

April 26th, 2022 (11-11:30am ET)

1. **Attendees:** Carrie Schmaus, Nick Rome, Dick West, Scott Rayder, Catherine Edwards, Schuyler Nardelli, Krisa Arzayus

2. **General Scope (Work Plan)**

- K. Arzayus noted that there will be briefings at the public meeting on May 11th. N. Rome reviewed the public meeting agenda and highlighted the 45 min New Blue Economy deliberation session. K. Arzayus noted that Carl Gouldman's team will be working on background options papers to share and add to the discussion. Today's goal is to get everyone thinking about this topic, get to know each other, and have someone from the PWG to lead the deliberation at the public meeting.
- D. West noted that the "New" Blue Economy definition is vague. He added that we need to know how NOAA is looking at it. He added that the National Committee is developing observations input to the UNDOS and asked if we should be providing input there. He also asked if the RA contributions and its relationship to NOAA is the area we need to focus on.
- K. Arzayus noted that NOAA released a Blue Economy strategy document a few years ago and it is different from Dr. Spinrad's "New."
- S. Nardelli shared the UN definition of the Blue Economy: "The Blue Economy couples the promotion of economic growth, social inclusion, and the improvement of lives and livelihoods, while ensuring environmental sustainability of the ocean and coastal areas." The new blue economy is the data and knowledge from the ocean and coast and how they integrate into the Blue Economy. The New Blue Economy (NBE) comprises the manufacture of technologies enabling ocean observation and measurement, use of these technologies to capture ocean data, and the provision of ocean information services supporting societal or economic benefits. It has been described as "a knowledge-based economy, looking to the sea not just for extraction of material goods, but for data and information to address societal challenges and inspire their solutions." It is an economy founded on emerging capabilities for acquiring data and developing information and knowledge that supports harnessing ocean resources for economic growth, while protecting ocean health and ensuring social equity.
- N. Rome noted that the work plan has a good list. He added that E. Howlett suggested that IOOS's biggest asset is its research to operations testbed ability and realizing different revenue streams. N. Rome noted that we have the opportunity to choose where we want to focus, but we should align the Dr. Spinrad's definition and progress.
- K. Arzayus noted that Carl Gouldman's paper will be available a week before the meeting.
 - D. West suggested we review that doc and ask the RA's to find a point of convergence or opportunity and FAC recommends it.
 - K. Arzayus noted that the discussion lead will have to be flexible based on what we hear, see in the read aheads, and our PWG discussions.
 - S. Rayder noted that we need to get a crystal clear definition of the new blue economy and how to measure it.
 - S. Nardelli clarified that the options paper will include definitions.

- N. Rome suggested we have a few top two or three priorities/challenge questions to help us to the recommendations we want to provide. The following suggestions were provided:
 - Technology needs, RA funding revenues, Research to Operations
 - K. Arzayus added that mitigation in wind energy could be a great option as well. The committee can help understand how this relationship works best.
 - K. Arzys noted that Carl Gouldman noted for us to think of data as a service rather than data buys.
 - C. Schmaus asked if obtaining a POC from the DOE Wind Energy office would be helpful to this PWG. The PWG members agreed (**ACTION**).
- E. Howlett, C. Edwards, and C. Schmaus were volunteered to report out and facilitate the deliberations. N. Rome offered to provide slides to guide discussions.

April 13th, 2022 (2-2:30pm ET)

3. Attendees: Catherine Edwards, Eoin Howlett, Carrie Schmaus, Nick Rome

4. General Scope ([Work Plan](#))

The working group was asked to review the details within the work plan and asked if there were certain topics which would be most influenced by FAC recommendations.

- N. Rome provided a brief overview of the FAC, previous recommendation formats, previous [documentation of IOOS RA efforts](#), and current work plan. He pointed the group to the cross cutting questions in the work plan and host of subtopics listed under New Blue Economy.
 - E. Howlett asked about the deadline for the recommendations.
 - It was noted that the timeline is flexible and dependent on the pace of the FAC.

5. Recommendations and Timeline ([2021 Recommendations Report](#))

The working group was asked to review the 2021 FAC recommendations report and provide feedback on the format and timeline of the new recommendations.

- The working group was unsure about the format and timeline of the new recommendations.
- N. Rome suggested mapping out the 2021 recommendations topically to the New Blue Economy.
 - N. Rome highlighted the recommendation: “Continue to undertake economic valuation processes of observing systems to better quantify benefits and enhance messaging for sustained observations.” He also shared the new [Ocean Enterprise Study](#).
 - E. Howlett noted that investing in the 11 regions generates a lot of value.
 - C. Edwards added that it would be beneficial to match regional and national priorities, i.e. helping meet NOAA’s mission and maxing out contributions to regional efforts. She asked the group on how to best accomplish this and suggested developing a recommendation to do so.

6. Report out and discussion leads at Public Meeting ([Draft Meeting Agenda](#))

The working group was asked to volunteer one person to report out on today’s meeting and lead the deliberations during the public meeting.

- The PWG agreed that they needed more time. A doodle poll was shared to set up another meeting prior to the public meeting to further discuss the New Blue Economy scope.
- C. Edwards suggested obtaining notes or a recording of the New Blue Economy listening session on Dr. Spinrad's priorities. (ACTION) She noted that the themes of training (workforce development) was a very interesting subject area.
- C. Edwards noted that developing recommendations on the New Blue Economy was difficult as it is so tied to the Phase 2 priorities in the work plan, i.e. Enterprise Excellence. She asked if IOOS is considered a federation and if we should be recommending based on regional or national needs.
 - E. Howlett agreed and noted that the regions have been doing the most possible with the funds they receive but have not made much progress on creating revenue outside federal contributions. He asked how we best facilitate this.
 - N. Rome added that the regions are looking at funding outside federal contributions through proposals (SECOORA and others). He also noted that most requests have fallen within the hurricane supplemental.
 - E. Howlett noted that a major challenge exists with moving research to operations. He added that IOOS is a great testbed environment and an excellent incubator for things before they transition into NOAA operations.
 - N. Rome noted that the RAs are leveraging a lot and seeking funding from state and local governments.
 - E. Howlett agreed and noted that IOOS is a great investment because of that leveraging. He suggested developing a list of creative revenue streams that the RAs are and could be utilizing.
 - N. Rome agreed and added that IOOS needs to continue its efforts in engagement and outreach to better target super users.
 - C. Edwards added that the RAs are a great incubator for IOOS-specific things too. She added that sustained funding and retention in observing is difficult but vital for the system.