

**NOC Association Steering Board**  
**4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**  
**Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Attending**

Professor David Thomas, University of Helsinki (DT), Chair

Professor Ed Hill, National Oceanography Centre (EH)  
Professor Angela Hatton, National Oceanography Centre (AH)  
Dr Teresa Fernandes, Heriot Watt University (TF)  
Dr Kate Hendry, University of Bristol (KH)  
Dr Kerry Howell, University of Plymouth (KHo)  
Dr Mark James, MASTS (MJ)  
Professor Ros Rickaby, The Challenger Society (RR)  
Mike Palmer, Marine Science Coordination Committee (MP)

Secretary: Jackie Pearson (JP)

Apologies: Professor Martin Solan

**1 Welcome**

1.1 MP introduced himself to the Board. He will attend on alternate meetings to Simon Brockington. MP should be briefed about the Board. **Action: JP**

**2 Minutes from December 2020 and January 2021**

2.1 DT asked for future minutes to be less detailed. All were happy with them otherwise. To be posted on-line. **Action. JP**

2.2 EH agreed to check on his action to introduce Icarus Allen to Huw Gullick.

2.3 GERC report on technology for ecology to be circulated to the board. **Action: MS/JP**

**3 The MSCC statement on Ocean and Climate**

3.1 The MSCC's powerful statement, marking the super year of 2021, will be used to raise the profile of marine with Government. It doesn't identify what is needed to solve current environmental challenges which would have been useful as an anchor to apply for funding. MJ is concerned about how much may actually be achieved by the Decade as there does not seem to be much action or commitment at the moment.

3.2 There have been problems with the flow of information from those attending NOCA meetings to their colleagues. DT reminded the Board that there had been the intention to produce a document about the differences between the NOCA and the Challenger Society. **Action: JP**

#### 4. The new 'Decade' Working Group

- 4.1 There needs to be coordinated development of a big strategic programme area for NERC that matches interests in the international community. Funding might then be achieved through a Strategic Programme Fund (SPF) mechanism. The loss of the Global Challenges Research Fund system has been regrettable.
- 4.2 The 'Decade' is meant to be a catalyst - programmes can be labelled as 'Decade' programmes - there is no funding at international level. The UK's National Decade Committee sits under the Marine Science Coordination Committee International Working Group and has met twice recently. Its membership needs to be broadened and should engage with Early Career Researchers. It is not the role of the Committee to filter what contributions should be 'Decade' or not. There needs to be a list of what the science community is doing.
- 4.3 SPFs need support from Government which is where the MSCC has an important role. This might also be where a Decade Working Group (DWG) could help; a combination of MASTS, MSCC, NOCA and the Challenger Society with a wish list would be a good start. The Board agreed that the DWG should be announced at the May NOCA AGM and that reference should be made to the outputs determined by the Royal Society. **Action: JP**
- 4.4 MP agreed to discuss with Simon Brockington. It would be important for Lowri Griffiths to be made aware that the DWG will be complimentary to the Decade National Committee. **Action: MP**

#### 5. NOCA AGM

- 5.1 There has been confusion around the *Statement of community need: NERC scientific support and facilities*. NERC needs to make this clearer and it was agreed to prime Mike Webb and Iain Williams that this would be raised at the NOCA AGM. **Action: EH**

#### Actions

Point	What	Who
1.1	Brief MP on the work of the NOCA Board	JP
2.1	Shorten future minutes and post on-line	JP
2.3	GERC report on technology for ecology to be circulated to the board.	MS/JP
3.2	Write a piece about the differences between the NOCA and the Challenger Society.	JP
4.3	Announce the DWG at the May NOCA AGM and include reference to the outputs determined by the Royal Society.	JP
4.4	Discuss DWG with Simon Brockington and inform Lowri Griffiths that the DWG will be complimentary to the Decade National Committee.	MP
5.1	Prime MW and IW that there would be a question about the confusion around the <i>Statement of community need: NERC scientific support and facilities</i> at the NOCA AGM.	EH