



Meeting report – 31 October 2019

INTRODUCTION

The National Marine Science Committee (NMSC) met in Canberra on 31st October 2019 at CSIRO Black Mountain.

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 actions and agenda, and has the opportunity to provide comment and input.

The full minutes of this meeting can be accessed by contacting the NMSC Secretariat at Shane.Fava@csiro.au.

ISSUES DISCUSSED AND ACTIONS AGREED

The NMSC welcomed the newly appointed NMSC Deputy Chair, Kim Piccard (Geoscience Australia) as well as new member Michelle Heupel (IMOS). The NMSC also bid farewell and thanks to Peter May (Bureau of Meteorology) on his last meeting with the Committee after an extensive period of service.

The main agenda item discussed was a review process of the National Marine Science Plan (2015-2025). Details for this item are provided under 'Regular Communication'.

Other key items followed, including:

- **Implementation of the 'Research Training' report:** A report has been drafted in response to the National Marine Science Plan's recommendation to "develop marine science research training that is more quantitative, cross-disciplinary and congruent with the needs of industry and government." It was agreed that the NMSC would support a number of communication products to publish the report and provide advice to decision-makers in the tertiary education sector.
- **Collaboration and accessible data within the marine science community:** The committee heard from Roger Beeden (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority) on current research and reporting initiatives (Outlook 2019, RIMReP, Reef Health, Water Quality and COTS) which led to a discussion around the need for a more collaborative approach when it comes to synthesising data. This challenge is something that the NMSC is keen to tackle, and it was acknowledged that it exists across many sectors – not just the marine science community.
- **RV Investigator review by Bruce Mapstone:** Toni Moate (Marine National Facility) updated the Committee on the outcomes of a recent review into *Investigator's* 300-day operating environment, which was undertaken by Bruce Mapstone. Several key recommendations of the report include a more strategic approach to the prioritisation of ship time, and more flexibility regarding applications.

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ON TOPICAL ISSUES

The committee heard from James Johnson, CEO Geoscience Australia on the recently released *Geoscience Australia 2028* document, and how its impact areas relate back to the National Marine Science Plan. James also provided a comprehensive presentation on Geoscience Australia's marine portfolio, particularly seabed mapping and marine boundary identification.

The committee also heard from Sebastien Mancini, Director, Australian Ocean Data Network (AODN) on the principles and structure of the AODN. Sebastian provided a number of examples of the direct application of the AODN's work in areas such as animal tracking and reef monitoring.

REGULAR COMMUNICATION

The NMSC decided to kickstart the development of a 'report card' which will reflect on the NMSC's progress under the National Marine Science Plan to date, as well as future challenges and how it will play a role in tackling them.

It was agreed that the NMSC should first commence outreach and engagement to all relevant ministers, departmental secretaries and senior government officials detailing the role of the NMSC, its function within the Australian marine science community and on the international stage (building towards Our Oceans June 2020) prior to the report card launch.

The NMSC will also form a working group to consider options to better engage with state governments, with targeted information regarding the benefits the NMSC delivers to them.

Quarterly email updates are provided to the community, timed to include NMSC Meeting Reports. The Website is updated with relevant information about topical and priority issues, including the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. All members are encouraged to provide relevant material to include in NMSC communications.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in Canberra on 6th February 2020.

NMSC Chair, on behalf of the Committee

Tony Worby

Director, CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere

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