

CHARTER
of the
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Interagency Working Group on Facilities and Infrastructure (IWG-FI) is hereby established by the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) and Committee on Science (CS).

B. Definition

For the purpose of this working group, infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, any facilities, platforms, networks or systems that contribute to oceanographic research. This allows for future inclusion of novel, emerging technologies within the purview of the IWG-FI.

C. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the IWG-FI is to advise, assist, and make recommendations to the JSOST on policies, procedures, and plans relating to oceanographic infrastructure uses, upgrades, and investments, which is a continuation and expansion of the efforts begun by the Federal Oceanographic Facilities Committee (FOFC) and the Interagency Working Group on Facilities. It will also provide guidance to the JSOST on matters relating to national oceanographic asset requirements. The IWG-FI will:

- Coordinate with the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR) to ensure an effective interface between managers responsible for oceanographic facilities and resource managers at the federal, state, and local levels with a particular emphasis on cooperative interactions with the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS).
- Collaborate with other working groups of the JSOST, SIMOR, CENR, and CS to ensure oceanographic facilities management efforts are based on the best input from the widest possible set of stakeholders.
- Coordinate its plans and reports with the Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel (ORRAP) to obtain independent review of its efforts.

The scope of the IWG-FI includes, but is not limited to, major federal assets such as oceanographic ships, submersibles, Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), and maritime research aircraft including Unmanned Airborne Vehicles (UAVs). The IWG-FI will also provide guidance, input and direction

as necessary for other systems used in ocean observations such as moorings, drifting buoys, and observatories, emphasizing their impact on the utilization and mix of federal infrastructure.

D. Functions

- Review the current operations, management methods, policies and capabilities of federal oceanographic infrastructure and, when appropriate, define common standards and approaches to operation for federal managers of oceanographic infrastructure;
- Improve planning, coordination, communication and leveraging of resources among federal oceanographic infrastructure managers through the development of an interagency coordination plan for emerging infrastructure;
- Address interagency programmatic and operation questions of infrastructure managers;
- Provide a forum for the exchange of information and develop best-practices guidance on long-range plans regarding the construction, lifecycle management, deactivation, disposal or chartering of oceanographic vessels and infrastructure;
- Monitor international oceanographic infrastructure activities for potential application to the federal infrastructure suite; and
- Charter appropriate federal, multi-agency Task Forces devoted to specific infrastructure requirements.

E. Membership

All JSOST member agencies, including ex-officio members, may be represented on the IWG-FI. Two Co-Chairs shall be identified by the IWG-FI and approved by the JSOST Co-Chairs. In the event that the IWG-FI does not identify two Co-Chairs, the JSOST Co-Chairs will appoint them. Co-Chairs of the IWG-FI will be selected on a rotating basis for a 1-year term, renewable. The UNOLS, NSTC subcommittees, and other Federal organizations will be invited to participate as appropriate. Contractors under non-disclosure agreements may be utilized as needed. Decisions made by the Co-Chairs of the IWG-FI will be vetted by the full IWG-FI, by electronic means if necessary for timeliness.

F. Private Sector Interface

The IWG-FI may solicit and receive ad-hoc advice from non-Federal agencies, including but not limited to the UNOLS and the ORRAP, in a manner consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

G. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Co-Chairs of the JSOST prior to its expiration, the IWG-FI shall terminate no later than December 31, 2012.

H. Determination

We hereby determine that the formation of the Interagency Working Group on Facilities and Infrastructure is in the public interest in connection with the performance and duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:



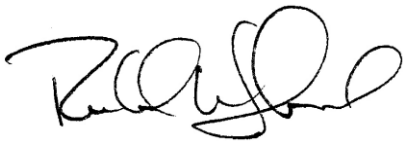
(Tim Killeen, Co-Chair, JSOST)

January 26, 2010
Date



(Jerry Miller, Co-Chair, JSOST)

January 26, 2010
Date



(Richard Spinrad, Co-Chair, JSOST)

January 26, 2010
Date