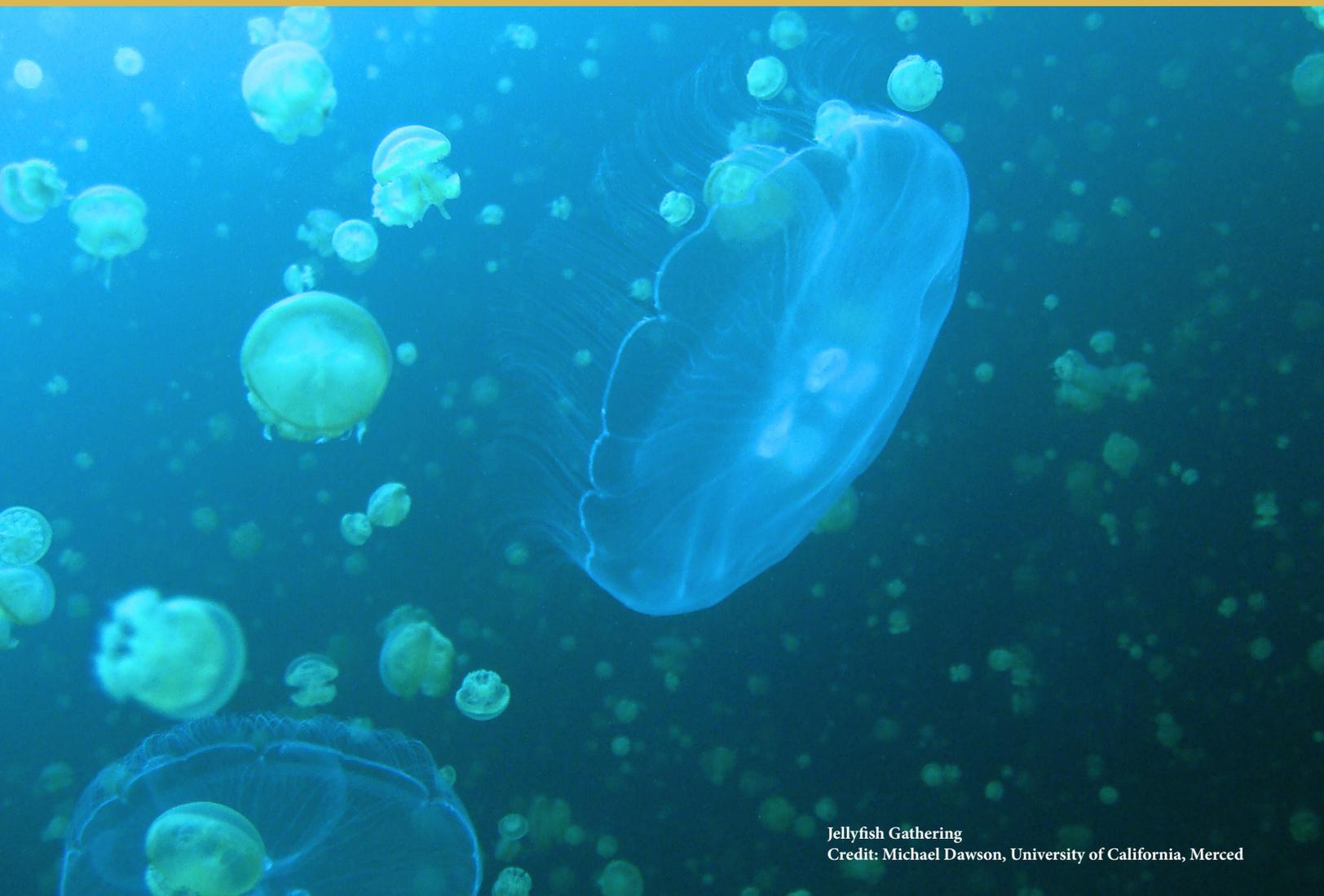


OCE | DIVISION
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SCIENCES

MAKING WAVES

NEWSLETTER

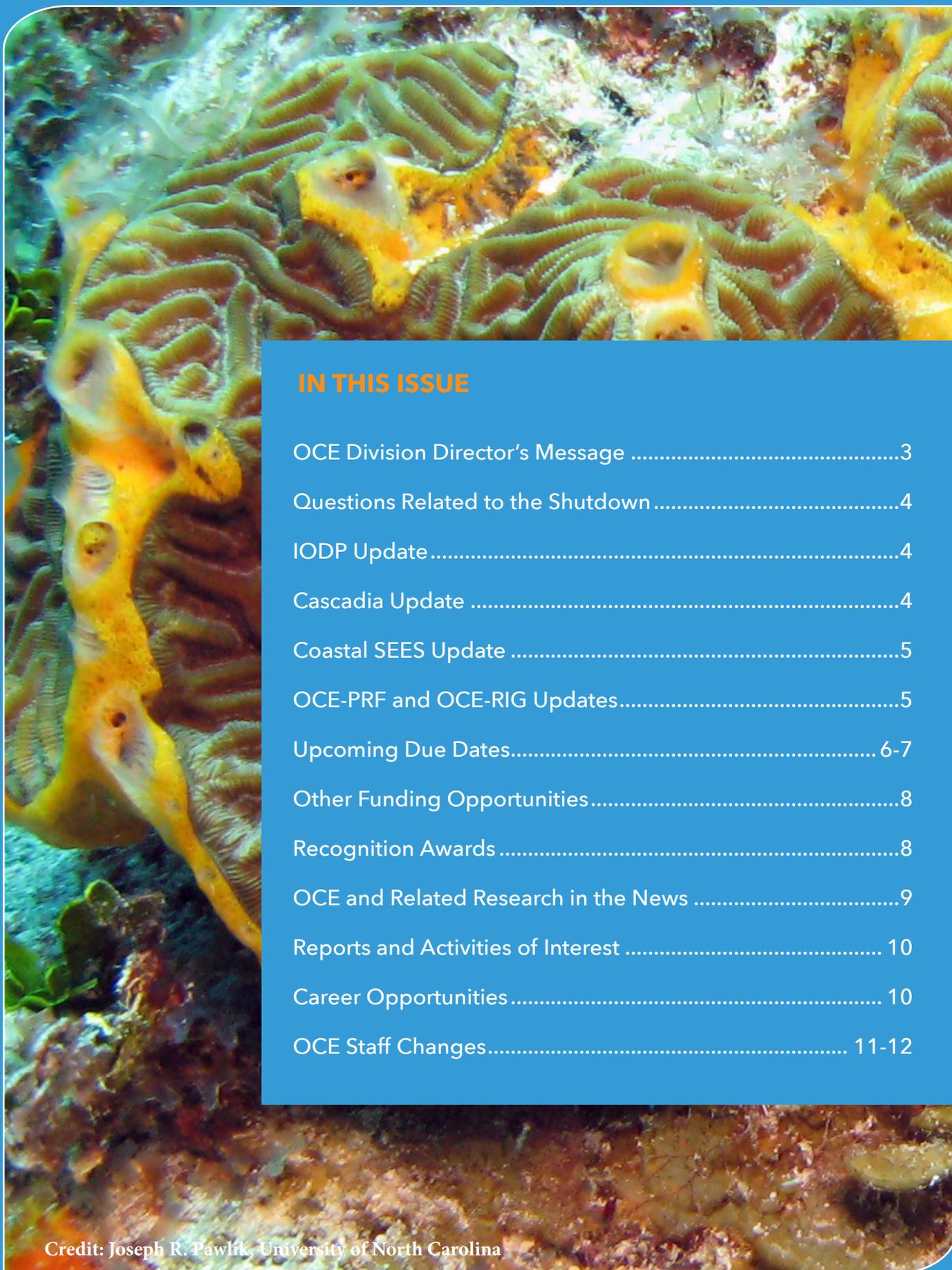
October 2013



Jellyfish Gathering
Credit: Michael Dawson, University of California, Merced



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN



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Credit: Joseph R. Pawlik, University of North Carolina

OCE DIVISION DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Members of the Ocean Sciences Community, July of 2013 marked the beginning of my fourth and final year at NSF. It's hard for me to believe that time has flown by so fast. I have had the opportunity to work on so many important issues with so many great people that it becomes easy to lose track of time. But the reality is that four consecutive years is the maximum that a person in an IPA (Intergovernmental Personnel Act) position can stay employed at NSF. The purpose of this letter is to encourage others to seriously consider taking up the baton.

I begin with some personal reflection. Being Division Director of OCE has been the most challenging and rewarding position I have ever occupied. Rarely a day goes by when I have not worked on important issues that matter to lots of people. There is "never a dull moment" at NSF. The professional benefits of being in this position for me have been substantial for all the reasons that led me to take the job. First, I wanted to give something back to an agency that was instrumental to my own career and those of so many others. Second, I wanted to work in a position that offered the potential to make a real difference in the future direction of the ocean sciences. Third, I wanted to broaden my intellectual horizons beyond the sub-discipline that defined most of my career. Fourth, I wanted to gain perspective from

outside the realm of university campuses that had been my home since my freshman year in college. Finally, I wanted to experience and learn about the sociopolitical ecosystem that is Washington, D.C. and the best way to do so is by moving inside the beltway and becoming a member of the federal government. Add to that the great staff and program officers at OCE with whom it has been an honor to work with on a daily basis. Suffice it to say that all of my prior expectations have been fulfilled many times over and I am so grateful for the opportunity this position has provided.

On the practical side, there are many ways that an IPA position eases the move to NSF. For example, your pay check and fringe benefits continue to come from your home institution so things like health benefits and retirement contributions do not change. Of course your home institution must approve your request for leave but NSF reimburses all expenses so there is no financial loss to be absorbed. There is an allowance for IPAs to help defray living expenses depending on the nature of your appointment. There is also a process for developing a plan that enables you to spend up to about 1 day per week on your own research and scholarly activities so that you maintain vital linkages to colleagues at your home institution and elsewhere. This helps make the transition back to research more seamless. On the other hand, it may also be possible to take the position as a permanent appointment instead of an IPA.

The GEO Directorate will be advertising the OCE Division Director position this fall with a start date for the new hire by next summer. We will send a copy of the advert to our email distribution list when it comes out. I would be happy to speak with and encourage those who might be seriously interested in taking up the challenge of leading the Division of Ocean Sciences at NSF.

Regards,

David O. Conover, Director
Division of Ocean Sciences

QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE SHUTDOWN

For questions related to impacts of the government shutdown, please see the webpage, [Resumption of Operations at the National Science Foundation](#).

IODP UPDATE

An award has been made to University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography for operation of the new International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) Science Support Office. The PI for this award is Richard Norris and the Executive Director for the office is Holly Given. The office supports the JOIDES Resolution Facility Board and the Advisory Panels that report to it, as well as handling the submission and review process of IODP proposals and the associated site survey data. An important goal for this new Support Office will be the consolidation of drilling proposal and site survey databases to streamline the submission process.

On August 15, 2013 the NSF-OCE Division Director, David Conover, presented an Information Item to the National Science Board's Committee on Programs and Plans regarding the status of the JOIDES Resolution in the new IODP. Conover told the Board that a highly-recommended proposal resulted from the solicitation for operations and management of the JOIDES Resolution beyond FY14. However, changes in the budgetary landscape, including inflationary costs, budget sequestration, expected flat or declining budgets, and operations and maintenance associated with new OCE-funded facilities coming online in FY15 have the potential to skew the traditional facilities and science balance in OCE. Decisions regarding future operations of the JOIDES Resolution must be considered in the context of the science/facilities balance. In the next few months, NSF will engage in internal deliberations and negotiations regarding future operation of the JOIDES Resolution and will present to the National Science Board in November its plans for beyond FY2014.

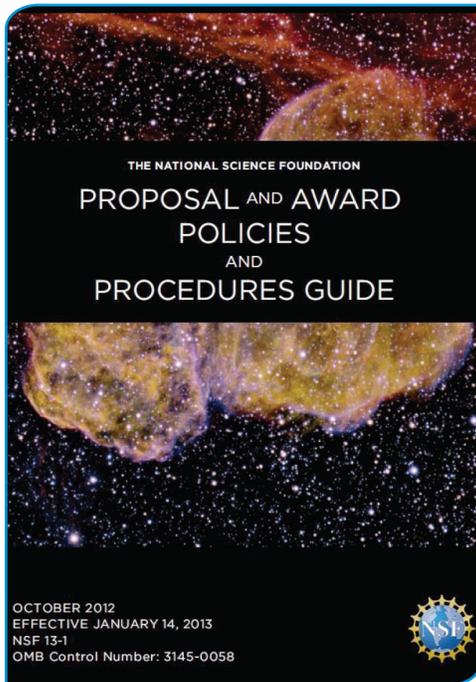
A Decadal Survey of Ocean Sciences commenced in May, 2013, and is being conducted by a National Research Council committee. The Decadal Survey will analyze the current portfolio of OCE investments in infrastructure and science, and will recommend priorities for the next decade in a report due May, 2015. This will be helpful in guiding the science/facilities balance in the future.

CASCADIA UPDATE

This summer, the marine portion of the Cascadia Initiative obtained a majority of the planned Ocean Bottom Seismometer (OBS) data from the second year's deployment. Combined with onshore seismometers and geodetic stations, these OBS data enable studies of the margin structure and processes that influence the distribution and potential rate of great megathrust earthquakes.

For Year 2 of the planned 2011-2015 acquisition, 69 of the 70 deployed OBS were successfully recovered off Cascadia. Data return rate overall was similar to Year 1, although performance of instrument types differed somewhat. Useful seismometer channel data was obtained by 56% of the instruments throughout the deployment. Another 27% of the instruments recorded useful seismometer data for the first 6-7 months of the Year 2 period. Pressure channels have useful data from 27 Differential Pressure Gauges (92% of those deployed) and 17 Absolute Pressure Gauges (61% of deployed).

All of the data are [openly available](#) to interested scientists, and guidelines for submitting proposals to fund studies using the data are available in a [Dear Colleague Letter](#). In 2013, MGG received 13 Cascadia proposals, and funded 5. The GeoPRISMS program received 4 Cascadia proposals each of the past two years. Two of those proposals have been funded and the more recent submissions are in review. The funded projects will conduct a variety of crust and mantle seismic analyses to assess past and current margin deformation as well as extents and influences of along-strike variability in the incoming plate structure.



COASTAL SEES UPDATE

The [Autumn 2012 issue of the OCE newsletter](#) highlighted the [Coastal SEES program](#). As noted, a goal and challenge of Coastal SEES is the interconnection of areas of scholarship about natural and human processes in ways that will better inform societal decisions about the use of coastal systems. A total of [11 projects](#) were funded in the first competition. The new Coastal SEES solicitation (NSF 14-502) has a proposal deadline of January 21, 2014. Substantive changes include:

- The Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) is no longer formally participating in Coastal SEES.
- Track 1 and Track 2 proposal options have been eliminated. Proposals are invited for projects of 3-5 years in duration with total budgets in the range of \$800,000 to \$2 million (maximum).

For OCE-related questions about Coastal SEES, please contact [Larry Weber](#) or [Mete Uz](#).



Scientists are studying the effects of dredging on sediment transport in urban estuaries.

Credit: NOAA

OCE-PRF AND OCE-RIG UPDATES

The [Ocean Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships \(OCE-PRF\)](#) program is intended to support the research of the individual fellows and increase the diversity of the U.S. ocean sciences research community. OCE-PRF supported 12 new fellows in 2013.

The [Ocean Sciences Research Initiation Grants \(OCE-RIG\)](#) program provides start up funding for researchers who have been recently appointed to tenure track (or equivalent) positions, with the twin goals of enhancing the development of their research careers and broadening the participation of under-represented groups in ocean sciences. OCE-RIG supported six new PIs in 2013.

The next target date for OCE-PRF and OCE-RIG proposals is January 13, 2014. A substantive change is that OCE-PRF proposals are now invited in two tracks: Track 1 (Broadening Participation) and Track 2 (International).

UPCOMING DUE DATES

Most OCE programs continue to have 2 target dates per year for unsolicited proposals: February 15 and August 15. The [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. (Note that a new solicitation for [Oceanographic Facilities and Equipment Support](#) (NSF 13-589) was recently released, defining requirements for submitting proposals to the Ship Operations, Oceanographic Technical Services, Oceanographic Instrumentation, and Shipboard Scientific Support Equipment programs.)

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

(* Note that because of the government shutdown, NSF has revised due dates for funding opportunities that had due dates between October 1-25, 2013. See the [NSF Resumption of Operations webpage](#))

ADVANCE: Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers	NSF 12-584	October 4, 2013 → November 6, 2013* (Letter of Intent)
Paleo Perspectives on Climate Change (P2C2)	NSF 13-576	October 15, 2013 → November 1, 2013* (Letter of Intent)
Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC)	NSF 13-569	October 18, 2013 → November 13, 2013*
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)	NSF 13-584	October 18, 2013 → November 8, 2013*
Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH)	NSF 10-612	November 19, 2013
Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases (EEID) See guidance on the Biological Oceanography webpage.)	NSF 13-577	November 20, 2013
East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes for U.S. Graduate Students (EAPSI)	NSF 13-593	November 25, 2013
NSF Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability Fellows	NSF 13-595	November 26, 2013
Ocean Acidification	NSF 13-586	December 3, 2013

UPCOMING DUE DATES (CONT.)

Arctic Research Opportunities	NSF 13-592	December 6, 2013
Improvements in Facilities, Communications, and Equipment at Biological Field Stations and Marine Laboratories (FSML)	NSF 12-505)	December 13, 2013
Decadal and Regional Climate Prediction using Earth System Models (EaSM)	NSF 13-607)	December 23, 2013
Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers Program (I/UCRC)	NSF 13-594	January 6, 2014
Ocean Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (OCE-PRF)	NSF 13-603	January 13, 2014
Ocean Sciences Research Initiation Grants (OCE-RIG)	NSF 13-606	January 13, 2014
Coastal SEES	NSF 14-502	January 21, 2014
Catalyzing New International Collaborations (CNIC)	NSF 13-605	January 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

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[FY 2014 Demonstration of a U.S. Marine Biodiversity Observation Network \(Marine BON\)](#) is a grant opportunity to be funded by NOAA, NASA, BOEM and USGS on behalf of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP). The closing date for applications is December 2, 2013.

[GEO's Innovation Call Newsletter – 2013 Fall Edition](#) highlights a number of NSF programs, including Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers, I-Corps, Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry, and Partnerships for Innovation.

The [Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research \(PEER\)](#) Science program invites scientists in developing countries to apply for funds to support research and capacity building activities on topics of importance to the U.S. Agency for International Development to be conducted in partnership with NSF-funded U.S. PIs. Managed by the U.S. National Academies, the program funded [54 new projects in 2013](#), and recently announced the next call for proposals with a submission deadline of December 16, 2013.

[Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide \(GROW\)](#) expands opportunities for recipients of NSF Graduate Research Fellowships to engage in international collaboration through extended research stays in more than a dozen countries. Watch the GROW webpage for soon-to-be-released application details.

RECOGNITION AWARDS

Please consider nominations for the following awards (with submission deadlines):

[Alan T. Waterman Award](#) (November 15, 2013): Recognizes the talent, creativity, and influence of a singular young researcher. In addition to a medal, the awardee receives a grant of \$1,000,000 over a 5-year period.

[Vannevar Bush Award](#) (November 7, 2013): Honors truly exceptional lifelong leaders in science and technology who have made substantial contributions to the welfare of the Nation through public service activities in science, technology, and public policy.

[Public Service Award](#) (November 7, 2013): Honors individuals and groups that have made substantial contributions to increasing public understanding of science and engineering in the United States.

[National Medal of Science](#) (March 2014): Provides Presidential recognition of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science and engineering.

OCE AND RELATED RESEARCH IN THE NEWS

- 1 In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, Oklahoma tornadoes, NSF awards \$32 million in hazards sustainability grants
- 2 NSF awards grants for deployment of new observing system in the North Atlantic Ocean
- 3 Outbreak: Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease grants support research on disease transmission
- 4 In race against time, NSF grants fund research on Earth's threatened biodiversity
- 5 NSF awards first coastal sustainability grants for research on world's most populated areas
- 6 National Science Foundation awards \$19.4 million for research on coupled natural and human systems
- 7 Scientists confirm existence of largest single volcano on Earth
- 8 NSF Frontiers in Earth-System Dynamics awards explore links among Earth processes and systems
- 9 Ocean acidification: Making new discoveries through National Science Foundation research grants
- 10 Back to the future: Scientists look into Earth's "Deep Time" to predict future effects of climate change
- 11 Infectious diseases and climate change intersect with no simple answers
- 12 Sick Sea Fans: Undersea "Doctors" to the Rescue
- 13 NSF Awards Third Round of Grants to Advance Digitization of Biodiversity Collections
- 14 Study Identifies Source of Oil Sheens Near Deepwater Horizon Site
- 15 Long-Buried New Jersey Seawall Spared Coastal Homes From Hurricane Sandy's Wrath
- 16 NSF, USDA, DOE Award Grants to Improve Predictions of Climate Change on Regional, Decadal Scales

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

REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

Oceanography's September 2013 [Special Issue On Coastal Long Term Ecological Research](#) highlights the eight NSF-funded LTER sites that focus on coastal marine systems.

The Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry (OCB) Ocean Acidification Subcommittee hosted the second [Ocean Acidification PI Meeting](#) September 18-20, 2013 in Washington, D.C. to:

- 1 strengthen scientific collaboration and minimize duplication of efforts;
- 2 synthesize the current state of knowledge and identify major uncertainties;
- 3 promote effective data management and sharing;
- 4 explore how to apply results of OA studies to the world outside the lab; and
- 5 identify outstanding research questions.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

OCE plans to recruit a rotating program officer to work with the [Biological Oceanography Program](#) in the division's Ocean Section. The projected start date is August 2014. For more information, contact [Don Rice](#).

OCE plans to recruit a rotating program officer to work with the [Biological Oceanography Program](#) in the division's Ocean Section. The projected start date is early 2014. For more information, contact [Dave Garrison](#).



As storm surge buffers, wetlands play an important role in coastal sustainability.
Credit: NOAA

OCE STAFF CHANGES



Michael Sieracki

OCE is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Michael Sieracki as a permanent Program Manager in the Biological Oceanography Program starting in September. Mike got his bachelors degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Delaware, then a Masters in Microbiology and PhD in Oceanography both at the University of Rhode Island. He did a postdoc at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences and was promoted to Associate Professor at the College of William and Mary. He has been a Senior Research Scientist at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences for 23 years, and served as interim Director there twice. He was Director of the J. J. MacIsaac Facility for Aquatic Cytometry where he developed the FlowCAM imaging-in-flow instrument, and single cell genomics for marine microbes. He has taught undergraduate courses at the Maine Maritime Academy and Colby College, and was an instructor for several summers at the Microbial Oceanography summer course at the University of Hawaii. He has spent over 180 days at sea on 28 research cruises, many as chief scientist. He served as a rotator Program Manager in Biological Oceanography at NSF from 2010 - 2012, and spent 4 months sabbatical in Spain in 2012 learning basic phylogenetics and bioinformatics. Mike's work has focused on developing and applying new tools to answer science questions about the microbial ecology of the oceans.



Meagan Thompson

Meagan joined OCE in July as a Science Assistant in Marine Geosciences – Ocean Drilling Program. Prior to NSF, she worked as the Director of Technology for an internet startup company, where she herded a team of 14 software developers working on innovative approaches to web-based video syndication platforms. Meagan has a master of science in geoscience with a focus on computational mineralogy.

OCE STAFF CHANGES (CONT.)



Katherine Walther

Katie joined OCE in August as a Science Assistant in Marine Geology and Geophysics. She has a bachelor of science in environmental geosciences from the University of Notre Dame and a master of science in earth and environmental sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago, with a focus in microbial diversity in alkaline hot springs of Yellowstone National Park.

S. Bradley Moran

Brad has taken a post, starting in September, with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy as Assistant Director, Ocean Sciences. He will focus on implementing the U.S. Ocean Science Policy and assume responsibility for a broad range of ocean, coastal, and marine resource-related matters. Brad is on leave as professor at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, and had been serving as Program Director in OCE's Chemical Oceanography Program.

Leonard Pace

Leonard completed his service as Science Assistant for the Ocean Drilling Program at the end of June. During his time at NSF, he also provided support for many other NSF programs including, Ocean Acidification, Frontiers in Earth System Dynamics, EarthCube, and several Education programs. Leonard also served as an Education Officer for IODP leg 342T (School of Rock). Leonard is now the Science Program Coordinator at the Schmidt Ocean Institute.

Catherine ('Cat') Wolner

Cat completed her service as Science Assistant for the Marine Geology and Geophysics Program at the end of June. She provided support for the Paleo Perspectives on Climate Change (P2C2) and GeoPRISMS competitions. A coastal geomorphologist by training, she also served on the cross-directorate Coastal SEES team. Cat's writing was featured in NSF highlights and abstracts, LiveWire, and an expedition blog featuring an NSF-funded research cruise. Cat spent the summer as an instructor at the Indiana University Geology Field Camp in Montana, and will be pursuing a career in science writing.

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 Larry Weber (lweber@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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