

**CHARTER**  
**of the**  
**INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS**  
**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 Ocean Partnerships (IWG-OP) 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-OP is to advise and assist the JSOST on matters related to ocean partnership programs, a continuation and expansion of the partnership efforts begun under the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP).

***Definition:** NOPP defines (in its calls for extramural<sup>1</sup> proposals) partnerships as team efforts among at least two of the following three sectors:*

- 1. academia,*
- 2. industry (including Non-Governmental Organizations - NGOs), and*
- 3. government (including Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and regional authorities).*

*For the broader purposes of the IWG-OP, partnerships include the above and also include purely interagency and intergovernmental collaborations involving shared resources to accomplish objectives of mutual interest.*

***Topical Scope:** Partnerships facilitated through the IWG-OP will address the full range of ocean science, technology, and resource management priorities. For this purpose, oceans are considered to include coastal regions and the Great Lakes. Partnerships will be encouraged that expand our knowledge, our capabilities to observe and predict, and the scientific basis for management. Topics of interest will include, but will not be limited to:*

- oceans and their interactions with other components of the Earth (e.g., atmosphere, land, and living resources) and with human influences;*
- use, stewardship, and sustainability of living and non-living resources; and*
- science, technology, and societal issues that are not clearly the domain of a single agency, program, or discipline (e.g. education).*

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<sup>1</sup> "Extramural" here means money from within the Federal government going to entities outside the Federal government.

In its work the IWG-OP will operate so as to:

- interact with the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR) to ensure that partnerships within the activities of the Ocean Action Plan (OAP) include efforts related to integrated resource management as well as to science and technology;
- collaborate with other working groups of the JSOST, CENR, and CS to ensure ocean partnership efforts are inclusive and managed for the best use of fiscal and human resources, and are using best practices allowable within interagency funding regulations;
- jointly sponsor extramural activities in support of JSOST goals, as begun by NOPP; and
- coordinate its plans and reports with the Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel (ORRAP) to obtain independent scrutiny of its efforts.

### **C. Functions**

The IWG-OP will:

1. Assume those responsibilities previously administered by the NOPP IWG including development of extramural funding announcements, selection and funding of projects, and recognition of excellence in partnering.
2. Work with the ocean agencies and with OMB to increase flexibility in interagency and intergovernmental cost-sharing of ocean partnership projects.
3. Develop and periodically update a strategic plan for out-year ocean partnership activities and directions, so that agencies can plan ahead to be participants.
4. Report regularly on its plans and activities to the JSOST and SIMOR and as requested to the Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration (ICOSRMI) and to ORRAP. An annual report on ocean partnerships will be publicly disseminated.

### **D. Membership and Governance**

All JSOST member agencies, including ex-officio members, may be represented on the IWG-OP. Other governmental bodies will be invited to participate ex-officio as appropriate. Contractors under non-disclosure agreements may attend as needed.

- The IWG-OP will have two Co-Chairs selected by the IWG-OP.
- The Co-Chairs will rotate among the members of the IWG-OP with one-year terms, renewable.
- Decisions made by the Co-Chairs of the IWG-OP will be vetted by the full IWG-OP, by electronic means if necessary for timeliness.

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

The IWG-OP may solicit and receive ad hoc advice from non-Federal entities, as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The ORRAP should be utilized for input and information exchange. The NOPP Program Office will provide administrative support to the IWG-OP.

**F. Termination Date**

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

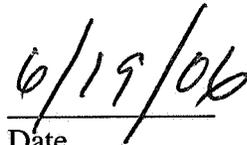
**G. Determination**

We hereby determine that the formation of the Interagency Working Group on Partnership Programs 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.

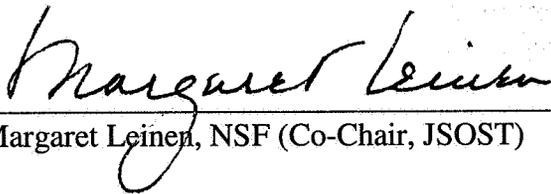
Approved:



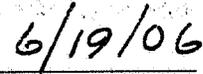
Dan Walker, OSTP (Co-Chair, JSOST)



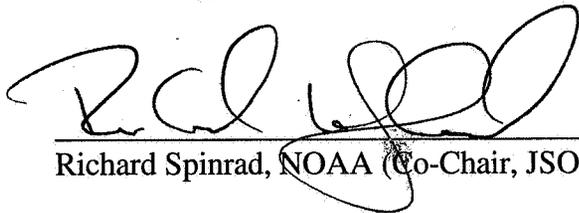
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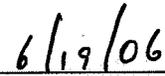
Margaret Leinen, NSF (Co-Chair, JSOST)



Date



Richard Spinrad, NOAA (Co-Chair, JSOST)



Date