

*** Project Data Centre for EC MAST Projects:**

OMEX-1, OMEX-11, PROVESS & INDIA

* Publication of UKDMAP and GEBCO Digital Atlas on CD-ROM

* European Directory of Marine Environmental Data (EDMED)

