

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****Solicitation of Nominations for Membership on the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB)**

AGENCY: Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of nominations for membership on the NOAA Science Advisory Board.

SUMMARY: The NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) is the only Federal Advisory Committee with responsibility to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere on long- and short-range strategies for research, education and the application of science to resource management and environmental assessment and prediction. NOAA seeks candidates with expertise in areas relevant to its mission, including Federal, State, and local government; social and behavioral sciences; artificial intelligence and machine learning; high performance computing; data management, including open access and accessibility; uncrewed systems; whale research and conservation; aircraft systems and modernization; and economic analysis, including cost-benefit evaluation of observing systems.

NOAA also encourages nominations of qualified mid-career scientists and engineers.

DATES: Nominations should be sent to the email address specified below and must be received no more than 30 days after publication of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Nominations and applications should be submitted electronically to the SAB Designated Federal Officer (DFO), at noaa.scienceadvisoryboard@noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Casey Stewart, SAB Designated Federal Officer (DFO), SSMC3, Room 11360, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910; Phone Number: 240-653-8297; Email: noaa.scienceadvisoryboard@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) is a Federal advisory committee established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.* The SAB advises NOAA leadership on matters related to science and

technology, research priorities, and the integration of science into NOAA operations.

NOAA seeks to maintain a balanced membership that reflects an interdisciplinary nature of expertise, sectors, and perspectives relevant to NOAA's mission.

Recruitment*Phased Recruitment Approach*

To ensure continuity of operations and timely filling of vacancies, NOAA will use a phased recruitment and appointment approach. This approach allows NOAA to:

- Maintain a ready pool of highly qualified candidates
- Fill vacancies as they occur, including mid-term departures
- Support leadership succession planning, including Vice Chair roles
- Ensure compliance with FACA balance and membership requirements

Candidates selected through this process may be appointed at different times through January 31, 2028, depending on Board needs.

Scope of Nominations

NOAA is interested in candidates with expertise in, but not limited to: Weather, water, and climate science and prediction, ocean science and technology, Data science, artificial intelligence, and machine learning, environmental information systems, Space Commerce and explorations, Social and behavioral sciences related to environmental decision-making, Public-private partnerships and the weather enterprise.

Membership Criteria

Members are selected based on: Scientific and technical expertise; Leadership experience; Ability to contribute to SAB activities and working groups; Availability to participate actively in meetings and intersessional work; Absence of conflicts of interest.

Terms of Service

Appointments are typically for a term of *three years*, with the possibility of reappointment, subject to applicable policies and Board needs. Terms may be staggered to maintain continuity.

Selection Process

Nominations will be reviewed by NOAA and evaluated based on expertise, Board needs, and balance considerations. Final appointments are made by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

or designee. Individuals selected for Federal Advisory Committee Membership become a Special Government Employee (SGE) of the United States Government. According to 18 U.S.C. 202(a), a SGE(s) is an officer or employee of an agency who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed to perform temporary duties, with or without compensation, not to exceed 130 days during any period of 365 consecutive days, either on a full time or intermittent basis. After the selection process is complete applicants selected to serve on the Board must complete the following actions before they can be appointed as a Board member: (a) Security Clearance (online Background Security Check process and fingerprinting conducted through NOAA Workforce Management), and (b) Confidential Financial Disclosure Report. SGEs are required to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report annually to avoid involvement in any real or apparent conflict of interest.

Nominations

Interested persons may nominate themselves or others for membership on the SAB. An application is required for all candidates, including those nominated by third parties. The application package must include the following: (1) The nominee's full name, title, institutional affiliation, and contact information; (2) The nominee's area of industry perspective (academia, commercial service provider, or end-user); (3) A short description of qualifications relative to the advice solicited in this Notice; and (4) A current resume (maximum of four pages). All nomination information must be provided in a single, complete package, and must be sent to the SAB DFO at the electronic address provided above with the subject line "Application for SAB Membership 2026".

Privacy Act

Privacy Act Statement: Authority. The collection of information concerning nominations to the NSGAB FAC is authorized under the FACA, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. and its implementing regulations, 41 CFR part 102-3, and in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, (Privacy Act) 5 U.S.C. 552a.

Purpose. The collection of names, contact information, resumes, professional information, and qualifications is required in order for the Under Secretary to appoint members to the NOAA SAB FAC.

Routine Uses. NOAA will use the nomination information for the purpose set forth above. The Privacy Act of 1974

authorizes disclosure of the information collected to NOAA staff for work-related purposes and for other purposes only as set forth in the Privacy Act and for routine uses published in the Privacy Act System of Records Notice COMMERCE/DEPT-11: Candidates for Membership, Members, and Former Members of Department of Commerce Advisory Committees, available at <https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/PrivacyAct/SORNs/dept-11.html> and the System of Records Notice COMMERCE/DEPT-18: Employees Personnel Files Not Covered by Notices of Other Agencies, available at <https://www.osec.doc.gov/opog/PrivacyAct/SORNs/DEPT-18.html>.

Disclosure. Furnishing the nomination information is voluntary; however, if the information is not provided, the individual would not be considered for appointment as a member of the NOAA SAB FAC.

Nikola Garber,

Deputy Director of Sea Grant, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No: 260706-0163]

XRIN 0648-XA007

Deep Seabed Mining: Notice of Receipt of Consolidated Application for Deep Seabed Mining Exploration License and Commercial Recovery Permit and Announcement of Public Comment Period and Virtual Public Hearing

AGENCY: Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of receipt of consolidated application for deep seabed mining exploration license and commercial recovery permit; request for comments; notice of virtual public hearing.

SUMMARY: NOAA has received a consolidated application for a license to conduct seabed mining exploration activities and a permit to conduct commercial recovery activities that is fully compliant with the applicable information requirements of the Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act (DSHMRA or the Act) and the Act's implementing regulations. As part of the application review process, NOAA will hold one virtual public hearing on The

Metal Company USA, LLC's (TMC USA) consolidated application and will accept written comments on the application submitted electronically via the instructions below.

DATES: Comments on the application must be received by October 19, 2026. The virtual public hearing is scheduled for October 13, 2026, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). Instructions for attending the virtual public hearing are provided below.

ADDRESSES: The TMC USA application is electronically available at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2026-1751>. You may send comments, identified by docket number, by either of the following means:

Written Comments

Submit all public written comments on TMC USA's Application via the Federal [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) e-Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2026-1751> or go to www.regulations.gov and enter "NOAA-NOS-2026-1751" in the search bar.

Comments must be submitted by the date and electronic method described below to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NOAA. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. Comments that are not related to the application or that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language will not be considered. To ensure full consideration by NOAA, comments must be submitted in English. Comments that are not submitted in English may not be posted to the public dockets on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) or considered by NOAA. All relevant comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or information that is otherwise sensitive or protected. NOAA will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Virtual Public Hearing

You may submit oral comments on TMC USA's Application during the October 13, 2026 meeting.

NOAA will conduct a virtual public hearing via Adobe Connect. Each person who wants to attend the virtual public hearing must electronically register by

October 9, 2026, 5 p.m. ET. Attendance at the virtual public hearing will be limited to 1,000 individuals. Any person who registers and wants to speak at a virtual public hearing should indicate that they want to speak when they register. To register for either hearing, use the following link: https://noaabroadcast.adobeconnect.com/e2hmvfjeiu4s/event/event_info.html. Each registered participant will receive an Adobe Connect link for the virtual public hearing.

Once the virtual public hearing starts, NOAA will describe the virtual public hearing logistics. NOAA will then start the public comment part of the virtual public hearing and will call on speakers on a first come/first served basis through the raised hand function of Adobe Connect. NOAA will then unmute the person selected to speak. Each speaker will have three minutes to speak on the TMC USA application. If a speaker does not respond when they are called on, NOAA will move to the next speaker. At the three-minute mark for each speaker, NOAA will mute that speaker. Speakers cannot allot their time to another speaker. Once all speakers have spoken or at the scheduled end of the virtual public hearing, whichever is earlier, NOAA will end the virtual public hearing. NOAA retains discretion to extend the virtual public hearing if appropriate and feasible. NOAA will record the hearing and will include transcripts of the hearing on the public docket for the TMC USA application on the [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) website at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-NOS-2026-1751>. The names provided by each speaker will also be published as part of the transcripts.

The virtual public hearing does not replace the process for submission of written comments. NOAA will not respond during the virtual hearing to oral comments or questions. To ensure full consideration by NOAA, oral comments must be in English. Comments that are not in English may not be transcribed or considered by NOAA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bryan Cole, 301-233-2998, bryan.cole@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 19, 2026, NOAA received an amended consolidated application ("consolidated application") from TMC USA for a license to conduct seabed mining exploration activities and a permit to conduct commercial recovery activities in an area beyond national jurisdiction generally known as the Clarion-Clipperton Zone. This consolidated application superseded a previously-