

Ocean-Bottom Seismic Instrument Center (OBSIC) Operations Subcommittee

Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

The Ocean-Bottom Seismic Instrument Center (OBSIC) Operations Subcommittee provides community guidance for the provision and support of ocean-bottom seismic (OBS) instrumentation for the NSF-supported science community.

2. Purpose

The OBSIC subcommittee guides, advises, and supports the OBSIC facility operator; provides input and support to the Marine Seismic Research Oversight Committee (MSROC); and advises NSF on meeting the needs of the OBS community. Guidance should cover, but not be limited to, the following categories:

- Maintaining guidelines for the use of the equipment and services of the OBSIC facility;
- Supporting facility-performance assessment for experiment planning and operations, and data management and quality;
- Promoting and supporting community outreach and engagement within the marine and terrestrial seismic communities as well as the broader scientific community;
- Monitoring the current and future health of the facility, including procurement and management of resources for equipment testing, maintenance, development, and recapitalization;
- Advocating for technical capacity building and training of future personnel including engineers;
- Facilitating coordination and cooperation with the larger (non-OBS) marine-seismic community through interaction with MSROC;
- Supporting open distribution, discoverability, and usability of OBSIC data and data products through a national data archive;
- Facilitating coordination and cooperation with the research community to support a broad range of objectives, including global-scale and shoreline-crossing studies;
- Developing and responding to new initiatives to enhance the effectiveness of the OBSIC program.

3. Membership/Organization:

The OBSIC Operations Subcommittee shall consist of seven volunteer members of the marine seismology and broader research communities. Members will serve staggered three-year terms. Membership should represent a balance of scientific interests within the OBS community, including active- and passive sources, narrow- and wide-band instrumentation, and imaging and source studies. At least one member will serve a coincident term on MSROC to facilitate communication between the committees. In addition to the voting members, the OBSIC operating institution will designate one or more *ex-officio* representatives.

Nominations for filling open positions will be solicited from the OBS community, selected by the existing OBSIC committee in consultation with the chair of MSROC and NSF. Final appointments to the committee are made by the UNOLS chair.

The committee will meet at minimum twice per year: once in person, once virtual.

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