

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES INTEGRATED OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

CHARTER

1. Committee's Official Designation (Title). United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee

2. Authority. The United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee (Committee) was established by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in the Under Secretary's capacity as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator as directed by Section 12304(d) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (the Act), as amended by Section 103 of the Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act of 2020 (COORA) (Public Law 116-271, Title I). 33 U.S.C. § 3603(d). The Committee shall function solely as an advisory body and in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities. The Committee shall advise the NOAA Administrator and the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee (IOOC)¹ on matters related to the purposes and responsibilities set forth in the Act, as amended, and on appropriate matters the Administrator, the Council², and IOOC refer to the Committee for review and advice. The Committee may advise the Council upon request pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 3603(d)(1) and (d)(2)(E).

4. Description of Duties. The Committee, per Section 3603(d)(2) of Title 33, United States Code, shall advise the NOAA Administrator and the IOOC on:

- a. administration, operation, management, and maintenance of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (System), including integration of Federal and non-Federal assets and data management, data sharing, and communication aspects of the System, and fulfillment of the purposes set forth in 33 U.S.C. § 3601;
- b. expansion and periodic modernization and upgrade of technology components of the System;
- c. identification of end-user communities, their needs for information provided by the System, and the effectiveness of the System in disseminating information

¹ The IOOC is established at 33 U.S.C. § 3603(c)(2).

² The Council refers to the Ocean Policy Committee established by Section 8932 of Title 10, as amended by P.L. 116-283 (2021) (formerly named the National Ocean Research Leadership Council). The functions of the Council are described at 33 U.S.C. § 3603(c)(1).

to end-user communities and the general public;

- d. a national surface current mapping network designed to improve fine scale sea surface mapping using high frequency radar technology and other emerging technologies to address national priorities, including Coast Guard search and rescue operation planning and harmful algal bloom forecasting and detection that— (I) is comprised of existing high frequency radar and other sea surface current mapping infrastructure operated by national programs and regional coastal observing systems; (II) incorporates new high frequency radar assets or other fine scale sea surface mapping technology assets, and other assets needed to fill gaps in coverage on United States coastlines; and (III) follows a deployment plan that prioritizes closing gaps in high frequency radar infrastructure in the United States, starting with areas demonstrating significant sea surface current data needs, especially in areas where additional data will improve Coast Guard search and rescue models;
- e. fleet acquisition for unmanned maritime systems for deployment and data integration to fulfill the purposes of the Act, as amended;
- f. an integrative survey program for application of unmanned maritime systems to the real-time or near real-time collection and transmission of sea floor, water column, and sea surface data on biology, chemistry, geology, physics, and hydrography;
- g. remote sensing and data assimilation to develop new analytical methodologies to assimilate data from the System into hydrodynamic models;
- h. integrated, multi-State monitoring to assess sources, movement, and fate of sediments in coastal regions;
- i. a multi-region marine sound monitoring system to be— (I) planned in consultation with the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and (II) developed, installed, and operated in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and
- j. any other purpose identified by the Administrator, the Council, or the IOOC.

5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports. The Committee reports to the NOAA Administrator and shall advise the NOAA Administrator and the IOOC. The Committee may advise the Council upon request.

6. Support. NOAA shall make available to the Committee information, personnel, and administrative services and assistance as the Committee may reasonably require in carrying out its duties.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.

- a. For 2021-2022, the annual cost of operating the Committee is estimated to be \$160,000, which includes 1.2 FTE staff support and one in-person meeting per annum.
- b. Members of the Committee shall not be compensated for service on the Committee, but may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of Title 5, United States Code.

8. Designated Federal Officer. In accordance with Department of Commerce and NOAA guidance, the Director, U.S. IOOS Office, a full-time, permanent federal employee, or his/her designee, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Committee. The DFO will approve or call all of the Committee and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public's interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the NOAA Administrator.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings. The Committee shall meet at least once each year, and at other times at the call of the NOAA Administrator, the Council, the IOOC, or the Chairperson.

10. Duration. Continuing.

11. Termination. This charter will terminate five years from the date of its filing with the appropriate U.S. Senate and House of Representatives oversight committees unless earlier terminated or renewed by proper authority.

12. Membership and Designation.

- a. The Committee shall be composed of approximately fifteen members appointed by the NOAA Administrator. Members will be selected on a clear, standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. Members of the Committee shall be appointed as Special Government Employees for purposes of Section 202(a) of Title 18, United States Code. Members serve at the discretion of the NOAA Administrator.
- b. The Committee members shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information related to the design, operation, maintenance, or use of the System, or use of data products provided through the System.
- c. An individual may not be appointed as a member of the Committee if he/she is a full-time officer or employee of the United States.

- d. Any member of the Committee who is an applicant for or beneficiary of (as determined by the NOAA Administrator) any assistance under the Act, as amended, shall disclose to the Committee and to the DFO that relationship and may not vote on any matter pertaining to that assistance.
- e. The term of office of a member of the Committee shall be three years, renewable once. A vacancy appointment shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacancy, and an individual so appointed may subsequently be appointed for two full three-year terms if the remainder of the unexpired term is less than one year. Member terms may be staggered to prevent the loss of institutional memory when terms expire, with the goal of no more than one half of the Committee membership terms expiring annually.
- f. The NOAA Administrator shall designate a Chairperson from among the members of the Committee. The Chairperson shall serve at the discretion of the Administrator.
- g. Members of the Committee shall be subject to ethical standards applicable to Special Government Employees. Members shall receive an annual ethics briefing from an appropriate official.
- h. At least once every three years, the NOAA Administrator shall publish a notice in the Federal Register soliciting nominations for membership on the Committee.
- i. Members shall not reference or otherwise utilize their membership in the Committee in connection with public statements made in their personal capacities without a disclaimer that the views expressed are their own and do not represent the views of the Committee, the IOOC, the Council, NOAA, or the Department of Commerce.

13. Subcommittees. As may be necessary, NOAA may establish subcommittees, consisting of Committee members and/or outside experts, pursuant to the provisions of FACA, the FACA implementing regulations, and applicable Department of Commerce and NOAA guidance. Subcommittees shall report back to the Committee and must not provide advice or work products directly to NOAA, the IOOC, or the Council.

14. Recordkeeping. Records of the Committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, and other subgroups of the Committee shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2, or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

**STEPHEN
KUNZE**

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Date: 2021.06.23 10:18:48 -04'00'

Acting Chief Financial Officer and Assistant
Secretary for Administration

Filing Date