

## ANNEX VIII TO THE UNOLS CHARTER

### Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Aircraft Research (SCOAR) Terms of Reference and Operating Procedures

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Aircraft Research (SCOAR) is an advisory committee established in accordance with Annex II of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) charter. This Committee shall provide recommendations and advice to the operators and supporting funding agencies of any aircraft facility designated by UNOLS as a National Oceanographic Aircraft Facility. The Scientific Committee for Oceanographic Aircraft Research shall operate pursuant to appointment by UNOLS and in accordance with the UNOLS Charter. This annex is the SCOAR Terms of Reference and shall be incorporated as Annex VIII to the Charter.

#### 2. PURPOSE

This Committee shall provide advice and recommendations to UNOLS-designated facility managers and supporting federal agencies on aspects of operations, sensor development, fleet composition, utilization and data services as appropriate. In addition, SCOAR and the UNOLS Office shall provide the ocean science user community with valuable information and advice concerning experiment design, facility usage, scheduling and capabilities.

The Committee shall also promote collaborations and cooperation between facility operators, funding agencies and the scientific community to improve the availability, capabilities and quality of aircraft facilities supporting the ocean sciences. By promoting collaboration between the ocean science community, the atmospheric science community and other science communities using aircraft in support of their research the committee shall work to improve utilization and capabilities for all of these communities.

The SCOAR shall also recommend the designation of aircraft facilities as National Oceanographic Facilities to the UNOLS Council and membership as described in paragraph 4 below.

#### 3. MEMBERSHIP /ORGANIZATION

The SCOAR is composed of individuals who can represent the various oceanographic disciplines ~~scientists~~ with broad-based research experience in the ocean and atmospheric sciences including experience with projects that coordinate the use of aircraft with other Oceanographic Facilities such as Research Vessels and that can represent the various oceanographic disciplines required to advise on the effective use of aircraft assets in support of the ocean sciences. The ~~initial~~ composition of the Committee shall consist of a Chair and four ~~oceanic and atmospheric scientists~~ members. The committee may recommend additional members with the approval of the Council and the funding agencies. Appointed members will normally come from institutions other than the operating institutions of the aircraft facilities and in no case would there be more than one person from any individual institution, not counting the ex-officio representatives.

Nominations to the SCOAR and for SCOAR Chair shall be open to the research community. Vacancies shall be announced in various weekly journals or other venues as appropriate, and candidates shall be asked to submit their vitae and letters of interest. Applications for membership to the SCOAR and the SCOAR Chair shall be reviewed by the standing SCOAR and voted on by the membership. The UNOLS Chair shall appoint the SCOAR members and Chair from the nominations

made by SCOAR. Members of the SCOAR shall be appointed for three-year terms, staggered so that one or two terms begin each year. Individuals may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

The operating institution of each National Oceanographic Aircraft Facility may designate ex-officio member(s) of SCOAR to represent the operational aspects of the facility. With the Council's concurrence, other standing committees of UNOLS may also designate ex-officio members to SCOAR.

#### 4. NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AIRCRAFT FACILITIES

A National Oceanographic Aircraft Facility is an academic organization or institution that operates one or more aircraft in support of oceanographic research or education and that is made available to qualified scientists from any institution with funding for the use of the facility. The purpose is to provide access to aircraft facilities to scientists that do not operate or otherwise have available the required aircraft facilities. UNOLS institutions that operate designated National Facilities shall be designated as UNOLS operator institutions in accordance with the UNOLS charter.

The SCOAR shall recommend to the UNOLS Council and membership, the designation of aircraft facilities as National Oceanographic Aircraft Facilities under Annex II of the UNOLS Charter. An aircraft facility may be designated a National Oceanographic Aircraft Facility upon the approval of the UNOLS membership after review by the UNOLS Council, with the concurrence of the owner and operator of the facility and with reasonable assurance of ongoing support by one or more funding agencies. National Oceanographic Aircraft Facilities may be multi- or special-purpose facilities and may be designated for the entire annual operating period or any significant period thereof. Opportunity for review and input from Federal funding agencies other than the owner of a facility should be included as part of the designation process.

Each National Oceanographic Aircraft Facility approved for designation by the UNOLS membership shall be described and listed in Section 6. Section 6 lists the dates of approval, renewal and expiration for this designation.

#### 5. SPECIFIC TASKS FOR SCOAR

The focus of SCOAR ~~meetings~~ shall include but not be limited to:

- ~~1 - Share information and advise items from UNOLS-designated~~ aircraft facility managers and
  - ~~Information items from supporting~~ funding agencies
  - ~~2- Information sharing and from and~~ coordination with other scientific organizations concerned with aircraft facilities such as the Interagency Working Group on Facilities (IWG-F), the Interagency Coordinating Committee for Airborne Geosciences Research and Application (ICCAGRA) and others
  - ~~2- Information from sharing~~ and coordination with other UNOLS standing committees.
  - ~~1- Technical/scientific briefings on past and future field programs~~
  - ~~1- Information sharing and oversight~~ on utilization and scheduling of facilities
  - ~~1- Facilitating the requesting of aircraft facility services~~
  - ~~1- Promote the coordinated use of~~ Aircraft facilities with Research Vessel Operations and facilitating the scheduling of joint Research Vessel and Aircraft experiments.
  - ~~2- New Stay abreast of evolving observing system and~~ instrumentation, sensor, and technology developments.
  - ~~2- Promoting participation by researchers in the Ocean Sciences as~~ partners or mentors for new instrument development projects.

- ~~2-~~ Facilitate the transition of new technologies from the military, the atmospheric sciences, space sciences and other areas to facilities supporting the ocean sciences.
- ~~2-~~ Promoting positive interactions between the atmospheric and oceanographic science communities.
- ~~2-~~ Promoting and supporting collaboration between agencies and institutions supporting research aircraft facilities for the ocean sciences.
- ~~1-~~ Review flight policies, operating procedures and regulatory and safety issues to ensure compatibility with research plans and research vessel operations.
- ~~1-~~ At the request of any funding agency or facility operator, SCOAR would review and provide advice or possible solutions regarding any technical issues that may arise during proposal or pre-proposal reviews being conducted by the agency or operator.

## 6. NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AIRCRAFT FACILITY

a. The Center for Interdisciplinary Remotely-Piloted Aircraft Studies (CIRPAS) is designated a ~~national-National~~ Oceanographic Aircraft Facility. CIRPAS is operated by a mix of Naval Postgraduate School and contractor personnel. All activities are managed by the NPS staff based at the CIRPAS facility in Marina, CA. The CIRPAS primary aircraft for oceanographic support includes the CIRPAS UV-18A 'Twin Otter.' Information about the facility is available at < <http://web.nps.navy.mil/~cirpas/>>.

CIRPAS was designated as a National Oceanographic Aircraft Facility under Annex II of the UNOLS charter by vote of the UNOLS membership at Arlington, Va. on September 27, 2002. ~~Such designation is valid until September 2008 or until such time as this designation is otherwise removed.~~

## 7. MEETINGS / REPORTS

The SCOAR shall meet according to a schedule proposed by the committee and approved by the supporting funding agencies as part of the Annual UNOLS Office proposal and budget. Typically the Committee should meet at least two times a year depending on the number of designated National Oceanographic Aircraft Facilities. ~~Meeting location should rotate between facility operators and funding agency locations. Support for travel to meetings shall be provided to appointed members of the committee through the UNOLS office budget. Ex officio and agency representatives shall provide their own support for travel unless otherwise approved as part of the UNOLS office budget.~~

—The SCOAR Chair shall set the agenda for meetings in consultation with the Committee, the UNOLS Office, facility managers, funding agencies and others as appropriate.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

SCOAR recommendations and reports shall be prepared with the assistance of the UNOLS office and shall be made through the UNOLS Council and Chair.

## 8. IMPLEMENTATION, AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

These terms of reference shall be reviewed, amended and readopted by the Committee with the approval of the UNOLS Council as necessary and at least every three years. The committee can be dissolved by vote of the UNOLS membership, by the UNOLS Council, due to lack of fiscal support or in the event that there are no designated National Oceanographic Aircraft Facilities. The establishment of this committee and the designation of National Oceanographic Aircraft Facilities shall be renewed every three years by vote of the UNOLS membership.

Originally Adopted: September 27, 2002 at Arlington, VA

Revised and adopted: October 15, 2004

Revised and adopted: October 12, 2007, Arlington, VA