



Meeting Report – 23 June 2016

INTRODUCTION

Meetings of both the National Marine Science Committee (NMSC) and its Executive Committee were held in Canberra on Wednesday 23 June, at the Bureau of Meteorology.

While all NMSC members have access to agendas, papers and minutes, this Meeting Report has been prepared for much wider distribution within the national marine science community. Its purpose is to ensure that the broader community is informed about the NMSC's action agenda, and has the opportunity to provide comment and input.

ISSUES DISCUSSED AND ACTIONS AGREED

The major topic of discussion at the meeting was implementation of the Plan.

Action agendas are being developed for the [eight high level recommendations](#) in the Plan, noting that not all recommendations will move forward at the same time and with the same intensity. Key points to note are as follows:

1. A working group has been established to develop a position paper on the national research vessel fleet as a contribution to the 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap. The members are:

- Gavin Begg (SARDI), Chair
- Gwen Fenton (AAD)
- Toni Moate (CSIRO)
- Lyndon Llewellyn and John Chappell (AIMS)
- Neville Exon (IODP/ANU)
- Tim Moltmann (IMOS)
- Kelly Wade (NMSC Secretariat)

The paper covers full utilisation of *RV Investigator* for marine science, the marine science requirements for AAD's replacement for *Aurora Australis*, planned replacement of shelf/coastal research vessels, and other relevant issues. It will be made available on the NMSC website once finalised.

2. The priority to sustain and expand the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) is being led by the IMOS Office and the Advisory Board (which includes a number of NMSC

member representatives). A First Draft IMOS Five Year Plan for comment was released on 24 June and can be found [here](#).

3. John Gunn (AIMS) is leading the task on establishing and supporting a National Marine Baselines and Long-term Monitoring Program. Jason Mundy (Parks Australia) attended the meeting, and NMSC will receive a presentation on the Commonwealth Marine Reserve network at its next meeting.
4. Tim Moltmann (IMOS) is leading the task on creating a national ocean modelling system to supply defence, industry and government with accurate, detailed knowledge and predictions of ocean state. A team is forming comprised of:
 - Tim Moltmann (NMSC/IMOS/FOO, Chair)
 - John Gunn (AIMS)
 - Jan Flynn (Shell)
 - Andreas Schiller (CSIRO)
 - Louise Minty (BOM)
 - Roger Proctor (IMOS/AODN)
 - Peter Oke (CSIRO)
 - Moninya Roughan (UNSW/SIMS)
 - Emlyn Jones (CSIRO)

As a first step, an abstract has been submitted for a talk at the Australian Coasts and Oceans Modelling and Observing ([ACOMO](#)) workshop on 11-12 October at the Australian Academy of Science in Canberra.

5. Peter Steinberg (SIMS) is leading the task on facilitating coordination of national studies on marine ecosystem processes and resilience. An invitation to marine scientists at a variety of locations/nodes across Australia was made, and a significant response received. A first phone conference was held on Thursday June 16 for initial discussion about structure, goals, leadership, etc. Some institutional and geographic gaps still need to be addressed.
6. Updates on other priorities will be provided at the next meeting.

Other priorities:

- A brief update was provided on the [National Marine Technology Roadmap](#), being led by Dr Lyndon Llewellyn (AIMS).
- NMSC accepted a recommendation to provide oversight of the [Australian Ocean Data Network](#) (AODN), and to adopt the AODN Technical Advisory Group as its data sub-committee. NMSC will review the AODN Annual Plan, and will receive regular reports on the status of national marine data holdings accessible via AODN. It will assist in prioritisation and in helping to remove institutional barriers should they arise.

David Kershaw, the recently appointed head of Maritime at the Defence Science and Technology Group (DSTG) gave a well-received presentation on the Defence White Paper, aided by Commodore Brett Brace from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). DSTG is very keen to engage the broader national marine science community, and some possible priority areas were discussed.

The National Infrastructure Roadmap was discussed, in the context of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (relevant for IMOS) and broader national marine research infrastructure requirements (e.g. research vessels). The next step in this process will be a Discussion paper released for comment in mid-July.

Terms of reference and membership of the NMSC and its Executive Committee were discussed, and revised documentation will be brought to the next meeting for approval and then published on the NMSC website.

In closing, it is pleasing to advise that a paper entitled “The National Marine Science Plan informing Australia’s Future Ocean policy” has now been published in the Australian Journal of Maritime and Ocean Affairs. A news items has been placed on the NSMC website [here](#).

NEXT MEETING

The next NMSC meeting will be held in Canberra on 1 September.

NMSC Chair, on behalf of the Committee

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