

Call for U.S. Expert Nominations

Pool of Experts World Ocean Assessment-II

For individuals working in the United States, please send the completed Personal History Form (details below) and your curriculum vitae to the U.S. National Focal Point for the second World Ocean Assessment, **Allison Reed**, of the U.S. Department of State Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs at ReedAD@state.gov, with a copy to Dr. David Halpern at david.halpern@jpl.nasa.gov.

Background

Following a recommendation by the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, in 2016 the United Nations (UN) completed the first global integrated assessment of the state of the world ocean, the first World Ocean Assessment (WOA-I): <http://www.worldoceanassessment.org>. This first Assessment highlighted the scale of the challenges that we face and identified the gaps in knowledge and in capacity-building that need to be overcome if we are to deal with these challenges.

The UN is now developing the second World Ocean Assessment (WOA-II), with a projected completion date for WOA-II of 2020. Building on WOA-I, the WOA-II is expected to produce a streamlined report describing the scientific aspects of threats to, and conditions in, our marine environment. WOA-II is intended to be a useful resource for policy-makers and will serve as a key reference on the state of the marine environment.

The UN established a Group of Experts to have scientific oversight for WOA-II (http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/Group_of_Experts_Mar_2018.pdf). The Group of Experts will select members of writing teams, commentators, and reviewers for the WOA-II from an international Pool of Experts. To participate in the preparation of WOA-II, as either a member of a writing team or as a reviewer, you must therefore be a member of the Pool of Experts.

In order to be considered as a member of the Pool of Experts, the UN requires scientists who are both internationally recognized as an expert relevant to the topics being addressed in WOA-II, and who have the ability to serve in a voluntary and independent capacity. Time commitment to the effort is variable, depending on the role a member of the Pool of Experts chooses to fill (e.g. reviewer, commentator, or writing team member).

Get Involved

A robust Pool of Experts comprised of experts in all areas identified is critical to ensuring the success of the WOA-II. You are therefore strongly encouraged to join the Pool of Experts. We are looking for scientists across a large range of marine-related disciplines, with expertise in all the world's oceans and marine areas, and especially encourage those with experience in social sciences to apply.

You are invited to participate in WOA-II by becoming a member of the Pool of Experts. The application process to become part of the Pool of Experts is open to everyone. Please download and complete the Personal History Form, which is available at http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm. Search for the Bulletin entitled "Appointment to the Pool of Experts Second Cycle (2016-2020)." Then, open the Bulletin entitled "Personal History Form for the nomination by the United Nations Member States of national experts to serve in the Pool of Experts of the Regular Process." Scientists knowledgeable in subjects described in the Personal History Form are encouraged to join the Pool of Experts. Also, please read the Guidance for Contributors Part I and Part II, which appear immediately below the Personal History Form.

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While the nomination period for the Pool of Experts will remain open, the deadline for the first round of nominations is 30 April 2018. This will allow the Group of Experts to constitute Writing Teams as soon as feasible with an expected date of completion of 31 May 2018.

Although it is expected that writing and reviewing efforts of the WOA-II will be conducted through electronic correspondence, including video and telephone communications, there may be an occasion for a face-to-face meeting. The U.S. Department of State and the UN, including their offices and divisions, have no funds to support the expenses of members of the Pool of Experts. Thus, applicants are encouraged to consult with their supervisors or program managers on the potential support for related time and travel.

For additional information about the World Ocean Assessment (aka Regular Process), please visit http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm.