

Terms of reference

2. PURPOSE

The Marine Seismic Research Oversight Committee (MSROC) provides scientific oversight, asset coordination and strategic advice for NSF-supported marine seismic facilities. MSROC fulfills a role as the representatives for the marine seismic research community, ensuring broad access and maximum participation in the utilization of marine seismic assets. MSROC also advises UNOLS and funding agencies on the adoption of technical advances that maintain a cutting edge capability for the facilities that support marine seismic research.

- The MSROC shall work with the science user community, federal sponsors and the operators of marine seismic facilities to establish a regional plan for operations in order to maximize efficient use of these facilities. **Additionally, MSROC shall encourage and help facilitate the advancement of cooperative international programs for the enhancement of marine seismic research throughout the academic community.**
- The MSROC may constitute sub-committees as needed where advice is required for specific facilities and ad hoc issues. Technological and operational issues associated with other marine seismic assets will also be reviewed periodically by the MSROC.

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4. SPECIFIC TASKS

(a) Implementation of the Regional Framework Plan

(b) Act to engage and coordinate international participation in the regional framework planning process and to identify international resources that might be available to U.S. researchers. Regularly review the technological information available for use of assets and identify needed updates.

(c) Regularly review the technical capabilities of existing marine seismic assets to ensure they meet the needs of the scientific community, and advocate for upgrades when compelling needs for new capabilities are identified.

(d) Promote the engagement and training of the next generation of marine seismic researchers.

(e) Provide outreach tools and a feedback mechanism to the community, including a forum for input on emerging directions in marine seismic studies

International cooperation

Two aspects:

- NSF access to foreign seismic equipment
 - Does this really save NSF money?
- Foreign access to US facilities
 - Funded joint projects with contributions from international partners (either equipment or payment for ship days)
 - Foreign aid (e.g. World Bank) projects - training, knowledge transfer, collection of offshore data relevant for development
 - Others?

Plan for future

- Global inventory of seismic assets available for research
- Identify international committees relevant for objectives of this committee (beyond IODP).
- ???