

**National Science Foundation (NSF)
Advisory Committee for Geosciences (AC GEO)
Polar Subcommittee (PLR SC) Break-out Meeting
Room 1235, October 20, 2016, 08:00-09:45 EDT**

AC GEO participants: W. Berry Lyons* (PLR SC Chair), James Dixon,* Julienne Stroeve,* Greg Sullivan,* Scott Doney, Rana Fine, Shirley Pomponi, and Cindy Van Dover (*designates AC GEO members who are PLR SC members).

Primary NSF Participants: Roger Wakimoto (Assistant Director, GEO), Marge Cavanaugh (Deputy Assistant Director, GEO), Kelly Falkner (Division Director, PLR), Rick Murray (Division Director, OCE), Scott Borg (Section Head, PLR/AIL), Eric Saltzman (Section Head, PLR/ANT), Simon Stephenson (Section Head, PLR/ARC), Bob Houtman (Section Head, OCE/IPS), Tim McGovern (Ocean Projects Manager, PLR), Rose DuFour (Ship Operations Program Director, OCE/IPS), Anna Kerttula (Arctic Social Sciences Program Director, PLR/ARC), and Paul Cutler (Antarctic Integrated System Science Program Director, PLR/ANT).

NOTE: Approximately 25 additional PLR, OCE, and NSF personnel attended the meeting either in-person or virtually via WebEx.

Minutes

The main meeting agenda items reviewed were as follows:

1) Harassment on Ships (joint session with OCE)

Kelly Falkner, Rick Murray, and Marge Cavanaugh made opening remarks and gave a brief summary of the AGU Workshop on Harassment that was held in Washington, DC in September.

Tim McGovern and Rose DuFour provided a joint-presentation. Tim McGovern gave overviews of: 1) PLR's Antarctic and Arctic Programs, 2) the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) Code of Conduct, and 3) harassment-related information and support aboard ships. Rose DuFour gave overviews of: 1) the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS), 2) Research Vessel Safety Standards, 3) Future and ongoing improvements, including formation of a UNOLS Council Ad-Hoc Committee on Pregnancy, Privacy, and Harassment, and 4) discussions between OCE and PLR pertaining to compliance checks and production of a comprehensive video.

Polar Programs Subcommittee of GEO Advisory Committee

Numerous participants contributed suggestions and remarks during the discussion period:

Rana Fine – A third-party off-ship reporting process should be established as opposed to requiring potential harassment victims to report to the ship's captain or chief scientist.

Rick Murray – Multiple pathways should be established for reporting harassment.

Cindy Van Dover – Training should be provided for early career scientists. Such training offers an opportunity to sensitize and set culture on the issue of harassment on ships.

James Dixon – We need to maintain a broad definition of harassment and not just restrict policies to male-on-female harassment.

Rick Murry – Harassment is an issue that exists and impacts the broader requirement of ensuring safety on ships.

Scott Doney – We need to ensure that there is commonality in harassment on ship policies across intuitions and agencies (e.g., NSF and NOAA).

Julie Kellner – We need to have good data across the research vessel fleet in order to apply metrics for gauging improvements in addressing harassment. Institutions such as Woods Hole or Scripps could be helpful in this regard.

Rana Fine – We need to be sensitive to the fact that, in the interest of good public relations, institutions have a desire to maintain a positive image when faced with harassment claims. This can challenge efforts to make progress on the issue.

Rose DuFour – Harassment on ships should be addressed in cooperative agreements as they are established or renewed.

Anna Kerttula – Social science studies could be funded to study the issue of harassment on ships.

Scott Doney – There is some survey data available that might inform the issue of harassment on ships.

Roger Wakimoto – The OSTP Committee on Science has stimulated a National-level dialogue on the issue of harassment in science, addressing harassment of attendees at scientific conferences. The committee also has been encouraged to look into other areas.

Kelly Falkner – Harassment in geosciences is a complex issue. The recent AGU Workshop emphasized the need for policy. Various groups with varying policies intersect in this matter; other government sciences agencies, universities and research institutions, private contractors and the DoD. We also need to ensure robust processes for follow-up and enforcement of policies. We need to keep the dialogue going and will have teleconferences in the future to follow up.

Berry Lyons – Harassment is a more general problem that occurs beyond just ships. We also need to give attention to other contexts in science (e.g. field stations and camps, laboratories).

II) Summary and Discussion of the Arctic Horizons Initiative

Anna Kerttula reviewed: 1) award and budget data for NSF's Arctic Social Science Program, 2) the motivation, structure, and process for the Arctic Horizons Initiative, 3) outcomes from a series of Arctic Horizon's Workshops, and 4) future directions of the Arctic Horizons program. The program especially encourages projects that are circumpolar and/or comparative, involve collaborations between researchers and those living in the Arctic, or form partnerships among disciplines, regions, researchers, communities, and/or students. The program has a special interest in a wide range of indigenous scholarship (e.g., indigenous science and traditional knowledge systems), community participatory-based research models and knowledge coproduction, indigenous conceived and led research projects, decolonizing research methods and institutions, and research sovereignty.

James Dixon asked about the status of a synoptic report that is being developed for the Arctic Horizons program. Anna Kerttula indicated that the report is in process and ultimately will be vetted by the Arctic Horizons Advisory Board.

III) Update on NSF/NERC

Eric Saltzman and Paul Cutler reported on the initiative between NSF and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) of the Research Councils UK (RCUK) and the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). The initiative currently focuses on the future of Thwaites Glacier and its contribution to sea-level rise. The initiative answers to one of the key areas in the NAS 2015 report, "A Strategic Vision for NSF Investments in Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research," and has been a subject of UK and US workshops in 2015 and 2016. The solicitation ([NSF 17-505](#)) was released on October 20, 2016. The initiative includes an integrated process for submission, review, and logistics for a research program that will take place over a five-year period (FY18-22) with major field seasons occurring in FY19/20 and FY20/21.

Julienne Stroeve commented on the initiative and encouraged data sharing as a component of the integrative process. Berry Lyons congratulated Eric Saltzman and Paul Cutler for successfully coordinating this initiative between NSF, NERC and BAS.

IV) Preparation for Open Discussion with the AC GEO

Kelly Falkner and Berry Lyons discussed with participants key points of the subcommittee session that would be reported to the AC GEO as a whole. The key points are captured in the three main agenda items reviewed above.

Action Item

1) Polar SC members and staff from PLR and OCE will hold a future teleconference to continue dialogue on the issue of harassment on ships.