



CHARTER
of the
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS
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 Ocean Partnerships (IWG-OP) 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 (CENRS).

B. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the IWG-OP is to advise, assist, and make recommendations to the SOST on matters related to ocean partnerships, a continuation and expansion of the partnership efforts taking place under the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP).

Definition: NOPP defines (in its solicitations for extramural¹ proposals) partnerships as team efforts among at least two of the following three sectors:

1. Academia;
2. Industry (including Non-Governmental Organizations); and
3. Government (including Federal, State, Local, Tribal and regional authorities).

For the broader purpose of the IWG-OP, partnerships include the above and also include purely interagency and intergovernmental collaborations involving shared resources to accomplish mutual oceanographic research interests.

Topical Scope: Partnerships facilitated through the IWG-OP will address the full range of ocean science, technology, and resource management priorities. For this purpose, oceans are considered to include coastal regions and the Great Lakes. Partnerships will be encouraged that expand our knowledge, our capabilities to observe and predict, and the scientific basis for management. Topics of interest will include, but will not be limited to:

1. Oceans and their interactions with other components of Earth (e.g. atmosphere, land, and living resources) and with human influences;
2. Use, stewardship, and sustainability of living and non-living resources; and

¹ Extramural here means money from within the federal government going to entities outside the federal government.

3. Science, technology, and societal issues that are not clearly the domain of a single agency, program, or discipline (e.g. education).

In its work, the IWG-OP will operate so as to:

1. Interact with the Ocean Resource Management Interagency Policy Committee (ORM-IPC) of the National Ocean Council to ensure that partnerships within the implementation activities of the Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, our Coasts, and the Great Lakes (National Ocean Policy, Executive Order 13547) include efforts related to integrated resource management as well as to science and technology;
2. Collaborate with other working groups of the ORM-IPC, SOST, and CENRS, to ensure ocean partnerships efforts are inclusive and managed for the best use of fiscal and human resources, and are using best practices allowable within interagency funding regulations;
3. Jointly sponsor extramural activities in support of advancing the areas listed under Topical Scope, to be undertaken by NOPP;
4. Coordinate its plans and reports with the Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP) to obtain independent scrutiny of its efforts, consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and utilizing the current Department of Defense and National Ocean Council processes for engaging with ORAP; and
5. Advance efforts related to partnerships and coordination under the National Ocean Policy.

C. Functions

The IWG-OP will:

1. On behalf of the National Ocean Research Leadership Council working through the National Ocean Council, develop extramural funding announcements, select projects to be funded, and recognize excellent partnerships within the oceanography community;
2. Work with the ocean agencies and with the Office of Management and Budget to increase flexibility in interagency and intergovernmental cost-sharing of ocean partnership projects;
3. Develop and periodically update a strategic plan for out-year ocean partnership activities and directions, so that agencies can plan ahead to be participants;
4. Implement or ensure implementation of activities related to partnerships and coordination under the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan; and
5. Report regularly on its plans and activities to the SOST and as requested to the National Ocean Council and to ORAP. An annual report on ocean partnerships will be publicly disseminated and sent to Congress.

D. Membership

All SOST member agencies, including ex-officio members, may be represented on the IWG-OP. Other governmental bodies will be invited to participate as ex-officio as appropriate. Contractors under non-disclosure agreements may attend as subject matter experts as needed.

The IWG-OP will have at least two, but not more than three Co-Chairs selected by the IWG-OP and approved by the SOST Co-chairs. The Co-Chairs will rotate among the members of the IWG-OP with one-year terms, renewable. Decisions made by the Co-Chairs of the IWG-OP will be vetted by the full IWG-OP, by electronic means if necessary for timelines.

E. Private Sector Interface

The IWG-OP may solicit and receive ad hoc advice from non-Federal entities, consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). ORAP and its sub-committees may provide input and information exchange, in accordance with Department of Defense and Council procedures. The NOPP Program Office will provide administrative support to the IWG-OP.


F. Termination Date

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

G. Determination

We hereby determine the formation of the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Partnerships 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



Brendan Kelly, OSTP, SOST Co-Chair

2/13/2013
Date