

# Future pathways for the BGC Argo program: A Workshop

April 9 & 10, 2026

Beckman Center, 100 Academy Way, Irvine CA (Huntington Room) and virtual

Join on Zoom:

<https://nasem.zoom.us/j/91263264752?pwd=Y4kjuV4mBXSkVHfEWC4TZxhgmaF8.1>

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## OBJECTIVES

1. **Expanded Users, Products, and Value:** Assess how BGC Argo data and derived products (e.g., 4D fields, satellite synergies, data-assimilative marine ecosystem forecasting, near-real-time applications) could broaden the user base, increase scientific, operational, and commercial value, and support expanded applications.
2. **Government Pathways to Sustainability:** Identify viable pathways for sustaining BGC Argo as a long-term facility by examining opportunities, obstacles, and alignment with the missions and priorities of government agencies across near-term needs and a 10-year horizon.
3. **Private Sector & Commercial Engagement:** Explore potential commercial applications, partnerships, and funding models for BGC Argo, including the associated trade-offs for governance, data access, system reliability, and cost effectiveness.
4. **Balancing Continuity with Innovation:** Identify the critical technical and human capabilities that must be preserved during any transition in funding or governance, while evaluating opportunities for innovation such as new sensors and float longevity, AI-enabled analysis, and event-driven observing strategies.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026 | 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM PDT

8:00 **Breakfast and Networking**

8:30 **Welcome & Why we are here**

**Speaker:** Kelly Oskvig, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

- Welcome
- Safety Moment
- Who are the National Academies
- Project Overview

**Speaker:** Mark Abbott, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (*emeritus*)

- Why this moment matters (funding, governance, tech inflection, demand signals)
- What this workshop is *not* (not a retrospective celebration)
- What success looks like at 4pm tomorrow (clear pathways)

**Speaker:** Jyotika Virmani, Schmidt Ocean Institute

- A word from our sponsor

- 8:45**      **Introductions**  
In 1 minute or less:  
1. Name and affiliation  
2. Relation to, or interest in, the BGC Argo Program  
\*Online Participants – answer in the chat
- 9:15**      **Fast Framing Exercise – Table Discussion**  
Details explained on the day; online component included
- 9:30**      **Overview of BGC Argo (1 hour)**  
Accomplishments & Capabilities: Review BGC Argo’s scientific and societal accomplishments to date, explicitly linking outcomes to the underlying observing system capabilities (e.g., sensors, depth, sampling frequency, float and sensor density, and data quality) and identifying which target capabilities are mature versus still emerging.  
**Moderator:** Brian King, National Oceanography Centre  
**Speakers:** Ken Johnson, Monterey Bay Aquatic Research Institute  
                  Hervé Claustre, Laboratoire d’Océanographie de Villefranche  
Discussion: 20 minutes
- 10:30**      **BREAK**
- 10:45**      **Objective 1 - Expanded Users, Products, and Value:**  
Assess how BGC Argo data and derived products (e.g., 4D fields, satellite synergies, data-assimilative marine ecosystem forecasting, near-real-time applications) could broaden the user base, increase scientific, operational, and commercial value, and support expanded applications.  
**Moderator:** Raphaëlle Sauzède, Laboratoire d’Océanographie de Villefranche  
**Speakers:** Pierre-Yves Le Traon, Mercator Ocean International  
                  Andrea Fassbender, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory
- 11:15**      **Objective 1 Breakout Activity: 45 minutes**  
Exercise looking at BGC data needs from the perspective of different potential users. In person and online breakout groups included.
- 12:00**      **LUNCH**
- 1:00**      **Objective 1 Report Outs**
- 1:30**      **Objective 2 - Government Pathways to Sustainability:**  
Identify viable pathways for sustaining BGC Argo as a long-term facility by examining opportunities, obstacles, and alignment with the missions and priorities of government agencies (primarily US but potentially international) across near-term needs and a 10-year horizon.  
*\*30-minute presentation with Q&A, followed by breakout discussions*  
**Moderator:** Lynne Talley, Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
**Speaker:** Lisa Clough, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

- 2:00 Objective 2 Breakout Discussion:** 45 minutes  
Planning exercise with different funding scenarios.  
*\*In person and online breakout groups.*
- 2:45 Break**
- 3:15 Objective 2 Report Out**
- 3:45 Objective 3 - Private Sector & Commercial Engagement:**  
Explore potential commercial applications, partnerships, and funding models for BGC Argo, including the associated trade-offs for governance, data access, system reliability, and cost effectiveness.  
*\*20-minute presentation, Q/A, followed by panel discussion*  
**Moderator and Speaker:** Justin Manley, Marine Technology Society
- 4:55 Pulse Check**
- 5:00 Adjourn**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2026 | 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM PDT**

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- 8:00 Breakfast and networking**
- 8:30 Day 1 Recap**  
**Speaker/Moderator:** Brian King
- Where are areas of tension?
  - Where is the biggest opportunity?
  - Walk through the day's plan.
- 9:00 Objective 4 - Balancing Continuity with Innovation**  
Identify the critical technical and human capabilities that must be preserved during any transition in funding or governance, while evaluating opportunities for innovation such as new sensors and float longevity, AI-enabled analysis, and event-driven observing strategies.  
*\*30-minute discussion followed by breakout exercise*  
**Moderator:** Lionel Arteaga-Quintero, NASA Goddard Flight Space Center  
**Speakers:** Hervé Claustre, Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche  
Yui Takeshita, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
- 9:30 Objective 4 Breakout**  
Split into two groups: "Must Protect" and "Transform Now", and then switch after 30 minutes  
*\*In person and online breakout groups*
- 10:30 BREAK**

**11:00 Objective 4 Report out**

“must preserve” and “invest and innovate”; identify where investments would serve both

**11:30 Mapping out Future Pathways for BGC Argo – Integrating Objectives 1-4**

**Moderator:** Seth Bushinsky, University of Hawai'i

*\*In person and online breakout groups run in a World Café style.*

**12:00 Lunch**

**1pm Continue pathways mapping exercise**

**2:30 BREAK**

**2:45 Report Outs**

**3:15 Final Convergence Discussion**

**Moderator:** Mark Abbott

- What must not be lost during transition?
- Where is innovation most urgent?
- What does success look like in 2036?
- What does failure look like

**4:00 Adjourn**