

Draft Charter
Science Steering Group for Ocean Carbon and Climate Change Program

The **Ocean Carbon and Climate Change Program (OCCC)** is a multidisciplinary research program for ocean observation, experimentation, and modeling aimed at determining how much carbon dioxide is being taken up by the ocean at the present time and how climate change will affect the future behavior of the ocean carbon sink. In the United States, several federal agencies support these activities through a variety of intramural and extramural funding mechanisms. Some of these activities naturally fall within the purview of the **U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program (U.S.CCSP)**, of which OCCC is a component, while others do not. Careful planning and coordination of these activities to maximize synergy amongst them will require expert guidance beyond the norm for large field programs in Earth system science and global climate change.

OCCC

U.S.CCSP

Responsibilities of the OCCC Scientific Steering Group

The **OCCC Science Steering Group (OCCC-SSG)** will provide scientific leadership for OCCC. It will interact closely with the **Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group (CCIWG)** and **Carbon Cycle Scientific Steering Group (CCSSG)** as well as with the **Carbon Cycle Science Program Office (CCSPO)** and its associated **OCCC Program Office (OCCC-PO)** in Washington, DC. The OCCC-SSG will assist the CCIWG in achieving the goals of the implementation strategy adopted by the CCIWG in 2004, *Ocean Carbon and Climate Change: An Implementation Strategy for U.S. Ocean Carbon Research* (a/k/a/ the “*OCCC Report*”).

OCCC-SSG

CCIWG
CCSSG
CCSPO = R.Hanson
OCCC-PO

“OCCC Report”

The OCCC-SSG is further charged with assuring that the goals outlined in the *OCCC Report* are achieved efficiently, economically, and in a manner that will assure that the entire U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program research portfolio is carried out and properly contextualized with other U.S. and international research and educational programs in global ocean biogeochemistry and ecology. Accordingly, the OCCC-SSG will serve as an organic link between the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program and the external **U.S. Ocean Carbon Biogeochemistry Scientific Steering Committee (U.S.OCB-SSC)**, of which the OCCC-SSG shall constitute a subset of the regular membership.

Organic relationship of OCCC-SSG with the external U.S.OCB-SSC.

U.S.OCB-SSC

In summary, the OCCC-SSG :

1. will be responsible for the scientific direction and strategies of OCCC and will work with the CCIWG and OCCC-PO to coordinate the scientific activities and direction of OCCC components.

Specific responsibilities

2. will make recommendations on scientific research priorities and integration of the program.

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3. will lead the development of detailed science and project implementation plans for OCCC.

4. will help agency program managers to anticipate and identify critical gaps that require attention and will help to make sure the program remains balanced and integrated.

5. will provide regular scientific input to the CCSPO and OCCC-PO, as needed, to ensure that program implementation proceeds in a way that maximizes scientific returns.

6. will maintain awareness of research activities and planning in the NACP and communicate and collaborate as needed with the NACP-SSG;

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7. will work as part of the U.S.OCB-SSC to assure that OCCC activities are planned, coordinated, and prioritized with other U.S. and international ocean biogeochemistry initiatives to optimize scientific benefits to the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program.

Organic link between U.S.CCSP and U.S.OCB-SSC

Membership

The OCCC-SSG will consist of 7 - 8 scientists involved in conducting ocean carbon research both within the OCCC and through other U.S. funded efforts. The OCCC-SSG will be appointed by and report to the Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group (CCIWG). OCCC-SSG members will be selected from among the approved members of the OCCC Science Team and external U.S. research community on the basis of their scientific expertise, leadership qualities, and ability to represent the interests of the OCCC Program. Some overlap in membership between the CCSSG and the OCCC-SSG will be acceptable.

7 – 8 ocean carbon scientists.

Some overlap with CCSSG okay.

Because of the unprecedented challenges anticipated in synthesis and integration of OCCC science, it is crucial that the OCCC-SSG membership represent a broad and balanced range of expertise encompassing many of the areas covered by the program. Its membership must include an appropriate balance between scientists

Spectrum of expertise and institutional affiliation required.

supported through intramural and extramural funding mechanisms. Specifically, the combined membership of the OCCC-SSG must: 1) have expertise in open-ocean and coastal carbon cycle science; 2) reflect a balance among researchers specializing in modeling, observation (both remote sensing and *in-situ*), and experimental studies; and 3) be drawn from all types of participating institutions (e.g., government, academic, and private institutions).

Members of the OCCC-SSG will serve terms of three years, with one third of the committee rotating off each year to ensure continuity. Nominations for new OCCC-SSG members will be sought from the CCSSG, current OCCC-SSG members, and the CCIWG. The OCCC-SSG Chair and the CCIWG, in conference with the CCSSG, will jointly select new members

Members serve 3 years.

Turnover of one-third annually.

Member selection by agreement between Chair and CCIWG.

OCCC-SSG Chair

The Chair of the OCCC-SSG will be appointed for a two-year term. Nominations for a new OCCC-SSG Chair will be sought from the members of the OCCC-SSG, the CCIWG, and CCSSG. The CCIWG will appoint the OCCC Chair after consulting with the current Chairs of the OCCC-SSG and CCSSG. The term of the Chair may be extended one time for an additional two-year term. The Chair of the OCCC-SSG will serve as an ex officio member of the CCSSG.

Chair term 2 years.

CCIWG appoints Chair after consultation.

Term renewable once.

Chair is ex-officio on CCSSG.

Meetings

The OCCC-SSG is expected to hold regular and, when deemed necessary by the membership, ad hoc meetings each year. Most meetings will be by teleconference. However, there will normally be two in-person meetings per year convened at the same time and place as the meetings of the U.S.OCB-SSC. In addition, another in-person meeting of the OCCC-SSG may be convened in conjunction with the annual meeting of the CCSSG. Allowable travel and meeting expenses of the OCCC-SSG will be covered by the CCIWG and/or its member agencies. The OCCC-SSG will report on the proceedings of these meetings to the CCIWG at least twice per year. It is expected to interact with the OCCC Program Office more frequently in order to facilitate coordination and integration of OCCC scientific implementation.

Regular meetings expected, mostly by teleconference.

Two annual meetings collocated with U.S.OCB-SSC and possibly one other with the CCSSG.