



CHARTER
of the
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND SUSTAINABILITY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Interagency Working Group on Facilities and Infrastructure (IWG-FI) is hereby established by the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (SOST) of the National Science and Technology Council, Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability.

B. Definition

For the purpose of the 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 SOST 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 SOST on matters relating to national oceanographic asset requirements. The IWG-FI will:

- Coordinate with other federal working groups and the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS), consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), to ensure an effective interface between managers responsible for oceanographic facilities and resource managers at federal, state, and local levels;
- Coordinate its plans and reports with the Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP) to obtain independent review of its efforts, consistent with FACA and Department of Defense and National Ocean Council procedures; and
- Advance efforts related to oceanographic facilities and infrastructure under the National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, our Coasts, and the Great Lakes (National Ocean Policy, Executive Order 13547).

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

The IWG-FI will:

- 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;
- Charter appropriate federal, multi-agency task forces devoted to specific infrastructure requirements; and
- Implement or ensure implementation of activities related to oceanographic facilities and infrastructure under the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan.

E. Membership

All SOST 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 SOST Co-Chairs. In the event that the IWG-FI does not identify two Co-Chairs, the SOST Co-Chairs will appoint them. Co-Chairs of the IWG-FI will be selected on a rotating basis for a 1-year term, renewable.

Representatives of other federal organizations will be invited to participate as appropriate. Representatives of UNOLS may be invited to participate in IWG-FI meetings as appropriate to inform discussions, but not engage in IWG-FI decision-making. Contractors under non-disclosure agreements may be utilized as subject matter experts 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 input from non-federal entities, including but not limited to UNOLS and ORAP, in a manner consistent with FACA and other applicable Federal procedures.

G. Termination

Unless renewed by the SOST Co-Chairs prior to its expiration, the IWG-FI shall terminate no later than December 31, 2015.

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

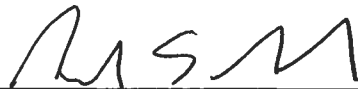
on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved



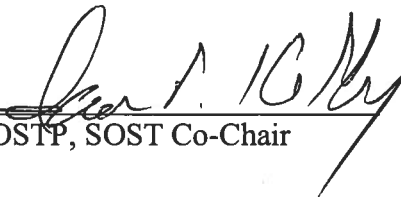
David Conover, NSF, SOST Co-Chair

2/13/13
Date



Robert Detrick, NOAA, SOST-Co-Chair

2/13/13
Date

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Brendan Kelly, OSTP, SOST Co-Chair

2/13/2013
Date