

Oceans 2025 Programme Advisory Board (PAB):
Proposed Terms of Reference
Revised July 08

Role

The Advisory Board for the NERC Oceans 2025 programme is a non-executive body whose primary roles are:

- to provide independent advice on programme development
- to advise on enhancing the accessibility and benefits of programme products to research users and other stakeholders.

The Board reports to the Oceans 2025 Executive Board, that has overall responsibility for programme coordination. The Directors of Oceans 2025 Centres have responsibility for detailed scientific planning, resource management and programme delivery in respect of their Centres.

Responsibilities

In fulfilling its role, the Advisory Board will:

1. Provide advice and strategic guidance on overall programme implementation, direction and coherence.
2. Provide particular focus on areas where the programmatic 'added value' may be realised or enhanced.
3. Represent the views of the user community to the Executive Board, alerting the Directors to opportunities to enhance the national and international impact of the programme, to opportunities for outreach and wider public engagement, to changes in the needs of the marine science user community or in the current status of marine science in the UK or internationally.

Membership

- i) There will be a maximum of 15 members of the Advisory Board
- ii) The Advisory Board will have an independent chair of such stature and experience in a field relevant to marine science, education, industry or public service so as to command wide respect.
- iii) The NERC Director of Science and Innovation (or his/her representative) will be an *ex officio* member of the Board. All other members will serve on an *ad hominem* basis, and will not act as representatives of any particular organisations or groups.
- iv) The further members of the Advisory Board will be drawn from the scientific and user communities. They will be appointed by the Oceans 2025 Executive Board on the basis of their individual expertise and experience, taking into account the balance of coverage of the stakeholder community and of scientific expertise relevant to the programme.
- v) The term of appointment is expected to be for the lifetime of the programme (scheduled to end in 2012, subject to confirmation by NERC Council). However, shorter periods of appointment may be individually negotiated.

Ways of Working

1. The Advisory Board will meet at least once per year, usually at an Oceans 2025 centre and alongside or following a 2 day programme-wide science meeting. When appropriate the board may chose to form working groups to enable it to fulfil its role, Board members may therefore be asked to participate in a working group.
2. The Chair and members of the Oceans 2025 Executive Board attend to receive advice, but are not a member of the Advisory Board. Other third parties may be invited to attend for specific items of business.
3. The secretariat for the Advisory Board will be provided by the National Marine Coordination Office, National Oceanography Centre, Southampton.
4. The Natural Environment Research Council's policies on vested interests will apply.
5. The Advisory Board will operate in an open and transparent manner. Agendas and minutes of meetings will be published. There will be a defined exceptions basis for business that is reserved as confidential.

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