

Mandate: Science Planning and Policy Oversight Committee (SPPOC) for the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program

1. SPPOC is a committee created by the IMI in accordance with the terms and conditions of IMI's by-laws. This committee is the highest-level committee of Scientific Advisory Structure (SAS), and shall formulate scientific and policy recommendations with respect to the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP). It shall conduct IODP planning, as well as evaluation and assessment of the Program as to its accomplishments as compared to the goals and objectives which have been established. It may be assigned managerial and operational responsibilities for appropriate tasks, and will provide for scientific liaison to other scientific programs. The IMI Sapporo Office (IMI-J) will support the SPPOC's activity.
2. The SPPOC may establish subcommittees for cognizance of certain components of the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program. Areas of cognizance and the Terms of Reference for each subcommittee shall be defined by the SPPOC. In particular, a Science Planning Committee (SPC) shall be established. The SPPOC will determine the chair and vice-chair of SPC based on IODP member nominations. IMI BOG shall approve the SPC Chair nomination.
3. The SPPOC will review and approve the annual IODP program plan and budget prior to forwarding it to the IMI Board of Governors for corporate approval and contractual submission to the Lead Agencies.
4. The members of the SPPOC shall be representatives from oceanographic and marine research institutions or other organizations, which have a major interest in the study of the sea floor. Members will be selected based on recommendations from national committees from member nations and have a term of two years. In addition, the IMI BOG will appoint two of its members to the SPPOC, one from Japan and another from the US. In the event another Lead Agency joins IODP, the IMI BOG will appoint three members to SPPOC. The IMI Board of Governors will approve the membership of the SPPOC. The Board of Governors on the recommendation of the SPPOC or in the event of a country or consortium ceasing to have a valid Memorandum in existence may cancel membership of any member.
5. The SPPOC shall reach all its decisions by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members. A quorum shall constitute two-thirds of the Committee. If a member of the Committee is absent from a duly called meeting of the Committee, an alternate may be designated with full authority to act for them in their absence.
6. The Chair and Vice Chair of SPPOC will rotate initially between Japan and the United States each with a term of office of two years. The IMI Board of Governors based on IODP member nominations will determine the Chair and Vice Chair of SPPOC.
7. The Committee, and all subcommittees thereto, shall keep written records of their proceedings.
8. Members of this Committee, and members of subcommittees duly appointed thereby, while acting within the Terms of Reference, shall be indemnified, and held harmless by the corporation from and against any and all liabilities, damages and demands, losses, costs and expenses arising from acts or omission related to performance as committee members.
9. These Terms of Reference, upon ratification by the Board of Governors of IMI, will supersede all previous Terms of Reference.