

OCE | DIVISION
OF OCEAN
SCIENCES

MAKING WAVES

NEWSLETTER

January 2014



Aerial view of the drillship JOIDES Resolution.
Credit: William Crawford and IODP





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Credit: Dan Norton, Coral.org

OCE DIVISION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the winter 2014 OCE newsletter – Making Waves!

For the past three and a half years the Division has been under the exceptional leadership of David Conover, and it is with considerable sadness that we bid him farewell. On behalf of the division and the ocean science community at large, I thank David for a job well done! If you see him at meetings, I encourage you to give him a hearty thanks as well.

Here I send out a plea to participate in the Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences, discuss options to serve at NSF, and end with something to think about – reviews.

A key challenge that OCE continually faces is determining what a diverse science portfolio should look like considering current budget realities. To obtain broad community guidance on this important issue, OCE commissioned the Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences (DSOS), which is being conducted by the National Academies. The purpose of the decadal survey is to review the current state of knowledge, identify compelling scientific questions for the next decade, analyze infrastructure needed

to address these questions vs. the current NSF portfolio, and identify opportunities to maximize the value of NSF investments. To accomplish its charge, the DSOS committee needs to hear from you! You can provide input through a [Virtual Town Hall](#). The deadline to submit your comments is March 15, 2014.

I also encourage you to consider serving at NSF at some point in your career. A third to a half of the science staff within OCE are rotators that come to serve for one to four years. In the last edition of Making Waves, David Conover provided his perspective on serving as Division Director for OCE. I came to NSF in August 2012 and have served as the Section Head of the Ocean Section prior to taking on the role of Acting Division Director. I have found my service at NSF to be inspiring and thought provoking and the Arlington/DC area is a fun, exciting place to live! As a researcher who dreams of the day she can go back to her lab and ponder nitrogen full time, it has been wonderful to see the level of dedication to the ocean science community continually shown by OCE permanent staff.

Though Division Director and Section Heads play important roles, I frequently hear that Program Officer is the best job in the Foundation. Program Officers do the hands on work of managing proposal review and making funding decisions and so have the closest connection to the science and the community. We are currently seeking Program Officers in both the Chemical Oceanography and Biological Oceanography programs (see below). Whether you are interested now or think you might want to serve in the future, I encourage you to reach out to current Program Officers in all programs to discuss joining our ranks. You will never read, review, or write a proposal the same way again!

OCE DIVISION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Finally, I ask that you pause a moment and think about reviews. If you say yes to every review request NSF sends you – thank you! You are our hero!! If you frequently say no, please reconsider. Our ability to make the most informed funding decisions is determined in large part by the quality of the reviews we receive on proposals, both in the form of ad hoc and panel reviews. If you want thoughtful, well-reasoned reviews of your own work, you should be willing to provide thoughtful, well-reasoned reviews for your colleagues. Also consider the review burden you generate. Our preference

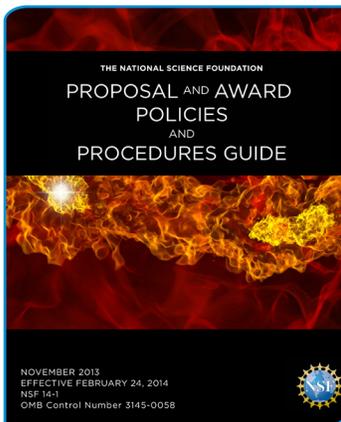
is to receive three to seven reviews on every proposal submitted. If you submit a single proposal, you have created the burden of three to seven reviews on your community.

I close by saying that I am here to serve and my door, e-mail, phone line is always open. I welcome your comments and concerns.

With warm regards,

Deborah A. Bronk
Acting Director, Division of Ocean Sciences



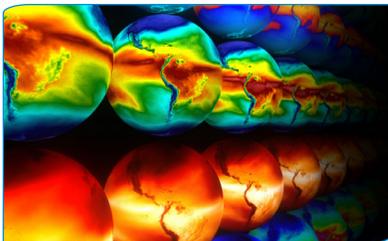


PROPOSAL & AWARD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES GUIDE

The revised version of the *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG), (NSF 14-1) will be effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after February 24, 2014. In the interim, the guidelines contained in the current PAPPG (NSF 13-1) continue to apply.

OCE SAMPLE AND DATA POLICY

When preparing proposals and submitting project reports, please give special attention to the [Division of Ocean Sciences Sample and Data Policy](#) which includes guidance on proposal Data Management Plans, requirements for Annual and Final Project Reports, and program-specific data and sample submission guidance.



Credit: EarthCube

EARTHCUBE UPDATE

[EarthCube](#) is engaging geosciences, cyberinfrastructure, computer science, and associated communities to create an environment to share data and knowledge in an open, transparent and inclusive manner to advance our ability to understand and predict the Earth system. Nearly two dozen end-user workshops have been completed, and [workshop executive summaries](#) highlight science drivers, cyberinfrastructure needs and community next steps. Please also see other [recently funded EarthCube projects](#). There is a March 12, 2014 deadline to submit proposals for EarthCube Research Coordination Networks (RCN) and EarthCube Building Blocks, as described in the [EarthCube program solicitation](#). If you are thinking about submitting a proposal or want to know more about EarthCube, please contact [Barbara Ransom](#).

UPCOMING DUE DATES

Most OCE programs continue to have 2 target dates per year for unsolicited proposals: February 15 and August 15. [Ocean Technology and Interdisciplinary Coordination \(OTIC\) Program](#) has a single annual target date of February 15. For programs under the [Oceanographic Facilities and Equipment Support](#) umbrella please go to the website.

We'd like to highlight the following NSF funding opportunities, with their next due dates:

Dear Colleague Letter: Advancing Recruitment and Retention in Geosciences (ARRG) - Supplemental Funding to Advance Recruitment and Retention in the Geosciences	NSF 14-015	Type I = January 10, 2014; Types II-IV = Now thru May 1, 2014
Coastal SEES	NSF 14-502	January 21, 2014
Catalyzing New International Collaborations (CNIC)	NSF 13-605	January 22, 2014; April 22, 2014
Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI)	NSF 13-517	January 23, 2014
EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: Track-2 (RII Track-2)	NSF 13-509	January 29, 2014
Long Term Research in Environmental Biology (LTREB)	NSF 14-507	January 30, 2014
Improving Undergraduate STEM Education	NSF 14-7513	February 4, 2014
Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP)	NSF 14-505)	February 5, 2014
Dear Colleague Letter: Alliances for Minority Participation - Student Research Supplements (AMP-SRS)	NSF 14-014	February 14, 2014
EarthCube	NSF 13-529	March 12, 2014
Innovation Corps Teams Program (I-Corps Teams)	NSF 12-602	March 17, 2014; June 16, 2014
Dimensions of Biodiversity	NSF 14-525	April 3, 2014
Antarctic Research	NSF 13-527	April 15, 2014
Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)	NSF 13-542	May 23, 2014 (only for REU Site proposals that require access to Antarctica)
Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers Program (I/UCRC)	NSF 13-594	June 27, 2014

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

NSF supports the [Research Experiences for Undergraduates \(REU\) program](#) in order to provide the next generation of scientists with early research opportunities. The Division of Ocean Sciences supports about 26 REU sites at various universities and marine laboratories. Interested students must contact the [individual sites for information and application materials](#). Application deadlines for students are typically in the February/March timeframe for summer programs, but a few programs run in the fall or spring semesters. NSF funding is directed to undergraduate students who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who have not graduated prior to attending the program. For questions or more information on the REU program, please contact [Lisa Rom](#).



DISCO AND PODS

The next [Dissertations Symposium in Chemical Oceanography \(DISCO\)](#) and [Physical Oceanography Dissertation Symposium \(PODS\)](#) will be held October 5-9 in Honolulu, Hawaii. These symposia provide recent graduates, or soon to graduate, PhD-level chemical and physical oceanographers opportunity to present their dissertation research in front of their professional peers and to forge professional relationships that will facilitate their future research and academic careers. The deadline to apply is April 21, 2014.

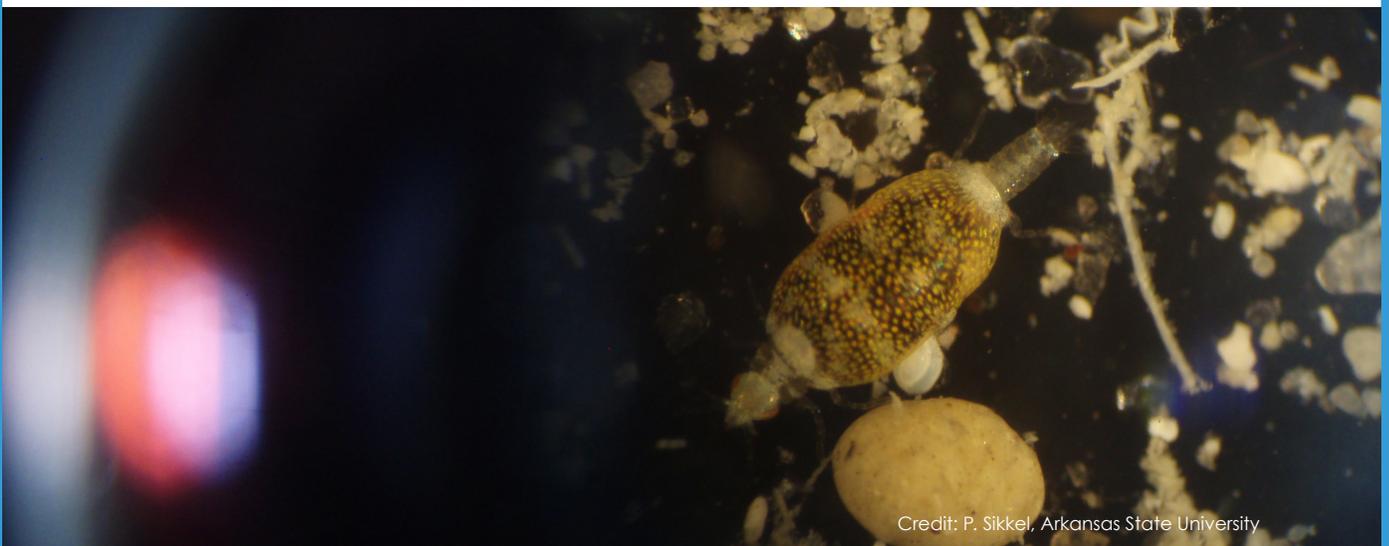
NOSAMS

OCE recently renewed a [cooperative agreement](#) that continues operation of the [National Ocean Sciences Accelerator Mass Spectrometer \(NOSAMS\)](#) in order to provide natural level radiocarbon dating services to the ocean science community and to continue research into new carbon dating methods. In addition to having two sputter source AMS, staff at NOSAMS have constructed a unique gas ion source that enables operation of the AMS in Continuous Flow mode. This novel instrument opens the door to new analytical approaches and services. One such application has led to a new “reconnaissance analysis” that provides very low cost, moderate precision measurements of carbonate samples. Other new measurement methods and services are under development. In addition to providing high quality radiocarbon measurements on a wide range of materials for ocean research, NOSAMS offers [internships](#) on a competitive basis to qualified graduate students attending U.S. universities.

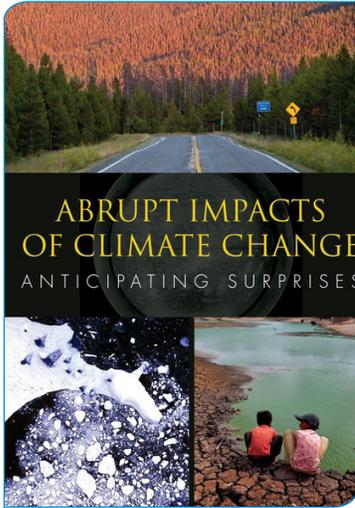
OCE AND RELATED RESEARCH IN THE NEWS

- 1 Oh, the places you'll go--if you're an Atlantic slipper shell
- 2 Related coral species differ in how they survive climate change
- 3 Wetlands' ability to overcome sea level rise threatened
- 4 National Science Foundation to continue operations of the drillship JOIDES Resolution
- 5 Parasites: Rulers of the Reef
- 6 R/V Sikuliaq to winter in Great Lakes, test 'hybrid' underwater vehicle
- 7 NSF advances national efforts enabling data-driven discovery
- 8 NSF, with interagency and international partners, makes first round of grants to understand Arctic sustainability
- 9 EarthCube: NSF funds \$14.5 million in grants to improve geosciences cyber infrastructure

For additional coverage, see [Ocean Sciences \(OCE\) – News](#) For news-related questions, contact [Cheryl Dybas](#), NSF Science Communications Officer for Geosciences and Environmental Research.



Credit: P. Sikkel, Arkansas State University



REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

A National Research Council report on *Abrupt Impacts of Climate Change: Anticipating Surprises* was released in December 2013.

A May 2013 report of the NSF-sponsored [Ocean Observations Research Coordination Network \(RCN\)](#) examines challenges and opportunities related to Open Data. The report highlights recommendations in the areas of: interoperability and standards; governance and business models; and data publication and data citation in the context of both technical and social challenges for adoption.

TIMELY ACCESS TO NSF DOCUMENTS

Please sign up for the [NSF email alert service](#) for timely notification about funding opportunities, upcoming due dates, publications, news, events and job openings. You can subscribe to receive targeted alerts by directorate, type of information, etc.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Division Director, Division of Ocean Sciences

The deadline for [applications](#) is February 7, 2014.

For more information, contact [Roxanne Nikolaus](#), [Donna Blackman](#), or [Bob Houtman](#).

Rotating Program Officer, Chemical Oceanography Program.

Formal consideration of [applications](#) will continue until a selection is made.

For more information, contact [Don Rice](#).

Rotating Program Officer, Biological Oceanography Program.

Formal consideration of [applications](#) will continue until a selection is made.

For more information, contact [Mike Sieracki](#).

Science Assistant, Physical Oceanography Program (starting in summer 2014).

The selected person will typically have a Masters degree in Physical Oceanography or closely related science or engineering field. The Science Assistant position at NSF is for a maximum term of two years. NSF divisions hire Science Assistants from an NSF-wide applicant pool.

Watch for the next recruitment announcement at [USAJOBS](#) and [NSF Career Opportunities](#)

For more information, contact [Eric Itsweire](#).

OCE STAFF CHANGES



Sara Paver:

Sara joined OCE in January as a [Knauss Sea Grant Fellow](#). She earned her PhD in December 2013 in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Sara's research focuses on how algal-bacterial interactions and environmental factors affect bacterial community composition.



Najwa Obeid:

Najwa will complete her term in OCE as a Knauss Sea Grant Fellow at the end of January. During her year at NSF, she worked with the Coastal SEES management team in launching that new program, participated in National Ocean Policy activities related to Ecosystem-based Management, and assessed the Ocean Section's proposal and award portfolio. Najwa plans to get married in June (!) and defend her dissertation in the summer for her PhD in environmental engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



David Conover:

After three and a half years as OCE Division Director, David returned in mid-December to his home institution, Stony Brook University, to serve as [Interim Vice President for Research](#). David gave the OCE newsletter its name, and we know that he will continue "Making Waves!" As noted in the OCE Division Director's Message at the beginning of the newsletter, Deborah Bronk is serving as Acting OCE Division Director.



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WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

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This newsletter is designed to share timely information about the National Science Foundation's Division of Ocean Sciences. If you have comments or questions, please communicate with the relevant OCE program officer, or with Jane Montgomery (emontgom@nsf.gov), who serves as newsletter editor. The newsletter will be distributed by email and posted on the OCE homepage. Please feel free to forward to colleagues.

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