



Executive Director's Report

Emily Twigg

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Executive Committee 2023-2024

President: Sinjae Yoo (Korea)

Secretary: Peter Croot (Ireland)

Past President: Marie-Alexandrine Sicre (France)

Vice President: Stefano Aliani (Italy)

Vice President: Bradley Moran (USA)

Vice President: Ilka Peeken (Germany)

Co-opted Member: Wee Cheah (Malaysia)

Ex-officio Member: Andrea Flossmann (France, IAMAS)

Ex-officio Member: Judith Gobin (Trinidad & Tobago, IABO)

Ex-officio Member: Hans van Haren (Netherlands, IAPSO)

The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) is an international non-governmental, non-profit organization focused on promoting international cooperation in planning and conducting oceanographic research, and solving methodological and conceptual problems that hinder research. SCOR covers all areas of ocean science and cooperates with other organizations with common interests to conduct many SCOR activities. SCOR also conducts several different activities to build the capacity for ocean science in developing countries and supporting early-career researchers.

Summary of Participation in SCOR

In 2024, 694 people from 62 countries were involved in SCOR. This includes members of the SCOR Executive Committee, SCOR Capacity Development Committee, nominated members of national committees, members of working groups, members of project steering committees, 2024

Visiting Scholars, and 2024 POGO (Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean)-SCOR Fellows. There is some duplication in cases where the same person holds multiple roles in SCOR. Nearly 3,000 individuals have been recorded as participating in SCOR since inception in 1957.

Thirty-two countries currently host dues-paying national committees to SCOR. In 2024, Malaysia began support of a national committee to SCOR (supported by Universiti Malaya) and Ecuador withdrew their national committee. The first nominated members from Malaysia are Wee Cheah, Mohd Fadzil Mohd Akhir, and Hairul Masrini Muhamad. Other changes to nominated members include

- Barbara Robson, David Souter (Australia) replace Lesley Clementson and Bernadette Sloyan
- Lisa Miller (Canada) added as a third member
- Nathalie Lefevre (France) replaces Catherine Beltran
- M. M. Sarin, Mangesh Gauns, and M. V. Ramana Murthy (India) replace Sunil Kumar Singh, V.V.S.S. Sarma, K. Somasundar
- Yukio Masumoto (Japan) replaces Toshiyuki Hibiya
- Camilla Sætre, Geir Johnsen, and Muk Chen Ong (Norway) replace Peter Haugen and Deg Aksnes
- Susanne Wilken (Netherlands) replaces Katja Peijnenburg
- Mirosław Darecki (Poland) selected as Chair

This year, a document on the [Benefits and Procedures for National Committee Membership](#) was posted on the SCOR website.

SCOR projects are expected to set term lengths for their Scientific Steering Committees (SSCs) and revise their membership regularly. Jun Nishioka (Japan) and Alessandro Tagliabue (UK) now serve as co-chairs of GEOTRACES along with Karen Casciotti (USA). The Integrated Marine Biosphere Research (IMBeR) project recomposed its Executive Committee with Dongyan Liu (China) serving as chair, and Nina Bednaršek (Slovenia), Rowan Trebilco (Australia), and Derek Armitage (Canada) as vice chairs. Adrienne Sutton (USA) started service as co-chair of the International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project (IOCCP) in 2024. Wolfgang Rack was selected as a new vice chair to SOOS. Additionally, GEOTRACES, SOLAS (Surface Ocean-Lower Atmosphere Study), COBS (Changing Ocean Biological Systems), SOOS (Southern Ocean Observing System), IOCCP, and JCS (Joint Committee on Seawater) made revisions to their SSC memberships.

Membership to the SCOR Capacity Development Committee and recipients to SCOR's capacity development programs are included in the [2024 Capacity Development Report](#).

Summary of Working Group and Project Updates

The annual reports from SCOR's working groups and projects are made available on the [annual meeting website](#).

Leading up to the 2024 annual meeting, SCOR is supporting 13 active working groups. Five working groups disbanded at the time of the 2023 annual meeting: WG 150 TOMCAT, WG 151 FeMIP, WG 152 ECV-Ice, WG 156 Chlorophyll Fluorescence, WG 159 DeepSeaDecade. Three additional working groups disbanded between the 2023 and 2024 SCOR annual meetings: WG 148 IQuOD disbanded after submission of a final publication, WG 153 FLOTSAM disbanded after representation at the Fourth Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) for an internationally binding treaty on plastic pollution, and WG 155 EBUS was disbanded by SCOR after determination that the working group was not making expected and requested progress. This represents a significant number of working groups catching up and concluding their activities after delays from COVID-19. Three new working groups were selected at the 2023 annual meeting: WG 168 4D-BGC, WG 169 GLUBS, and WG 170 PRIMO. Ten working groups met or will meet in person in 2024. Working groups continue to make use of virtual meetings to increase the frequency of communication between in person meetings. All in-person meetings were hybrid to include remote participants, all included associate members as well as full members, and all included early-career scientist members of the committees.

Eight of SCOR's ten projects held or will hold SSC meetings in person in 2024 (JCS does not meet annually and IMBeR is only holding an in-person meeting of the Executive Committee). The Data Management Committee of GEOTRACES met in concert with the SSC. IOCCP co-organized workshops on the ocean carbon value chain, and on integrating biogeochemical measurements and modeling. SOLAS held side events at the UN Ocean Decade conference and the WCRP (World Climate Research Program) open science conference.

SCOR's community produced 70 publications that acknowledge SCOR's support. Among these publications, several working groups and projects have recently produced or are in the process of producing special issues of journals or books. Special issues provide an opportunity to synthesize the science impacted by projects. GEOTRACES had [a special issue in *Oceanography*](#) that looked back on the achievements over 20 years of the program. Another [special issue](#) was produced in the Japanese journal *Chikyukagaku*. SOLAS organized a special in *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene* on [Boundary Shift: The Air-Sea Interface in a Changing Climate](#) to highlight the status of air-sea exchange science and highlight future directions. WG 167 RUSTED is producing an [inter-journal special issue](#) to curate cutting-edge studies which advance knowledge of the deposition of soluble aerosol trace elements and their impacts on marine ecosystems. A book, *The Indian Ocean and its Role in the Global Ocean System*, was produced with input from the IIOE-2 (Second International Indian Ocean Expedition) community. A [seventh volume of papers on IIOE-2](#) in Deep Sea Research II is also under development for 2025. Lastly, SOOS is producing a [special issue in *Elementa*](#) based on the 2023 symposium, with submissions due by the end of 2024.

SCOR activities engage with broader communities through conferences, communication efforts, workshops, and other opportunities. IQOE (International Quiet Ocean Experiment) and WG 169 GLUBS organized various activities on [World Passive Acoustic Monitoring Day](#), including

contributing to produce a musical piece composed of underwater sounds. WG 170 PRIMO initiated a mentoring program to connect postdocs and senior graduate students with PRIMO members. WG 166 DMS-PRO held a series of online community workshops on marine sulfur cycling topics. WG 162 OASIS held a community workshop in February 2024 to engage the community in the next steps that build on the outcomes of the working group. WG 167 RUSTED is holding an early-career scientist workshop in November 2024.

In 2025, several projects will have science and implementation plans concluding. These include IIOE-2, IQOE, GlobalHAB (Global Harmful Algal Blooms), IMBeR, SOLAS, and the current 5-year implementation plan for SOOS. The communities that would like to continue with evolving visions for the future will need to develop amendments or new science plans for review by SCOR. IIOE-2 will present the concept of a five-year addendum of their science plan at the SCOR annual meeting which will be reviewed shortly after the meeting. SOLAS will also present ideas about the future after 2025 with plans for a science plan review in 2025. GlobalHAB and IMBeR have also begun to discuss ideas for the future. SOOS will need to make plans for the next five years of activity beyond 2025.

Several of SCOR's projects contribute to the UN Ocean Decade as endorsed activities or by making contributions to endorsed activities. These contributions are listed at <https://scor-int.org/work/un-ocean-decade/>. In 2024, several activities were represented at the UN Ocean Decade Conference. SOLAS and WG 162 OASIS jointly organized an off-site event on "Unifying the air-sea interactions community," which also included participation by WG 166 DMS-PRO. IIOE-2 was included in a side event about the Indian Ocean, organized by IOC-UNESCO, a cosponsor of IIOE-2. WG 169 GLUBS held a cultural event, blending science and art with exhibits of ocean sounds. SOOS co-organized an on-site event on "Long-term engagement in the Polar oceans: A decade of international action." GEOTRACES was highlighted at an official data booth for the conference.

SCOR Administration

The SCOR Secretariat is staffed by the Executive Director (ED) with part-time support from a Financial Consultant. The ED provides financial oversight of funded activities and monitors their progress. The ED attends many SSC meetings virtually and in some cases in person. In 2024, the ED attended the GlobalHAB meeting and will attend the SOLAS open science conference and SSC meeting.

The ED represents SCOR at international meetings. SCOR hosted a booth at the 2024 Ocean Sciences Meeting, allowing representatives from projects and working groups to display their materials and spend time at the booth for community engagement. The Executive Director delivered presentations to the host of the Norwegian national committee (Norwegian Marine University Consortium), the U.S. national committee, and prepared slides for the German national committee. The Executive Director attended partner meetings of PICES,

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) (in person), and WCRP to highlight and learn about shared areas of interest.

SCOR is supported by the dues from national committee members and by grants from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). SCOR maintains two grants from NSF: one which supports scientific activities including some working groups and projects, and another that supports capacity development activities. Dues funding also contributes to these activities. SCOR is currently preparing to submit a proposal to NSF for the next science grant, expected to start 1 January 2025. A new capacity development grant took effect on 1 January 2024. The SCOR ED is the principal investigator of these grants and is responsible for oversight of the finances and outcomes of the activities supported by the grant and the dues funds.

In addition to this core support, the productivity and success of SCOR's projects rely on multiple cosponsors. Currently, SCOR cosponsors activities with IOC-UNESCO (IIOE-2, IOCCP, GlobalHAB), Future Earth (SOLAS and IMBeR), WCRP (SOLAS), iCACGP (SOLAS), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SOOS), POGO (IQOE), and IAPSO (International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans) and International Association for the Properties of Water and Steam (IAPWS) (JCS). In addition to these formal sponsors, projects receive funding for their international project offices; to supplement meeting expenses; and to fund open science conferences, summer schools, and workshops.

SCOR Communication Strategy

SCOR utilizes a website (<https://scor-int.org/>), email list, and social media to disseminate information about activities and opportunities. SCOR's announcements are related to SCOR's opportunities throughout the year and amplified messages from projects, working groups, and partner announcements applicable to the SCOR community. SCOR utilizes three newsletters throughout the year plus a limited number of additional email news announcements. SCOR has a presence on X (formerly Twitter), as a Facebook group, and on LinkedIn (active since December 2023). Activity is most frequent on X, where the most SCOR activities post news that SCOR can repost. Facebook and LinkedIn are predominantly used for infrequent posts directly from SCOR.

SCOR maintains publicly available outreach material, including a presentation, poster, flyer, video, and photos. They can be found on the website at <https://scor-int.org/work/publications/>.