

Background

The National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) was established by the 1997 Defense Authorization Act to coordinate and strengthen ocean research efforts by identifying and carrying out partnerships among federal agencies, academia, industry and other members of the oceanographic scientific community.

In 2006, the National Science and Technology Council's Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology, today the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (SOST), chartered the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Partnerships (IWG-OP) to build on the success of NOPP and serve as the next generation operational feedback body charged with coordinating NOPP activities.

Since its inception, the IWG-OP has been working on bringing together the oceanographic community, including participation by a full range of stakeholders, from federal and state agencies to Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs), industry, academia, non-governmental organizations, and local citizens. Bringing together these sectors is fundamental to the IWG-OP's success in supporting scientific research that delivers the technical information for making policy decisions that ensure the wise use of our oceans and coasts while maintaining their health.



Goal I:

Facilitate and Promote Ocean Partnerships through the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP)

Actions

1. Build on the partnership successes of the NOPP and continue to seek new, creative, partnerships such as public-private partnerships.
2. Provide a forum to discuss funding of ocean research priorities.
3. Invest in critical topics (e.g., Broad Agency Announcements and Requests for Proposals) in support of shared agency interests, including those identified through the National Ocean Policy, *Science for an Ocean Nation: Update of the Ocean Research Priorities Plan*, and other interagency activities.
4. Present an annual Excellence in Partnering Award to recognize the best examples of NOPP funded research being conducted with scientists from multiple sectors of the oceanographic community.
5. Report to Congress on partnership activities.

Goal II:

Foster Partnerships Necessary to Support Actions in the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Actions

1. Facilitate dialogue on those National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan actions requiring interagency or inter-sector partnerships in order to realize success.
2. Implement the Coordinate and Support milestones within the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan.
3. Identify mechanisms to support science and data needs of the Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs) and Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs).

Goal III:

Promote Coordinated Ocean Agency Planning

Actions

1. Broaden engagement among federal agencies as the leading resource on ocean partnership activities.
2. Facilitate informational forums on emerging ocean science and technologies for government leaders specifically regarding needs, opportunities, and benefits of multi-agency and multi-sector relationships.
3. Improve partnership flexibility among federal agencies (financial and staffing resources) by:
 - encouraging interagency personnel rotations;
 - facilitating interagency transfer of resources;
 - developing shared interagency objectives for complementary missions.
4. Develop mechanisms to leverage federal and non-federal resources through engagement with the regional alliances, consortia, private entities and foundations.
5. Raise awareness of and assist in resolving obstacles and disincentives to partnerships, both external and internal to the federal government.

