

TERMS OF REFERENCE for the  
CLIVAR-OMDP and CORDEX-SAT  
JOINT WORKING GROUP on  
REGIONAL OCEAN CLIMATE PROJECTIONS  
(JWG-ROCP)

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Following the conclusions of the 1-year Task Force on Regional Ocean Modelling and Climate Projections [Somot *et al.* 2025, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20290497> ], the CLIVAR Ocean Modelling Development Panel (OMDP) and the CORDEX Science Advisor Team (SAT) establish a long-term Joint Working Group on Regional Ocean Climate Projections.

The JWG-ROCP objectives are to:

- **Coordinate regional ocean climate projections** (physics including sea level, biogeochemistry, sea-ice, waves) worldwide by developing coordinated simulation protocols for both ocean-only and coupled RCMs, by delivering standardized datasets and by supporting WCRP initiative on sea level rise and extremes (e.g., WCRP task team on sea level rise)
- **Explore the potential of data-driven machine-learning approaches** to simulate oceanic regions and their future evolution, strengthening the promising training opportunities given by datasets produced with process-based numerical models
- **Advance the science of regional ocean climate modelling and projections**, including through multi-model assessments, identification of robust biases and underlying processes
- **Engage a large community of regional ocean modelers and model users** to provide a forum for sharing knowledge and experience across domains
- **Serve the climate impact and adaptation needs** by engaging with relevant users and stakeholders and by providing data and expertise to ocean climate services
- **Contribute to expert assessment reports** (e.g., IPCC-AR7, national or regional assessment reports)

The strategic vision of a Regional ocean climate projections Joint Working Group rooted in both CLIVAR OMDP and CORDEX SAT is supported by the following:

- CLIVAR OMDP brings its long-term knowledge on ocean model development, including tuning, spinup and parameterization development, on climate variability and change over the ocean and on air-sea interactions

- CORDEX SAT brings its long-term experience in worldwide coordination of regional climate modelling initiative, its capacity to produce coordinated climate projection datasets and its strong connection with stakeholders, climate services and, more generally, regional climate data users for the benefit of society

The structure and governance of the JWG includes:

- Two co-chairs, one nominated by CLIVAR OMDP and one nominated by CORDEX SAT. They will report to CLIVAR OMDP and CORDEX SAT on an annual basis or when requested and will help bring the two entities closer together.
- A list of 10 to 20 members, officially nominated for a renewable 3-year time period by the CLIVAR OMDP and CORDEX SAT bodies after a process mixing a community open call and ad-hoc invitations in order to ensure geographical, career-stage, expertise (physics, wave, sea ice, biogeochemistry), gender and CLIVAR-CORDEX balances. The list of members will be revised every year by a joint CLIVAR-OMDP / CORDEX-SAT ad-hoc agreement process
- Two identified contact points belonging to CLIVAR OMDP and CORDEX SAT to ensure the coordination of the JWG activities with the OMDP and SAT long-term vision and overall objectives
- A larger community of interest, open to members of the regional ocean modelling community or of the ocean climate projections users

The JWG will be implemented following a 2-step plan:

- Transition phase in 2026: transition phase to allow time for constructive interactions between CLIVAR OMDP and CORDEX SAT to approve the terms of reference, to prepare the community open call for membership and to start fast track actions allowing to meet the IPCC-AR7 deadlines. Each member of the 2025 TF will decide to continue or not to support the JWG activities during this transition period
- Maturity phase from 2027 onwards: longer-term implementation plan to reach a mature stage for the JWG. This phase will target the downscaling of CMIP7 models through coordinated protocols, multi-model assessment studies, and a wider contribution to future regional assessment reports on climate change and the ocean (e.g., IPCC-AR8)

Member list for the JWG-ROCP during the 2026 transition year

Surname	First name	Gender	Institute	Country	Email	CLIVAR / CORDEX	Role
Estrada	Sheila	F	CICESE	Mexico	sheila@cicese.mx	CORDEX Central America	
Drenkard	Elizabeth	F	GFDL	USA	liz.drenkard@noaa.gov	(ocean modeller)	
Herrmann	Marine	F	LEGOS, USTH, Chulalongkorn University	France, Vietnam, Thailand	marine.herrmann@ird.fr	CORDEX SouthEast Asia	
Holt	Jason	M	NOC	UK	jholt@noc.ac.uk	(ocean modeller)	
Iovino	Dorotea	F	CMCC	Italy	dorotea.iovino@cmcc.it	CLIVAR OMDP	CLIVAR OMDP co-chair and contact
Meier	Markus	M	IOW	Germany	meier@io-warnemuende.de	CORDEX Baltic Earth	
Melet	Angélique	F	MOI	France	amelet@mercator-ocean.fr	CLIVAR OMDP	JWG-ROCP Co-chair
Somot	Samuel	M	CNRM	France	samuel.somot@meteo.fr	CORDEX Mediterranean	JWG-ROCP Co-chair
Thatcher	Marcus	M	CSIRO	Australia	marcus.thatcher@csiro.au	CORDEX SAT	CORDEX SAT contact
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