

**CHARTER**  
**of the**  
**INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS,**  
**HYPOXIA, AND HUMAN HEALTH**  
**JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL**

**A. Official Designation**

The Interagency Working Group on Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia, and Human Health (IWG-4H) is hereby established by the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR).

**B. Purpose**

The purpose of the Interagency Working Group on Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia, and Human Health (IWG-4H) is to advise and assist the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) with regard to interagency requirements of Public Laws 108-456 (the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004) and 108-447 (the Oceans and Human Health Act of 2004).

1. The IWG-4H will review these statutes and related documents and materials such as the HARRNESS report (Harmful Algal Bloom Research and Response: A National Environmental Science Strategy, 2005-2015), the final report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, the Administration's U.S. Ocean Action Plan, reports of the National Research Council and the Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel (ORRAP), and will prepare recommendations and reports for consideration by the JSOST.
2. The IWG-4H will coordinate and collaborate with other working groups of the JSOST, CENR, CS, ORRAP, and the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR) as necessary to complete these tasks and fulfill the requirements of the JSOST.
3. As specified by the JSOST, the IWG-4H will assume the role of the Interagency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia established in the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 1451, Section 603(a)).

## **C. Scope and Responsibilities**

The IWG-4H will focus on two general areas:

1. Requirements of the Oceans and Human Health Act of 2004 (PL 108-447) for:
  - 1.1. Coordination and support for a national research program to improve understanding of the role of the oceans in human health (OHH);
  - 1.2. Development for submission to Congress of a 10-year plan for coordinated Federal OHH activities, such plan to be developed in consultation with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia and build on and complement the ongoing activities of involved departments and agencies.
  - 1.3. Preparation of program annual reports to the President and the Congress.
2. Requirements of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2004 (PL 108-456) for:
  - 2.1. Prediction and Response Report: preparation, in consultation with stakeholders, and submission to the Congress of a report that: reviews techniques for prediction of the onset, course, and impacts of harmful algal blooms; identifies innovative research and development methods for the prevention, control, and mitigation of harmful algal blooms and includes incentive-based partnership approaches where practicable.
  - 2.2. Local and Regional Scientific Assessments: coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and appropriate State, Indian tribe and local governments in providing for preparation of local and regional scientific assessments of hypoxia and harmful algal blooms.
  - 2.3. Scientific Assessment of Freshwater Harmful Algal Blooms: preparation of scientific assessment of harmful algal blooms in freshwaters, such as the Great Lakes and upper reaches of estuaries, including a research plan for coordinating Federal efforts.
  - 2.4. Scientific Assessment of Hypoxia: preparation of a scientific assessment of hypoxia in US coastal waters including the Great Lakes.
  - 2.5. Scientific Assessment of Harmful Algal Blooms: preparation of a scientific assessment of harmful algal blooms in US coastal waters; and
  - 2.6. National Scientific Research, Development, Demonstration, and Technology Transfer Plan on Reducing Impacts from HABs: preparation of a plan for a comprehensive and coordinated national research program to develop and demonstrate prevention, control, and mitigation methods to reduce the impacts of

HABs on coastal ecosystems, including the Great Lakes, public health, and the economy.

#### **D. Membership**

Membership of the Interagency Working Group on Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia and Human Health (IWG-4H) will be established in accordance with NSTC policy. As mandated in Sec. 603(a)(1) of 16USC1451, the Department of Commerce (DOC) shall serve as the Chair of the Interagency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia, which is a group subsumed by the IWG-4H; thus, the DOC/NOAA is a chair of the IWG-4H; additional Co-Chairs may be chosen by the IWG-4H. In addition, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) Interagency Working Group, the Co-Chairs of SIMOR, and the Chair and Vice-Chairs of ORRAP, or their representatives, will be invited to be non-voting ex officio members of the JSOST IWG-4H to encourage strong coordination. Other Federal organizations will be invited to participate as appropriate. Contractors under non-disclosure agreements may be utilized as needed.

#### **E. Requirements and Products**

In the context of the charge to the JSOST and the Congressional mandates relating to Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia and Human Health (PLs 108-447 and 108-456), the IWG-4H shall:

1. Prepare (or see to the preparation of) reports, assessments and plans regarding harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, and oceans and human health as required under PLs 108-447 and 108-456 and otherwise referenced above, and present draft reports, findings, conclusions and recommendations to the JSOST for its consideration and action;
2. Ensure interagency communication, coordination and cooperation;
3. Represent the JSOST with regard to harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, and human health on as needed/required basis upon request of the JSOST Co-Chairs; and
4. Coordinate as needed with the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR) and the Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel (ORRAP).

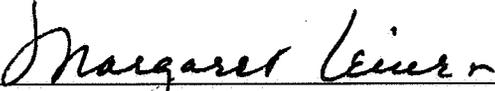
#### **E. Termination**

Unless renewed by the Co-Chairs of the JSOST, the IWG-4H will terminate on March 1, 2009.

**G. Determination**

We hereby determine that the formation of the Interagency Working Group on Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia, and Human Health is in the public interest in connection with the performance and duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:

  
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Margaret Leinen, NSF (Co-Chair, JSOST)

12/19/06  
Date

  
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Richard Spinrad, NOAA (Co-Chair, JSOST)

12/19/06  
Date

  
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Dan Walker, OSTP (Co-Chair, JSOST)

12-18-06  
Date