



Meeting Report – 19 October 2017

INTRODUCTION

The final face-to-face meeting of the National Marine Science Committee (NMSC) for 2017 was held in Canberra on Thursday 19 October. The purpose of this report is to ensure the national marine science community keeps informed about the NSMC's action agenda, and has an opportunity to provide comment and input.

MEMBER REPORTS

Written reports submitted by members provide a very useful mechanism for cross-sector communication at the National Marine Science Committee. Some key points of interest are as follows:

- AAD is looking forward to collaborating with interested parties to develop strategies and resources to maximise capabilities of the RSV *Nuyina*, the new Australian icebreaker. Priority areas include coring systems, multi-beam systems, weather radar, and pCO₂ measurement systems. Contact: Gwen Fenton gwen.fenton@aad.gov.au
- DSTG (Chris Gillard) provided an update on Marine Environmental Variables of interest to Defence. NMSC agreed to work on developing capability statements for these variables. The idea is to better inform Defence about capabilities across the marine science community, and better inform the marine science community about Defence needs and priorities in the area of marine environmental information.

IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL MARINE SCIENCE PLAN

Implementing the National Marine Science Plan continues to be a major focus for the Committee.

Infrastructure

Following release of the [2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap](#), NMSC worked effectively to ensure input to the Research Infrastructure Investment Plan was coordinated in line with our decadal plan. This included:

- Sustaining and expanding IMOS, and establishing a National Coastline Observing Facility.
- Fully utilising research vessels - bluewater, polar and coastal.
- Ensuring the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) is considered under a deep drilling priority.
- Ensuring ocean remote sensing is considered under an Earth Observation priority.

- Ensuring the marine environment is considered under an Environmental Prediction System priority.

It is anticipated that the Research Infrastructure Investment Plan will be completed by end of 2017, feeding in to the May 2018 Federal Budget.

Skills

The terms of reference for the ‘Marine science research training’ working group were approved. Regarding next steps, the *“First step is to map what is currently available in terms of marine research training and engage with stakeholders to better understand what is needed. We will also collate relevant reports such as the ACOLA review, UNESCO Global Ocean Science Report and AIMS Index. Then we will analyse these materials to determine any mismatch and how this can be addressed, before preparing recommendations about implementation of best practice.”* This working group is led by Erika Techera (UWA), and currently includes Will Figueira (AMSA), Iain Gordon (JCU), April Abbott (Macquarie/CAPSTAN), and Helene Marsh (JCU).

Relationships (coordination, integration)

There are three NMSC priorities under this general heading, all of which are progressing.

- A workshop for the National Baselines and Long-term Monitoring program is being planned – led by David Souter (AIMS), to be hosted by GA in Canberra.
- With respect to ‘Coordinated studies of processes and resilience’, a two-tiered approach is being undertaken; (1) development of a general framework; and (2) a more detailed approach in a few specific systems through “showcase” projects - led by Peter Steinberg (UNSW/SIMS), winner of the 2017 AMSA Jubilee Award.
- Activity around the National Ocean Modelling Infrastructure priority is currently focused on building the technical capability and end-user support required to deliver an Australian National Shelf Reanalysis product (see AODN item) – led by Peter May (BOM) and Tim Moltmann (IMOS).

Blue Economy

NMSC has identified a number of challenges in addressing the priority to ‘create an explicit focus on the blue economy throughout the marine science system’. At this meeting we considered a desktop analysis (prepared by Indi Hodgson-Johnston, IMOS Office) which identified all of the academic fields relevant to the NMSC blue economy agenda, assessed current national capacity in these fields, and highlighted gaps and opportunities. This analysis will inform NMSC in broadening its engagement across the environmental, social, and economic sciences relevant to Australia’s blue economy.

AUSTRALIAN OCEAN DATA NETWORK (AODN)

The [AODN metadata catalogue](#) now contains 11,797 records, with 11% coming from IMOS and 89% from partners. The [AODN Portal](#) now offers 185 data collections for discovery, subset and download, with 58% representing IMOS data and 42% representing AODN contributor data.

AODN is leading the development of two project proposals which we hope will lead to investment of ~\$1.1M of new funding in 2017-18; (1) a Marine Research Data Cloud project focused on improving the flow of biological data to the AODN portal; and (2) a Data-enhanced Virtual Laboratory project focused on filling key gaps in the infrastructure required to deliver an Australian National Shelf Reanalysis product. Contact: Roger Proctor Roger.Proctor@utas.edu.au

NEXT MEETING

Meeting dates for 2018 are as follows:

- Thurs 1 Feb 10.30-15.00, Canberra
- Thurs 19 April 10.30-15.00, Canberra
- Thurs 9 August 09.00-17.00, Canberra
- Thurs 18 Oct 10.30-15.00, Canberra

An NMSC Executive Meeting will be held by teleconference before the end of 2017.

(N.B. The Executive Committee is made up of the NMSC 'Sponsors' i.e. the subset of members who are willing and able to provide a set annual cash contribution to support the Secretariat, and pay for meeting venue hire and catering, website development and maintenance, and agreed special initiatives.)

NMSC Chair, on behalf of the Committee

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