

U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee  
Work Plan 2021-2024

Phase 1 Priorities	Phase 2 Priorities
Climate Change Adaptation	Marine Life Program
Diversity, Inclusion, and Service Equity	Enterprise Excellence
New Blue Economy	Design of FY24 IOOS External Review

**Overview:**

During the U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee (AC) public deliberations on November 29 and December 6, 2021, committee members decided to take a two-phased approach for delivering recommendations to NOAA and the IOOC during the current term. Phase 1 priorities include three topics on which the NOAA Administrator, Dr. Rick Spinrad, requested committee advice. These were strategically determined to be more urgent for the committee to address first due to the timing of major funding bills and government-wide budget formulation activities, as well as because the NOAA Administrator requested committee attention on these priorities, specifically.

Some cross-cutting questions for the committee to consider on these topics include:

- (1) How will the IOOS Enterprise support the NOAA mission to advance these priorities, including areas where IOOS performs an essential function within partnerships that cannot be completed by the government alone?
- (2) What strategic advice can the committee offer to shape the vision and execution of these priorities within NOAA and the IOOC?

Phase 2 priorities include topics that are relevant and important to the committee, and that were requested by the IOOS Office Director, Carl Gouldman, but do not have the same urgency for recommendations that phase 1 priorities do. The committee will deliberate on these priorities after recommendations for phase 1 priorities have been completed and delivered. Phase 2 priorities are also more tactical in nature and the committee will be briefed on programmatic, as well as the organization and operation of various components of the IOOS Enterprise.

**Approach:**

The committee was split into small teams (one per priority) to prepare materials, including perspectives and initial recommendations, to be fully deliberated upon at public meetings of the committee. Only during public meetings can official decisions be made regarding work of the committee; because these small groups are preparing for those deliberations of the full committee, they are called "Preparatory Work Groups (PWGs)". Preparatory work is exempt from many of the FACA reporting requirements for deliberative and decisional public meetings.

Each Committee member, including ex officio members, was asked to voluntarily join at least one PWG. Committee members could join additional PWGs if they wished. The IOOS AC staff could move Committee members between PWGs in order to maintain a balance across all phase 1 and phase 2 priorities, and may reassign members as needed.

**Timeline:**

**January 14** - Committee members have volunteered for phase 1 PWGs.

**February 17** - PWG membership was finalized at the administrative call. Committee identified what briefings they would like to receive at the next public meeting to inform their work.

**April 31** - PWGs have each met once to refine scope and develop draft objectives to share with the broader committee, and generate a proposed timeline for developing recommendations.

**May 11 and 13** - PWGs will facilitate discussion on scope, objectives, and proposed timeline at the spring public meeting. PWGs will discuss additional briefings they may need to make their recommendations.

**June and July** - Each PWG will hold ~2 meetings to refine scope and draft recommendations to present at next public meeting.

**November** - PWGs will brief out draft recommendations at the summer public meeting.

## Phase 1 Priorities/PWGs

### Climate Change Adaptation

*Ideas, themes, and subtopics identified by the Committee:*

- Ocean Climate Nexus
- Climate Products and Services
- Expand near-term forecasting
- Modeling
- Coastal Climate Signal
- Role of IOOS RAs in Service Delivery
- How far along the value chain should the RAs go in terms of what they provide for Resilience?
- Resilience and partnerships with NERRS, SG, others (overlaps with “Enterprise Excellence” phase 2 priority)
- HABs (overlaps with “Marine Life” phase 2 priority)
- How is climate changing marine life? (overlaps with “Marine Life” phase 2 priority)
- Ocean acidification (overlaps with “Marine Life” phase 2 priority)

**PWG Members:** Oscar Schofield, Julio Morell, Molly McCammon, Sara Graves, Dan Rudnick, Dan Costa, Susan Yee (ex officio), Josie Quintrell (ex officio)

### Diversity, Inclusion, and Service Equity

*Ideas, themes, and subtopics identified by the Committee:*

- DEIA / Equity in workforce and impacts - driving systemic change
- Expanding data acquisition with citizen science
- Ocean Societal Indicators
- Environmental Justice
- Infrastructure and services
- Partnerships

**PWG Members:** Julio Morell, Jen Read, Jason Biggs, Bob Winokur, Jyotika Virmani, and Laura Lorenzoni (ex officio)

### New Blue Economy

*Ideas, themes, and subtopics identified by the Committee:*

- Economic Development
- How are RA assets used?
- Supporting industry based observing assets that would be used, likely via “data buys” or data purchase agreements, to complement the existing IOOS network in support of the Administrations 30 x 30, Seabed 2030, Marine Life 2030, and NOMECE
- Implementation efforts

- Opportunities to engage the broader ocean science community, in partnership with the IOOS Regional Associations, to expand and possibly augment the current IOOS observing system footprint
- Explore the politics and implementation around data buys

**PWG Members:** Dick West, Ruth Perry, Catherine Edwards, Scott Rayder, Eoin Howlett, Carrie Schmaus (ex officio)

## Phase 2 Priorities

### Marine Life Program

*Ideas, themes, and subtopics identified by the Committee:*

- Marine life / ecosystems
- Biological observing and forecasting
- How to administer a holistic marine life program?
- Connect RA to IOOS Office “marine life”
- HABs (overlaps with “Climate Change Adaptation” phase 1 priority)
- How is climate changing marine life? (overlaps with “Climate Change Adaptation” phase 1 priority)
- Ocean acidification (overlaps with “Climate Change Adaptation” phase 1 priority)

**PWG Members:** Oscar Schofield, Julio Morell, Molly McCammon, Jason Biggs, Jyotika Virmani, Dan Costa

### Enterprise Excellence

*Ideas, themes, and subtopics identified by the Committee:*

- National / Regional IOOS Partnerships
  - The “sweet spot” for national oversight of the System by NOAA’s IOOS Office
  - The Regional Associations meeting national-level mission requirements of NOAA and other IOOC agencies
- Federated vs. Integrated System
- Defining the coastal component of the Unified Forecast System (UFS) for NOS/NOAA
- Consolidated Unfunded Requirements List (CURL)
- Coordination with various partners - in and out of NOAA
- Resilience and partnerships with NERRS, SG, others (overlaps with “Climate Change Adaptation” phase 1 priority)

**PWG Members:** Jen Read, Molly McCammon, Catherine Edwards

### Design of FY24 IOOS External Review

*The scope of this priority will be refined in consultation with the IOOS Office in the near future.*

**PWG Members:** Bob Winokur, Dick West