



Meeting Report – 1 December 2016

INTRODUCTION

The latest meeting of the National Marine Science Committee (NMSC) was held via a two-hour teleconference on Thursday 1 December.

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.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

NMSC welcomed the NSW Department of Primary Industries. Natalie Moltschaniwskyj will be the member representative.

The Macquarie University Marine Research Centre has also expressed interest in joining NMSC, but were unable to attend the meeting. This will be followed up in the new year.

Interest in joining NMSC has been expressed by the [Marine National Facility](#) (MNF), and this was warmly endorsed by the Committee. Noting that *RV Investigator* is owned and operated by CSIRO, the MNF is available for use by the entire national marine science community and warrants 'a seat at the table'. Toni Moate will be the member representative.

On the downside, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has withdrawn membership as part of a move to focus on its core objectives and challenges. We have thanked AMSA for their contribution and hope that they may see value in re-joining NMSC in the future.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

A review of NMSC's terms of reference has been undertaken. The newly approved terms of reference can be found [here](#).

NATIONAL MARINE SCIENCE PLAN PRIORITIES

Brief updates were provided on National Marine Science Plan priorities. The 'biggest ball' currently in play is the 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap. It was expected

that the Draft Roadmap would be available before this meeting was held, but it was not released until the following week (on 5 December).

The Draft Roadmap can be found [here](#). It is open for comment until Monday 16 January, with comments to be provided via an online submission form with a 1,000-word limit. NMSC will formulate a submission by the due date, as will IMOS and many of our institutional partners.

Noting that NMSC's response is still being formulated, the 'punchline' is positive for marine science. Our key messages appear to have been heard. More to follow.

There was good discussion on:

- Establishing and supporting a National Marine Baselines and Long-term Monitoring Program, led by John Gunn - Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS)
- Developing a dedicated and coordinated science program to support decision-making by policymakers and marine industry, led by Rick Fletcher - Australian Fisheries Management Forum/WA Fisheries, and
- Creating a national ocean modelling system to supply defence, industry and government with accurate, detailed knowledge and predictions of ocean state, led by Tim Moltmann - Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) and Forum for Operational Oceanography (FOO).

Good progress on these (and other) priorities can be expected in 2017.

NMSC also discussed the need to have an underpinning strategy focused explicitly on development of the blue economy, and potential opportunities to progress this were identified.

OTHER MATTERS

The approach of having regular presentations and discussions on topical issues was continued, with a focus on marine biotechnology. Prof Wei Zhang (Flinders University), President of the Australia New Zealand Marine Biotechnology Society, provided an introduction to ANZMBS and led discussion with NMSC. It was agreed that our organisations will work together on marine science to drive development of Australia's blue economy (see above).

NEXT MEETING

This was the final meeting for 2016. The next face to face meeting of the NMSC meeting will be held in Canberra on Thursday 23 March 2017.

NMSC Chair, on behalf of the Committee

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