

Ocean Policy Committee
Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee
Workplan to Identify Priority Research and Technology Needs
February 2019

OST Charge

Pursuant to Executive Order 13840 (EO 13840), accompanying guidance, and the direction of the Ocean Policy Committee, the Ocean Science and Technology subcommittee (OST), will address ocean research and technology issues. This will include identifying priority ocean research and technology (R&T) needs, participating as appropriate in the work of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP), and supporting research and technology collaboration among the agencies and departments represented on the OPC. The existing National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology will perform the functions of the OST. As its first action, the OST will develop and implement a plan to identify and address priority ocean research and technology needs.

Action: Priority Research and Technology Needs

The Ocean Policy Committee is composed of the agencies across the Federal government with the greatest equities and interest in ocean-related matters, including ocean-related research and technology. EO 13840 highlights the importance of ocean science and technology, and in Section 5(d) directs the OPC to “identify priority ocean research and technology needs, to facilitate: (i) the use of science in the establishment of policy; and (ii) the collection, development, dissemination, and exchange of information between and among agencies on ocean-related matters.”

Numerous materials address priority ocean-related research and technology needs relevant to or developed by government, industry, and academia. Examples include the National Science and Technology Council’s report “Science and Technology for America’s Oceans: A Decadal Plan,” the National Academy of Sciences “Sea Change: 2015-2025 Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences” (2015), and NOAA’s Task Force for Ocean Exploration and Research Technology and Infrastructure (TFORT).

OST action is not intended to replicate these efforts. Rather, it will identify research priorities that reflect interagency recommendations, present near-term opportunities, and support Administration policies. The OST will prioritize ocean-related research and technology needs across the OPC agencies guided by and consistent with existing policy and specific direction established by EO 13840.

OST Workplan

1. *Identify priority research and technology needs.* The OST should review existing documents that present ocean R&T priorities, engage with OPC agencies to identify priorities, and seek input from the ocean science and technology community as appropriate. Research priorities should reflect interagency recommendations, present near-term opportunities, and support Administration policies. (March 2019)
 2. *Identify and prioritize projects supporting agency R&T needs.* Develop and present to the OPC for review a draft list of prioritized projects that support agency R&T needs. Proposed projects should include recommendations the OPC and/or its agencies can take to implement these projects. These may include implementation mechanisms such as the NOPP, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s Environmental Studies Program, interagency collaboration such as the Office of Naval Research’s Stratified Ocean Dynamics of the Arctic program, or other actions. (May 2019)
 3. *Develop recommendations for implementation.* Present to the OPC for approval and implementation. (July 2019)
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