

**CHARTER**  
**of the**  
**INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON FACILITIES**  
**JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**  
**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE**  
**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL**

**A. Official Designation**

The Interagency Working Group on Facilities (IWG-F) 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) and Committee on Science (CS).

**B. Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of the IWG-F is to advise, assist, and make recommendations to the JSOST on policies, procedures, and plans relating to oceanographic facility uses, upgrades, and investments, which is a continuation and expansion of the efforts begun by the Federal Oceanographic Facilities Committee (FOFC). It will also provide guidance to the JSOST on matters relating to national oceanographic asset requirements. The IWG-F will:

- Coordinate with the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR) to ensure an effective interface between managers responsible for oceanographic facilities and resource managers at the federal, state, and local levels with a particular emphasis on cooperative interactions with the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS).
- Collaborate with other working groups of the JSOST, SIMOR, CENR, and CS to ensure oceanographic facilities management efforts are based on the best input from the widest possible set of stakeholders.
- Coordinate its plans and reports with the Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel (ORRAP) to obtain independent review of its efforts.

The scope of the IWG-F includes, but is not limited to, major federal assets such as oceanographic ships, submersibles, Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), and maritime research aircraft including Unmanned Airborne Vehicles (UAVs). The IWG-F will also provide guidance, input, and direction as necessary for other systems used in ocean observations such as moorings, drifting buoys, and observatories, emphasizing their impact on the utilization and mix of federal facilities.

### **C. Functions**

- Review the operations, management methods, and capabilities of federal oceanographic facilities and, when appropriate, recommend common standards and approaches to assist federal oceanographic facility managers;
- Improve planning, coordination, and communication among federal oceanographic facility managers;
- Address interagency programmatic and operation questions of facilities managers;
- Provide a forum for the exchange of information on long-range plans regarding the construction, deactivation or chartering of oceanographic vessels;
- Monitor international oceanographic facility activities for potential application to the federal facility mix; and
- Charter appropriate federal, multi-agency Task Forces devoted to specific infrastructure requirements.

### **D. Membership**

All JSOST member agencies, including ex-officio members, may be represented on the IWG-F. Two Co-Chairs shall be identified by the IWG-F and approved by the JSOST Co-Chairs. In the event that the IWG-F does not identify two Co-Chairs, the JSOST Co-Chairs will appoint them. Co-Chairs of the IWG-F will be selected on a rotating basis for a 1-year term, renewable. The UNOLS, Ocean.US, NSTC subcommittees, and other Federal organizations will be invited to participate as appropriate. Contractors under non-disclosure agreements may be utilized as needed. Decisions made by the Co-Chairs of the IWG-F will be vetted by the full IWG-F, by electronic means if necessary for timeliness.

### **E. Private Sector Interface**

The IWG-F may solicit and receive ad-hoc advice from non-Federal agencies, including but not limited to the UNOLS and the ORRAP, in a manner consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

### **F. Termination Date**

Unless renewed by the Co-Chairs of the JSOST prior to its expiration, the IWG-F shall terminate no later than March 31, 2009.

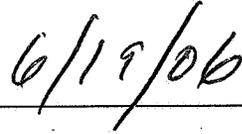
### **G. Determination**

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

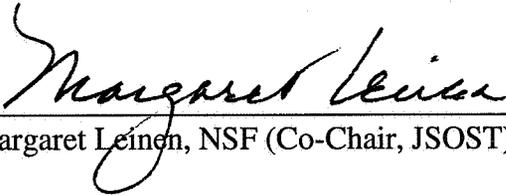
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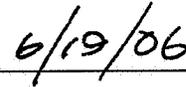
Dan Walker, OSTP (Co-Chair, JSOST)



Date



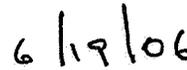
Margaret Leinen, NSF (Co-Chair, JSOST)



Date



Richard Spinrad, NOAA (Co-Chair, JSOST)



Date