

# Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry (OCB) Ocean Atmosphere Interaction Committee (OAIC)

## OAIC Charge

The Ocean-Atmosphere Interaction (OAIC) Committee was formed in 2018 as a topical subcommittee of the OCB Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) to strengthen communication and collaboration between ocean and atmospheric scientists within the U.S. The committee primarily seeks to provide a support system for scientists working at the air-sea interface, especially to overcome the disciplinary segregation that can result from separate atmospheric or oceanic science community platforms. OAIC will work to build a flourishing, collaborative air-sea interaction research community in the U.S. and encourage synergistic activities between U.S. scientists and the international initiative Surface Ocean Lower Atmosphere Study (SOLAS, <http://www.solas-int.org/>), an established and active international program aimed at understanding interactions between the ocean and atmosphere and linking this knowledge with climate and society.

Specific roles of OAIC include:

- Representing the interests of scientists working at the air-sea interface by promoting the importance of the field to the wider scientific community and influencing the future actions, policies, or decisions by educating the public and decision makers
- Organizing dedicated air-sea interaction workshops on critical topics or organizing sessions and short workshops highlighting research associated with air-sea interaction at existing conferences (AGU, Ocean Sciences, etc.)
- Mentoring a new generation of graduate students and postdocs involved or seeking to become more involved in research pertaining to air-sea interaction
- Supporting early career scientists to travel to meetings focused on air-sea interaction, including international SOLAS meetings, educational opportunities, and workshops.
- Communicating the goals of the committee, possibilities for involvement, and “hot topic” issues through short articles (e.g., *American Geophysical Union (AGU) Eos*, *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society (BAMS)*, *Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Bulletin*) and through emailed announcements
- Assisting in exploring mechanisms by which research at the boundary of traditional atmospheric and oceanic disciplines can be successfully supported by U.S. funding agencies and private foundations

OAIC members participate in monthly teleconferences (frequency adjusted as appropriate), plan and participate in various activities associated with the charge and aims of the committee, and prepare OAIC-related communications and documents. Members are strongly encouraged to attend relevant OCB and SOLAS meetings and take advantage of opportunities to meet as a group in conjunction with other U.S. and international meetings. The OCB Project Office will provide limited support for these OAIC gatherings.

## OAIC Terms of Reference

The terms of the inaugural set of 12 OAIC members will range from 2 to 4 years in order for the subcommittee to establish itself via the goals and activities defined above. Following this inaugural period, the subcommittee will gradually transition to new membership in a staggered manner to ensure continuity of leadership and ongoing scientific activities. Thereafter, OAIC members shall serve a term of 3 years, with the option to serve one additional term for a maximum service of 6 years. The membership shall comprise 9 to 12 scientists with expertise at

the boundary of atmospheric and marine science, as well as those whose research is more heavily weighted to either marine or atmospheric science. Additionally, OAIC members should have a vested interest in making scientific contributions to the broader OCB and SOLAS communities, both through their own research and through their work on the subcommittee. The OAIC shall include at least one international and one early career member at all times. The international member is expected to build and strengthen ties to ongoing OAIC-relevant scientific research and activities outside the U.S. An early career member should provide leadership within the subcommittee in planning activities and initiatives to support early career scientists. The early career member must be within 4 years of having completed a PhD; both postdoctoral researchers and faculty members are eligible. In addition to maintaining the appropriate expertise on the committee, OAIC must also consider issues of balance (scientific, geographic, institution, gender, career stage, etc.).

The OAIC election process begins when the OCB Project Office solicits nominations from the community for new OAIC members. Current OAIC members will then discuss all nominees and voting will take place via electronic ballot. The OCB Project Office will tally all results and new members will be chosen by simple majority, with separate voting categories for international and early career members. Those who wish to serve a second term must attain majority approval by the rest of the OAIC. The newly voted OAIC members are submitted to the OCB SSC for final approval. If an OAIC member resigns before the completion of his or her term, the OCB Project Office and OAIC will coordinate a nomination and election process, if necessary, as outlined above to fill the vacant position as soon as possible.

### **OAIC Leadership**

OAIC maintains one chair at all times. The chair serves a three-year term. The chair provides counsel and leadership in the development of OAIC products and activities that promote program goals. The inaugural OAIC chair was appointed by the OCB SSC. Subsequently, the OAIC chair election process will include an internal nomination and voting process among existing OAIC members. The elected chair must then be approved by the OCB SSC.

Specific duties of the chair include:

- Working with OCB Project Office staff to plan and lead regular teleconferences and meetings
- Interfacing with agency representatives on behalf of OAIC
- Reporting back to the OCB SSC during regular SSC meetings and obtaining SSC approval for OAIC decisions about membership, activities, etc.
- Updating the SOLAS U.S. national representative on OAIC-organized activities and future plans
- Regularly advising the OCB Project Office in its OAIC support role
- Promoting OAIC science with the scientific community, federal agencies, and the international community in a leadership role
- Ensuring the subcommittee is functioning effectively, which could include regulating activities and/or membership
- Attending OCB summer workshop, when possible, to represent OAIC, ensure topical relevance and provide guidance to OAIC regarding OCB priorities
- Interfacing with scientists and the community to identify key priorities in research and communication

The OCB Project Office will support OCB-OAIC by providing staff resources as required and available.