

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

**CHARTER**

- 1. Advisory Committee's Official Designation.** United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee (Committee).
- 2. Authority.** The 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 (Public Law 116-271, title I) (33 U.S.C. § 3603(d)). The Committee shall function solely as an advisory body, and its charter is being renewed in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (FACA), 5 U.S.C. § 1001 *et seq.*
- 3. Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Committee shall advise the NOAA Administrator and the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee (IOOC)<sup>1</sup> on matters related to the purposes and responsibilities set forth in the Act, as amended, and on appropriate matters the Administrator or the Council<sup>2</sup> 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 33 U.S.C. § 3603(d)(2), 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 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

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

<sup>2</sup> The Council refers to the Ocean Policy Committee established by 10 U.S.C. § 8932, as amended by Public Law 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).

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 NOAA, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and II) developed, installed, and operated in coordination with the NOAA, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and
- j. Any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Council.

**5. Agency or Federal Officer to Whom the Committee Submits Its Recommendations.** 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.** For 2026–2031, the annual cost of operating the Committee is estimated to be \$160,000, which includes 1.0 FTE staff support and one in-person meeting per annum. Members of the Committee shall not be compensated for service on the Committee. Reimbursable costs for Committee members may include travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

- a. Federal personnel and other Federal internal costs: \$130,000
- b. Proposed payment to members and numbers of members: \$0; 15 members
- c. Reimbursable costs: \$30,000

**8. Designated Federal Officer.** In accordance with Department of Commerce and NOAA guidance, the Director, U.S. IOOS Office, or his/her designee, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Committee. The DFO must:

- a. Ensure the Committee’s activities will comply with the FACA, 41 C.F.R. Part 102-3, agency administrative procedures, and any other applicable laws and regulations;
- b. Approve or call all of the Committee’s or subcommittees’ meetings;
- c. Approve all meeting agendas;

- d. Attend all Committee and subcommittee meetings for their duration;
- e. Fulfill the requirements under section 10(b) of the FACA (codified at 5 U.S.C. § 1009(b));
- f. Adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest;
- g. Chair any meeting when directed to do so by the agency head;
- h. Maintain information on the Committee's activities and provide such information to the public, as applicable;
- i. Ensure Committee members and subcommittee members, as applicable, receive the appropriate training (*e.g.*, FACA overview, ethics training) for efficient operation and compliance with the FACA and 41 C.F.R. Part 102-3; and
- j. Each year, coordinate with the Ethics Law and Program Office within the Office of the General Counsel to ensure that all members of the Committee timely submit and obtain certification of their confidential financial disclosure reports (OGE Form 450) and complete required ethics training prior to the Committee's initial meeting.

**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 IOOC, or the Chairperson.

**10. Duration.** The duration of the Committee is continuing, subject to the Termination section below.

**11. Termination.** This charter shall terminate 5 years from the date of its filing with the standing committees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives having legislative jurisdiction of the agency unless earlier terminated or renewed by proper authority.

**12. Membership and Designation.**

- a. The Committee shall be composed of approximately 15 members appointed by the NOAA Administrator. Members will be selected on a clear, standardized basis, in accordance with applicable Department of Commerce guidance. Members serve at the discretion of the NOAA Administrator. Race or sex shall not be considered in the selection of the Committee's membership.
- 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 3 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 3-year terms if the remainder of the unexpired term is less than 1 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 are appointed as Special Government Employees (SGEs) as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 202. SGEs are subject to conflict of interest laws and regulations, including (but not limited to) the obligation to annually file a confidential financial disclosure report (OGE Form 450) and complete ethics training. Additionally, SGEs must comply with the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch (5 C.F.R. Part 2635). Members will be individually advised of the capacity in which they will serve through their appointment letters.
- h. At least once every 3 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, the Department of Commerce, or the U.S. Government.

**13. Subcommittees.** As may be necessary, NOAA may create 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.** The 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. Subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, records presented to or prepared for or by the Committee are available for public inspection.

**15. Filing Date.** The charter is filed on the date indicated below.

**JENNIFER  
HESCH**

Digitally signed by  
JENNIFER HESCH  
Date: 2026.06.15  
12:03:25 -04'00'

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration  
Performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of  
the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary  
for Administration

06/15/2026  
Date

06/16/2026  
Filing Date