



CHARTER
of the
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN EDUCATION

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 Ocean Education (IWG-OE) is hereby established under the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (CENR).

The IWG-OE will report to the co-chairs of JSOST and to the co-chairs of Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR).

B. Purpose and Scope

Lifelong education is an essential component of building a strong economy, promoting healthy ecosystems and preparing a competitive workforce. The purpose of the IWG-OE is to advise and assist the JSOST and SIMOR on issues related to formal and informal ocean education. The IWG-OE will leverage Federal marine education investments to improve understanding of the marine environment, promote stewardship of marine resources and cultivate student interest in marine careers.

In doing so, the IWG-OE will work to maximize the impact of Federal marine science and conservation education programs at the national and regional level, including:

- Formal and informal education programs for future workforce development in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)
- Science education grant programs
- Partnerships with museums and aquariums
- Place-based education programs associated with national parks, marine sanctuaries and estuarine reserves
- Professional development programs for educators

C. Functions

The IWG-OE is charged to maintain and execute an implementation plan to:

1. Increase interagency coordination of education and outreach;
2. Develop a coordinated ocean education and outreach message;
3. Ensure data from ocean and Earth observing systems are translated to useable forms for teachers, students and the public; and
4. Ensure a well prepared ocean workforce.

The IWG-OE will draw upon existing strategies, such as the Education Strategic Plan for the Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSEE) and the NOAA Education Plan. IWG-OE will also work with similar organizations in related disciplines, such as the NSTC Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee, to promote earth system science education.

D. Membership

All JSOST and SIMOR member agencies, including ex officio member agencies and the Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel, as well as such other Executive organizations, departments and agencies as the co-chairs may, from time to time, designate may participate in the IWG-OE. The IWG-OE will have two co-chairs selected by the IWG-OE. Co-chairs will involve the full IWG-OE membership in making decisions and setting priorities.

E. Private Sector Interface

The IWG-OE may receive ad hoc advice from various private sector groups, consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. In particular, IWG-OE will work collaboratively with and seek input from the Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel (ORRAP), including with the ORRAP Education and Industry subpanels. IWG-OE will recommend to the JSOST the nature of additional outside advice needed to accomplish its mission.

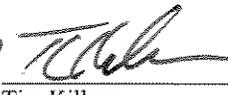
F. Termination Date

The IWG-OE will terminate on March 31, 2009 unless renewed by the JSOST Co-Chairs.

G. Determination

We hereby determine that the formation of the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Education 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.

Approved:

	Date <u>8/19/08</u>		Date <u>8/19/08</u>		Date <u>19 AUG 08</u>
Dan Walker		Tim Killeen		Richard W. Spinrad	
OSTP		NSF		NOAA	
Co-chair, JSOST		Co-chair, JSOST		Co-chair, JSOST	