

## Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry (OCB) Ocean Time-series Committee (OTC)

### OTC Charge

The Ocean Time-Series Advisory Committee (OTSAC) was formed in 2007 as a subcommittee of the OCB Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) to facilitate communication among U.S. time-series PIs, funding agencies, and the time-series user community. With this revision, the OTSAC has been renamed the Ocean Time-series Committee (OTC). While the OTC focus is on shipboard time-series stations, the committee seeks to improve existing and develop new ocean observing capabilities in support of OCB science, including autonomous instrument time-series. OTC continually works to align the evolving scientific needs of the OCB community with existing ocean observing capabilities and draw attention to critical observational gaps.

Specific roles of OTC include:

- Highlighting the importance of the shipboard time-series as unique observing assets to the oceanographic community, as well as communicating the evolving scientific needs of the OCB community to the time-series PIs and funding agencies
- Encouraging synergistic and collaborative technology and methods development, including testing and calibration of sensors and autonomous devices, and their possible integration into existing time-series observations
- Improving communication and collaboration among U.S. and international scientists engaged in ocean time-series science (e.g., [international time-series network](#), [2012 International Biogeochemical Time-Series Methods Workshop](#)), including intercalibration, synthesis, and other activities to improve and stimulate inter-comparability across time-series sites and maintain the highest standards of scientific quality
- Developing recommendations (emerging from dialog among users, producers, and funders of time-series) for modifications and/or additions to parameters and processes currently measured and/or incorporation of new technologies (e.g., gliders, drifting and moored equipment) into the time-series programs

- Assisting in exploring mechanisms to ensure long-term funding of the U.S. ocean time-series

OTC members are asked to participate in periodic teleconferences (on an as-needed basis), assist with OTC-related communications and documents, and participate in planning of activities related to the OTC charge. Members are strongly encouraged to attend relevant OCB meetings and take advantage of other opportunities to meet as a group in conjunction with other U.S. and international meetings. The OCB Project Office can provide limited support for these OTC gatherings.

### **OTC Terms of Reference**

OTC members serve a minimum term of 3 years (maximum of 2 terms), possibly longer, depending on the level of activity of the subcommittee over a given time period. The number of members is flexible, but total membership will be capped at 10 members. Scientists who have a financial affiliation (PI, co-PI) or conflict of interest with an NSF- and/or NASA-funded time-series may not serve as OTC members. However, the OTC does maintain an ongoing dialog with PIs of major US-funded time-series, as well as representatives from relevant programs and initiatives (e.g., International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission).

The scientific breadth of the subcommittee should reflect the evolving scientific and observing needs of the OCB community, and at least one international member shall be included at all times to maintain a strong connection to international observing initiatives and expansion of the [international ocean time-series network](#). In addition to maintaining the appropriate expertise on the committee, OTC must take into consideration issues of balance (scientific, geographic, institution, gender, career stage, etc.). The OTC election process begins when the OCB Project Office solicits nominations from the OCB community for new OTC members. Current OTC members discuss all nominees and voting takes place via electronic ballot. The OCB Project Office tallies all results and new members are chosen by simple majority. Existing OTC members who wish to serve a second term must attain majority approval by the rest of the OTC. The newly voted OTC members are submitted to the OCB SSC for final approval. If an OTC

member resigns before the completion of their term, the OCB Project Office and OTC will coordinate a nomination and election process, if necessary, as outlined above to fill the vacant position as soon as possible.

### **OTC Leadership**

OTC maintains one chair at all times who is ideally an OCB SSC member to ensure regular open communication between the OCB SSC and OTC. The chair serves a three-year term. The chair provides counsel and leadership in the development of OTC products and activities that promote program goals. The OTC chair election process includes an internal nomination and voting process among existing OTC members. The elected chair must then be approved by the OCB SSC. Specific duties of the chair include:

- Working with OCB Project Office staff to plan and lead regular teleconferences and meetings
- Interfacing with agency representatives (with prior SSC approval) on behalf of OTC
- Regularly advising the OCB Project Office in its OTC Subcommittee support role
- Promoting OCB-OTC science with the scientific community, federal agencies, and the international community in a leadership role
- Ensuring the Subcommittee is functioning effectively, which could include regulating activities or membership
- Reporting back to the SSC during regular SSC meetings and obtaining SSC approval for OTC decisions about membership, activities, etc.
- Attending OCB summer workshop

The OCB Project Office will support OCB-OTC by providing staff resources as required and available.