DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) Advisory Committee

AGENCY: U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of new member solicitation for the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System (U.S. IOOS) Advisory Committee.

SUMMARY: NOAA is soliciting applications for membership on the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee (the Committee), which is a Federal Advisory Committee. The Committee is mandated by the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (the Act), part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Pub. L. 111–11), and the Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act of 2020 (Pub. L. 116–271) to provide advice to the NOAA Administrator and to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee on the planning, integrated design, operation, maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System (U.S. IOOS). NOAA is accepting applications for membership on the Committee to fill vacancies that will occur on September 14, 2027. NOAA encourages applications from individuals with expertise and/or experience in the following areas: coastal and ocean observing; data management and architecture; coastal and ocean modeling; Great Lakes; philanthropy; Non-Governmental Organization; scientific institutions (Academic); IOOS regional interests; State, local and tribal interests; blue economy; social science; public-private partnerships; marine technologies industries; ocean and coastal leadership; and other science-related fields.

DATES: Applications should be submitted no later than January 5, 2027. Applications received after January 5, 2027 may not be considered during this membership application cycle, but may be considered for future membership cycles.

ADDRESSES: Applications and questions about applications should be submitted via email *ioos.ac.staff@noaa.gov.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Krisa Arzayus, Designated Federal Official, U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee, U.S. IOOS Office, *krisa.arzayus@noaa.gov* or visit the U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee website at *https://ioos.noaa.gov/community/u-s-ioos-advisory-committee/.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

U.S. IOOS (*https://ioos.noaa.gov*) is an integrated network of people and technology gathering coastal data and developing tracking and predictive tools to benefit the economy, the environment, and public safety at home, across the nation, and around the globe. U.S. IOOS promotes research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies and modeling systems, addresses regional and national needs for ocean information, gathers data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables and ensures timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data for societal benefits. U.S. IOOS benefits national safety, the economy, and the environment through support for national defense, marine commerce and forecasting, navigation safety, weather, economic development, ecosystem-based management of marine and coastal areas, conservation of ocean and coastal resources and public safety. This notice responds to the Act (Pub. L. 111–11, section 12304), which requires the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to solicit nominations for Committee membership. The Committee advises the NOAA Administrator and Interagency Ocean Observation Committee on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 12302 of the Act and other appropriate matters as the Under Secretary refers to the Committee for review and advice. The Committee has approximately fifteen voting members. For additional information about the Committee responsibilities, see *https://ioos.noaa.gov/community/u-s-ioos-advisory-committee/.*

II. Eligibility and Criteria

Membership is open to individuals from academia; local, state or tribal government; industry; non-governmental not-for-profit, and other ocean-related institutions. Full-time officers or employees of the United States are not eligible. Race or sex shall not be considered in selection of Committee members. Members shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific, technical, and programmatic information related to the design, operation, maintenance, or use of the U.S. IOOS, or use of data products provided through the U.S. IOOS.

III. Terms of Service

The NOAA Administrator shall appoint new Committee members for three-year terms, renewable once for an additional three-year term. The next term will begin on September 14, 2027.

IV. Expectations

The Committee will meet at least once each year in-person, with additional virtual meetings throughout the year. In a typical year, a committee member is expected to attend at least one in-person meeting (2–4 days including travel) and commit approximately 20–25 additional hours to attend virtual meetings and draft recommendation reports. Members of the Committee will not be compensated for service on the Committee, but they may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

V. Application

To apply for membership, applicants must submit the following items. The entire package should not exceed eight pages.

(1) A cover letter that serves as a statement of interest to serve on the Committee and provides the requested information listed below.

(a) Applicant's area(s) of expertise, as aligned with the expertise requested in the **SUMMARY** section above.

(b) The geographic region(s) of the country most closely associated with the applicant's area of expertise. This does not need to be the region the applicant currently resides in.

(c) Previous/current leadership or professional experience that may contribute to the effectiveness of the Committee.

(d) Familiarity and experience with U.S. IOOS data, products, and services.

(e) Breadth and scope of knowledge of stakeholders, users, or other groups who interact with NOAA or other U.S. IOOS agencies and whose views and input applicant believes they can share with the panel.

(2) A short biography of 300 to 400 words.

(3) A current resume.

(4) The nominee's full name, title, institutional affiliation, mailing address, email, and phone.

VI. Selection

Nominations will be reviewed and evaluated based on expertise, Committee needs, and balance considerations. Final appointments are made by the NOAA Administrator. Individuals selected for membership become a Special Government

Employee (SGE) of the United States Government. An SGE is an officer or employee of an agency who is retained, designated, appointed, or employed to perform temporary duties, with or without compensation, for not to exceed 130 days during any period of 365 consecutive days, either on a full- time or intermittent basis. Applicants who are selected to serve on the Committee must complete the following actions before they can serve as a committee member:

(1) Security Clearance (on-line Background Check and fingerprinting).

(2) Confidential Financial Disclosure Report—SGEs are required to file annually a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report to avoid involvement in a real or apparent conflict of interest.

(3) Attend annual ethics briefings to comply with government ethics standards.

Authority: Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act, part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11), and the Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–271).

Krisa M. Arzayus,

Acting Director, U.S. IOOS Office, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Notice of Public Hearings and Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Management Plan for the Proposed Designation of the Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

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

ACTION: Notice of availability; public hearings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act, as amended (CZMA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management is announcing a 45-day public comment period and public hearings to solicit comments on the draft management plan (DMP) and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed designation of the Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Green Bay Reserve). The DMP addresses research, monitoring, education, and stewardship needs for the proposed Green Bay Reserve, and the DEIS evaluates alternatives to the proposed action, along with the potential environmental impacts of these alternatives.

DATES: NOAA is accepting written public comments on the adequacy of the DMP and DEIS for the proposed designation of the Green Bay Reserve through 11:59 p.m. Central Time (CT) on December 21, 2026. In addition, NOAA will accept oral public comments on the adequacy of the DMP and DEIS for the proposed designation of the Green Bay Reserve during a virtual public hearing held from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. CT via Zoom and an in-person public hearing held from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. CT on Thursday, December 10, 2026. All comments received at the December 10 public hearings and during the 45-day public comment period will be considered in preparing the final management plan and final environmental impact statement for the proposed designation of the Green Bay Reserve.

ADDRESSES: Hearing documents are available on the federal eRulemaking portal at *www.regulations.gov* (enter NOAA–NOS–2024–0006 in the *Search* box). Written comments may be submitted using the following methods:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit all electronic public comments via the federal eRulemaking portal. Go to *www.regulations.gov* and enter NOAA–NOS–2024–0006 in the *Search* box. Click the *Comment* icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comment. Written comments provided electronically must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. CT on December 21, 2026.
- *Mail:* Submit written comments to Erica Seiden, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; ATTN: Green Bay NERR. Written comments provided by mail must be postmarked no later than December 21, 2026.

Instructions: All comments received are part of the public record and will be posted for public viewing on *https://regulations.gov/docket?D=NOAA-NOS-2024-0006* with no changes. All personally identifiable information (*e.g.,* name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the commenter will be publicly accessible and maintained by NOAA as part of the public record. NOAA will accept anonymous comments. To do so, on the *eRulemaking Portal,* enter ''N/A'' in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous. If you would like to submit an anonymous comment during the in-person meeting, a comment box, along with paper and writing implements, will be provided. If you would like to provide an anonymous comment during the virtual public scoping meeting, type your comment into the question box, and state that you would like to remain anonymous when your comment is read. Multimedia submissions (*i.e.,* audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. NOAA will generally not consider comments, or comment contents, located outside of the primary submission sites or addresses (*i.e.,* those posted on the web, cloud, or other file-sharing system).

Public Hearings

- The virtual public hearing will be held via Zoom at the following link: *https://wisconsin-edu.zoom.us/j/96577868965* on December 10, 2026, at 10 a.m. CT. If requested upon joining the virtual hearing, the meeting ID is 965 7786 8965. This virtual public hearing may also be joined via telephone. The telephone number is (301) 715–8592, and the access code is 96577868965#.
- The in-person public hearing will be conducted on December 10, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. CT in Room 136 of the S.T.E.M. Innovation Center at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay campus, located at 2019 Technology Way, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54311. This hearing will be in-person only and not broadcast.

Participants can provide comments during both the virtual and in-person hearings. Both public hearings will present the same information. To ensure full consideration by NOAA, oral comments must be in English. The public hearings will be transcribed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erica Seiden, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 1305 East-West Highway, 10th Floor, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; ATTN: Green Bay NERR; (240) 429–5166; *erica.seiden@noaa.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System (Reserve System) is a federal-state partnership program authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.