

TERMS OF REFERENCE
of the
INTERAGENCY “TASK FORCE” ON ANTHROPOGENIC SOUND AND THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
a subgroup of the:
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (JSOST)

A) Goals

The goals of the Interagency Task Force on Anthropogenic Sound and the Marine Environment (hereafter the “Interagency Acoustics Task Force” (IATF)) are to:

- (1) *Identify* scientific and technical requirements in assessing the extent and significance of effects from manmade sound on the marine environment;
- (2) *Strengthen* coordination among federal agencies to address scientific and technological aspects of this issue relating to various needs of the U.S. government;
- (3) *Develop* an inter-agency science and technology course of action for the purpose of minimizing adverse effects of human sound-producing activities.

B) Scope

The scope of work the IATF will be to:

- (1) *Compare* and integrate existing individual agency plans for addressing this issue;
- (2) *Identify* remaining knowledge and capability gaps that limit the ability of the federal government to make informed decisions and take effective action on this issue;
- (3) *Develop* strategic directions for federally-funded research on this issue, with cognizance of ongoing and needed research domestically and internationally.
- (4) *Recommend* coordinated agency actions, identify agency leads for those actions, identify potential interactions with other bodies, and estimate fiscal requirements.
- (5) *Integrate* IATF recommendations with other relevant ongoing national ocean policies and practices being developed by ICOSRMI, JSOST, and SIMOR.
- (6) *Transfer* information and recommendations contained in the task force report to all appropriate federal, state, and private entities, as directed and approved by JSOST as a whole.

C) Membership

Membership of the IATF is open to all members of JSOST, but will include at a minimum a primary and alternate representative from the:

- (1) Department of Commerce (*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*¹);
- (2) Department of Defense (*U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Joint Chiefs of Staff*);
- (3) Department of Interior (*Minerals Management Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, National Parks Service*);
- (4) *National Science Foundation*;
- (5) *U.S. Marine Mammal Commission*;
- (6) Department of Homeland Security (*U.S. Coast Guard*);
- (7) Department of *State*;
- (8) Department of *Energy*;
- (9) Department of *Transportation*;
- (10) Department of *Justice*;
- (11) *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*;
- (12) *Smithsonian Institution*;
- (13) Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (*SIMOR*);
- (14) Office of *Management and Budget*;
- (15) Office of *Science and Technology Policy*, Executive Office of the President

¹ The NOAA primary delegate will serve the function of the IATF Executive Secretary.

D) Requirements and Products

- (1) By *15 September, 2007*, the Interagency Acoustics Task Force will provide to JSOST, as a whole, an initial draft review with recommendations bearing on each of the three (3) stated goals.
- (2) By *1 April, 2008*, based on interactions and feedback from the member agencies, JSOST as a whole, and ICOSRMI, as appropriate, the Interagency Task Force will submit its final report and recommended action plan, with approximate cost estimates, to JSOST as a whole. The final report, which will be reviewed and cleared by JSOST as a whole, will include recommendations for tracking implementation and progress on the suggested course of action. The report will also identify education and outreach opportunities with the public and non-governmental organizations related to the proposed plan.

E) Termination

The Interagency Task Force will terminate on *27 October, 2008* unless renewed/extended by JSOST as a whole.