

Opportunity: The NROC OCEH Working Group Co-chairs, the NERACOOS Executive Director, and the ISMN Director are seeking candidates to serve on the ISMN Oversight Committee.

Background: There is clear evidence of recent change in the coastal environment of the Northeast United States. The collective impact of these environmental pressures have and will continue to affect marine ecosystems and the services they provide in the Northeast region. While there are numerous and diverse environmental and ecosystem observing activities presently conducted in the Northeast region, a broad consensus of scientists and managers from state and federal agencies, universities, and other non-governmental organizations recognizes that present monitoring activities are fragmented and moreover leave important gaps in coverage of key ecosystem properties.

To address this need, the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) and the Northeast Region Ocean Council (NROC) established a joint regional Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems Health Committee in 2012. The committee was tasked with developing a [Science and Implementation \(S&I\) Plan](#) for an Integrated Sentinel Monitoring Network (ISMN) for the Northeast U.S. The formulation of the S&I Plan was overseen by a 16-member steering committee, which convened a series of workshops open to the marine research and management communities over a two-year period between June 2013 and June 2015. The S&I Plan represents the collective efforts of over 60 experts from 45 state and federal agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations, as well as from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, that oversees Canadian observing activities in the coastal ocean waters of the Bay of Fundy and Scotian Shelf.

As outlined in the [ISMN S&I Plan](#) there needs to be an established collaborative mechanism for providing coordination support and maintaining data collection, management, and synthesis activities (see figure 1 below). The key elements of this infrastructure are the ISMN Director, the Oversight Committee, and the Center for Analysis, Prediction and Evaluation (CAPE). To learn more about the role of each element please refer to the ISMN S&I Plan or the [brief synopsis available here](#).

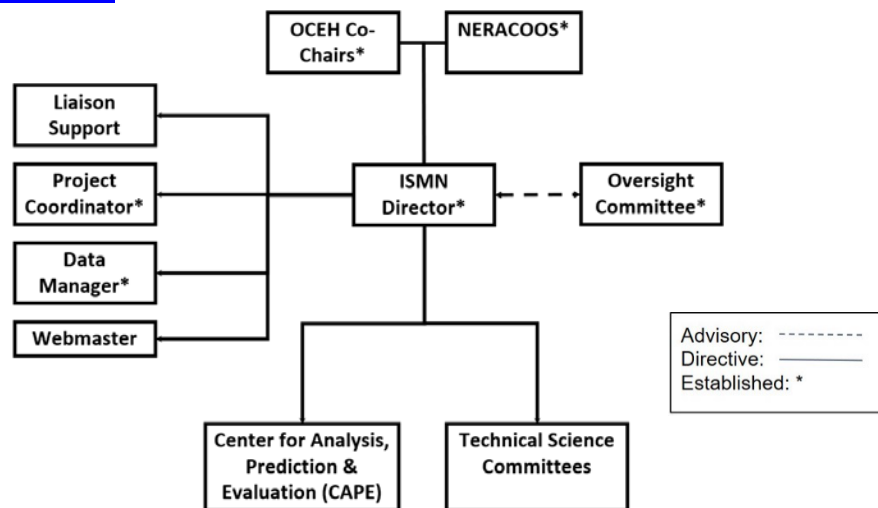


Figure 1: The image above is a schematic of the ISMN governance structure.

Role of the ISMN Oversight Committee (OC):

- 1) The Oversight Committee will advise the ISMN Director on the implementation, integration and sustainability of ISMN activities. (AKA ISMN Board of Directors)
- 2) Identify priorities and opportunities for enhancement of present observing activities, guided by the community consensus provided in the S&I Plan.
- 3) Establish and recruit participants in technical science committees to integrate and facilitate effectiveness of data collection, management, and analysis across ISMN activities.
- 4) Guide the ISMN Director in acquiring funding and awarding grants for data synthesis and interpretation through the Center for Analysis, Prediction and Evaluation (CAPE).

Composition of ISMN OC: Comprised of experts from the regional research and management community with representation from both major subregions (Long Island Sound/Southern New England and the Gulf of Maine) and from the pelagic, benthic, and coastal and estuarine habitats.

Shall consist of no less than eight (8) and no greater than sixteen (16) members consisting of:

- a. Up to four (4) members representing academic and research institutions;
- b. Up to four (4) members representing state and provincial governments;
- c. Up to four (4) members representing a cross section of industry, non-profit organizations, federal government and other users of ocean data and data products;
- d. Up to four (4) additional persons who have knowledge or skills or represent geographies or constituencies deemed to be important to the success of the organization; and
- e. At least two (2) members included in subsections (a) – (d) above shall be domiciled in Canada.

Terms of Membership: Members shall serve a term of four (4) years, provided, however, that the Oversight Committee shall stagger the expiration dates of the terms of the initial Members and succeeding Members, so that the terms of approximately one quarter of the members shall expire in any year. Each term shall begin immediately upon election. No member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive full four-year terms as a Member.

Submission Instructions: The following list of guidelines should be adhered to when nominating yourself or an individual:

1. Personal statement justifying nomination (no more than 500 words.)
2. Professional CV or resume (no more than two pages)

All applications should be emailed to Jackie Motyka (jackie@neracoos.org) by 5:00 pm on **November 30, 2018**. Questions about the RFC process should be directed to Jeff Runge (jrunge@gmri.org) or Jackie Motyka (jackie@neracoos.org).

