Best practices for Core Argo floats:
Getting started, physical handling, metadata, and data considerations

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Brief description of community review process:

The Best Practice document for Core Argo floats was draft by several co-authors: Tamaryn Morris; Megan Scanderbeg; Deborah West-Mack; Claire Gourcuff; Noé Poffa; TVS Udaya Bhaskar; Craig Hanstein; Steve Diggs; Lynne Talley; Victor Turpin; Zenghong Liu; Breck Owens

The document was reviewed by 13 members of the Argo Steering Team (AST) and Argo Data Management Team (ADMT) and amendments were included into the draft.

The document was assessed by the co-chairs of both the AST and ADMT and deemed appropriate as a best practice for Core Argo floats.

Links to previous versions or full manuals if this is a summary paper: n/a

This manual has been endorsed by the GOOS Observation Coordination Group - OneArgo panel of Experts as a globally accepted best practice for Core Argo floats - Getting started, physical handling, metadata and data considerations.

The GOOS best practice endorsement process has been developed by the GOOS and the Observation Coordination Group (OCG) in conjunction with the Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS).

The aim is for global networks (eg the International Argo programme through GOOS OCG) or groups of experts (eg. the GOOS Biogeochemical Panel) to endorse and share methods which have reproduced superior results for confidence in and uptake by the broader ocean community.

The endorsed methods can range from standard operating procedures to field manuals and have been adopted by community review as 'globally' accepted methods. Following best practices improves the reproducibility of science research, and interoperability across disciplines and datasets by standardizing methods and data collection. It allows for research to be more efficient, leads to quality datasets, and supports future proofing data.

Endorsed GOOS best practices have been through a strong identifying process. They have been adopted and used by established ocean observers and therefore represent a strong basis for the ocean science community. The document will be updated and re-endorsed as appropriate.