



Executive Director's Report

Emily Twigg

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Executive Committee 2024-2025

President: Paul Myers (Canada)

Secretary: Peter Croot (Ireland)

Past President: Sinjae Yoo (Korea)

Vice President: Yukio Masumoto (Japan)

Vice President: Ilka Peeken (Germany)

Vice President: Constanza Ricaurte (Colombia)

Co-opted Member: Kai Deng (China)

Co-opted Member: Hilka Ndjaula (Namibia)

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 2025, 692 people from 64 countries have so far been 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 and their subsidiary committees (early-career scientist committees, data management committee, thematic working groups), 2025 Visiting Scholars, and 2025 POGO (Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean)-SCOR Fellows. There is some duplication in cases where the same person holds multiple roles. Approximately 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. Revisions to nominated memberships since the last annual meeting include

- Canada: Martine Lizotte replaces Paul Myers as chair
- Chile: Carlos Zúniga Araya replaces Arturo Oxley
- USA: Jerry Wiggert replaces Brad Moran and Carol Arnosti

SCOR projects are expected to set term lengths for their Scientific Steering Committees (SSCs) and revise their membership regularly. Since the last annual meeting, Sinjae Yoo (Korea) and Brett Molony (Australia) started service as co-chairs of the Second Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE-2). Yoo serves on behalf of SCOR and Molony on behalf of IOGOOS. Wolfgang Rack (New Zealand) started service as co-chair of SOOS (Southern Ocean Observing System) and Sarat Chandra Tripathy (India) started service as Vice Chair. Christopher Cornwall (New Zealand) recently started a term as co-chair of COBS (Changing Ocean Biological Systems), replacing Sinead Collins (UK). Several projects have also recruited new SSC members, including SOLAS (Rafael Pedro [Argentina] and Huijie Xue [China]), COBS (Steeve Comeau [France], Damboia Cossa [Mozambique], Noelle Held [USA]), IOCCP (Carla Berghoff [Argentina] and Galen McKinley [USA]), and SOOS (Cara Manno [UK], Friederike Weith [Germany], Sandy Thomalla [South Africa]).

WG 167 RUSTED (Reducing Uncertainty in Soluble aerosol Trace Element Deposition) invited Garima Shukla (India) to serve as an Associate Member and invited Alex Baker (UK) to serve as a Full Member after the passing of Hind Al-Abadleh (Canada). WG 171 MASIS (Towards best practices for Measuring and Archiving Stable Isotopes in Seawater) recruited new Associate Members who will contribute to the sample collection activities of the working group: Wei Jun Cai (USA), Keiji Horikawa (Japan), and Yeseul Kim (Korea). Igor Martins Venancio P. de Oliveira (Brazil) replaced Andre Belem (Brazil) in the Full membership.

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 2025 annual meeting, SCOR is supporting 13 active working groups. One group disbanded at the time of the 2024 annual meeting: WG 157 MetaZooGene (Toward a new global view of marine zooplankton biodiversity based on DNA metabarcoding and reference DNA sequence databases). Another disbanded later in the year following activities at the

American Geophysical Union annual conference: WG 162 OASIS (Developing an Observing Air-Sea Interactions Strategy). Two new working groups were selected at the 2024 annual meeting: WG 171 MASIS and WG 172 SALTWATER (Oceanic Salt Intrusion into Tidal Freshwater Rivers). Seven working groups met in person in 2025; others are either done holding in person meetings or have postponed meeting in 2025 in order to meet during the 2026 Ocean Sciences Meeting. 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 scientists. WG 167 RUSTED held an early-career scientist workshop during the SOLAS (Surface Ocean-Lower Atmosphere Study) Open Science Conference and WG 171 MASIS held a workshop aimed at introducing early-career scientists to seawater isotope work, held in conjunction with the 15th International Conference on Paleoceanography.

All ten SCOR projects held or will hold steering committee meetings in 2025. IMBeR (Integrated Marine Biosphere Research project) held the Future Oceans 3 conference, which reflected on the recent activities of IMBeR and its partners and scope a plan for the future. SOLAS held an open science conference in November 2024, during which a Science and Society workshop was also held. The Science Plan Addendum for IIOE-2 will be launched at the International Indian Ocean Science Conference in December 2025, which will recognize 10 years of activity under IIOE-2. COBS hosted a training workshop during the BECoME conference, where the SSC meeting was also held. GEOTRACES hosted a synthesis workshop during the Goldschmidt conference in 2025, and also held a state estimate workshop alongside the 2025 SSC meeting. SOOS and GEOTRACES held data management committee meetings along with their SSC in 2025. The SOLAS Climate Intervention implementation team will meet alongside the SSC in November 2025.

SCOR's projects and working groups produced 58 publications that acknowledge SCOR's support, and an additional two publications were published describing capacity development activities. Additionally, several projects track the research publications that identify as contributions to the project's scientific objectives. In total, GEOTRACES 155 publications between May 2025 and April 2025, IMBeR recorded 62 between August 2024 and July 2025, SOLAS recorded 210 between April 2024 and March 2025, and SOOS recorded 116.

Several SCOR activities were represented at the UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3), as well as the preceding One Ocean Science Congress (OOSC). GlobalHAB hosted a town hall at the OOSC, inviting input on the future of the project. IMBeR, the low-cost hydrophone task group of IQOE (International Quiet Ocean Experiment), and the IIOE-2/IMBeR SIBER Coastal Observation Lab in a Box (COLaB) were provided oral presentations during the conference. SCOR's travel grant program, GEOTRACES, SOOS, the SOLAS-IMBeR Ocean Acidification working group, WG 157 MetaZooGene, and WG 168 4D-BGC (Coordinating the Development of Gridded Four-Dimensional Data Products from Biogeochemical-Argo Observations) contributed posters at the OOSC. At the UNOC3, SOOS, SOLAS, IMBeR and IMBeR's early-career network (IMECaN), and IOCCP were all represented in side events. SCOR was able to elevate its relevant experts,

products, and messages to the conference in collaboration with the International Science Council (ISC). SCOR contributed a member, Vice President Ilka Peecken, to ISC's expert group on oceans which advised ISC on their planning the UNOC3, released a blog post on World Ocean Day before the start of the conference on the ISC website (<https://council.science/blog/supporting-the-societal-need-for-coordinated-international-ocean-science/>), and contributed to a side event organized by the ISC and other partners during the UNOC3. The complete list of SCOR contributions to the OOSC and UNOC3 are found at <https://scor-int.org/2025/05/28/scor-related-events-at-the-oosc-and-unoc3/>.

Future Planning

The SCOR Secretariat and Executive Committee have been working on improved guidance for current and prospective working groups and projects in order to increase broad community understanding of SCOR's activities as well as improve consistency in their implementation. A new [SCOR Working Group Proposal Instructions and Frequently Asked Questions](#) document was announced along with the working group proposal call for 2025. Previously, guidance was split between two places: the proposal template and a powerpoint file on the proposal page. The guidance is now combined and further clarified.

A new [Policies and Practices for SCOR-Sponsored Projects](#) document has been in development since the last SCOR annual meeting within the SCOR Executive Committee and then with feedback from SCOR's current sponsored projects. The document outlines the purpose of SCOR's two project types: Large-Scale Research Projects and Infrastructural Projects. Both types of projects sponsored by SCOR are defined by seven features: (1) motivated by both advancing a field of science and building capacity, (2) broad in scale and scope, (3) defined by fundamental science research objectives that invite interdisciplinarity, (4) composed of an international and rotating membership, (5) include representation by a diversity of perspectives, (6) demonstrate that there is a need and interest from an international community, and (7) resulting in products that advance the science for the broad community. SCOR requires that a scientific steering committee be formed to guide the project, and be composed of members with defined term lengths. The document also provides options for how a project can compose additional subcommittees. The document emphasizes the importance of an international project office (IPO) to achieve objectives of large scale. SCOR oversees its sponsored projects through approval of the science plan or terms of reference, review of annual reports, potentially by conducting mid-term reviews, and by receiving a final report that outlines the major products and accomplishments of the project.

In 2025, several projects have science and implementation plans (or terms of reference) concluding and/or requiring revisions. These include IIOE-2, IQOE, GlobalHAB (Global Harmful Algal Blooms), IMBeR, SOLAS, the Joint Committee on Seawater (JCS), and SOOS. SCOR has overseen a panel of reviewers to provide feedback on the IIOE-2 *Science Plan Addendum 2026-2030* and the SOLAS *Science Plan and Organisation 2026-2035*. The IIOE-2 plan has been revised and approved by the SCOR Executive Committee. The SOLAS plan is

currently under revision based on the review feedback. GlobalHAB has drafted a plan, which they are seeking community feedback and endorsement on and SOOS has been working on revisions to their implementation plan. IMBeR is also scoping ideas for the future. Presentations by projects during the 2025 SCOR Annual Meeting will focus on future planning.

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. In 2025, the SCOR Secretariat contracted monthly accounting to an outside firm in order to ensure the accuracy of the accounts.

The ED attends most SSC meetings virtually and in some cases in person. In 2025, the ED attended the IMBeR open science conference SSC meeting, and the GEOTRACES DMC and SSC meeting in person. The ED also represents SCOR at international meetings. The ED attended the 2025 General Assembly of the International Science Council and the One Ocean Science Congress and UN Ocean Conference. SCOR will host a booth at the 2026 Ocean Sciences Meeting, which will be available to provide visibility to all of SCOR's activities and members.

The ED delivered presentations to several national committees in order to provide targeted updates about SCOR participation and opportunities; these were Belgium, New Zealand, Norway, and USA (in person). The ED also prepared background information for the UK and German national committee. The ED delivered remote presentations at the annual meetings of several partners: PICES (North Pacific Marine Science Organization), GESAMP (Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection), and the CLIVAR (Climate and Ocean - Variability, Predictability, and Change) project of WCRP (World Climate Research Programme).

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 in Year 1 of 3 of the science grant and Year 2 of 3 for the capacity development grant. 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. SCOR still maintains an accumulation of net assets since COVID-19 travel restrictions, which has served as a contingency during the uncertainty in the U.S. federal funding situation.

In addition to this core support, the productivity and success of SCOR's projects relies on multiple cosponsors. In 2024-2025, SCOR cosponsored 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 IPOs; 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, and in 2025 opened a BlueSky account. Followers on LinkedIn grew dramatically in 2025 (from about 200 to over 1,000).

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