

## Concept Note

### Workshop on Enhancing Collaboration in Marine Scientific Research Approvals and Data Sharing

**Title:** Advancing Marine Science Collaboration: Streamlining Approvals and Enhancing Data Sharing for Deep Ocean Research

**Date:** 3rd Quarter, 2025

**Venue:** TBD

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## Background

Marine Scientific Research (MSR) plays a pivotal role in understanding and sustainably managing our oceans. However, researchers often encounter challenges in obtaining approvals for MSR requests from coastal States. The existing processes can be time-consuming and may hinder scientific progress. Additionally, data sharing practices, particularly for deep ocean science, are inconsistent, leading to underutilization of valuable datasets.

To address these issues, this workshop aims to bring together the MSR research community and coastal States responsible for MSR approvals. The workshop will serve as a platform for open dialogue and collaboration to find practical solutions for streamlining approval processes and promoting effective data sharing.

## Objectives

1. Facilitate dialogue between the marine scientific research community and MSR-approving coastal States to identify and address key challenges in the MSR approval process.
2. Develop actionable recommendations to streamline the MSR approval process, ensuring timely and efficient authorizations.
3. Explore strategies for harmonized data sharing protocols, focusing on deep ocean science data.
4. Foster collaborations to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between researchers and coastal State authorities.

## Proposed Agenda

### Day 1:

- **Opening Remarks**
  - Welcome by Host Organization
  - Keynote Address: Importance of Collaboration in Marine Scientific Research
- **Session 1: Challenges in MSR Approvals**
  - Presentation: Overview of Current MSR Approval Processes
  - Panel Discussion: Perspectives from Researchers and Coastal States
- **Session 2: Best Practices and Lessons Learned**

- Case Studies: Successful MSR Approvals
- Group Discussion: Identifying Bottlenecks and Solutions

## **Day 2:**

- **Session 3: Deep Ocean Data Sharing**
  - Presentation: Existing Protocols and Gaps
  - Workshop: Creating a Framework for Data Sharing
- **Session 4: Collaborative Solutions**
  - Breakout Groups: Developing Recommendations for MSR Approvals and Data Sharing
  - Presentation of Group Findings
- **Closing Session:**
  - Summary of Workshop Outcomes
  - Adoption of Recommendations
  - Closing Remarks

## **Expected Outcomes**

1. A comprehensive set of recommendations to streamline MSR approval processes.
2. A draft framework for harmonized data sharing protocols for deep ocean science.
3. Strengthened partnerships between the MSR community and coastal States.
4. Enhanced understanding of mutual roles and responsibilities in facilitating marine scientific research.

## **Participants**

- Representatives from coastal States' MSR approving authorities.
- Members of the marine scientific research community.
- Experts in international maritime law and ocean governance.
- Representatives from relevant regional and international organizations (e.g., SPC, Seabed 2030, GEBCO, IOC-UNESCO).

## **Support and Sponsorship**

The workshop will seek support from regional and international partners, including but not limited to:

- The Pacific Community (SPC)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO)
- Seabed 2030 Project

- National and regional marine research institutions

## **Conclusion**

This workshop represents a critical step in fostering greater collaboration and efficiency in marine scientific research approvals and data sharing. By addressing key challenges and identifying actionable solutions, the marine scientific community and coastal States can work together to advance our collective understanding and stewardship of the ocean.

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