



Minutes of AMBIO Town Hall Meeting

Chaired and recorded by: Will Homoky

Accepted by: Steph Henson, Alessandro Tagliabue and Sian Henley

Venue: 0900-1200 on Friday 14th September 2018
Percy Building, University of Newcastle, Challenger Conference.

Registered attendees

| | | | |
|------|-----------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dr | Amber | Annett | University of Southampton |
| Miss | Chelsey | Baker | University of Southampton |
| Dr | Anna | Belcher | British Antarctic Survey |
| Prof | Tom | Bibby | University of Southampton |
| Dr | Antony | Birchill | National Oceanography Centre |
| Miss | Sarah | Breimann | University of Southampton |
| Dr | Filipa | Carvalho | National Oceanography Centre |
| Miss | Elena | Cerdan | University of Southampton |
| Miss | Emily | Davey | National Oceanography Centre |
| Ms | Ribanna | Dittrich | University of Edinburgh |
| Miss | Manon | Duret | University of Southampton |
| Dr | Sian | Henley | University of Edinburgh |
| Dr | Stephanie | Henson | National Oceanography Centre |
| Dr | Anna | Hickman | University of Southampton |
| Dr | Will | Homoky | University of Oxford |
| Dr | Matt | Humphries | University of East Anglia |
| Dr | Silke | Kroeger | Cefas |
| Dr | Alastair | Lough | University of Southampton |
| Mr | Vlad | Macovei | University of Southampton |
| Dr | Carol | Mahoney | Leeds University |
| Mr | Kyle | Mayers | University of Southampton |
| Prof | Mark | Moore | University of Southampton |
| Dr | Adrian | Nightingale | University of Southampton |
| Dr | Clare | Ostle | The Marine Biological Association |
| Dr | Ryan | Pereira | Lyell Centre, Heriot-Watt University |
| Dr | Alex | Poulton | Heriot-Watt University |

ADVANCES *in* MARINE BIOGEOCHEMISTRY



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|-------|------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Dr | Lavenia | Ratnarajah | University of Liverpool |
| Dr | Sarah | Reynolds | University of Portsmouth |
| Mr | Shaun | Rigby | National Oceanography Centre |
| Prof. | Richard | Sanders | National Oceanography Centre |
| Mr | Sean | Selzer | University of Oxford |
| Dr | Bei | Su | University of Liverpool |
| Dr | Alessandro | Tagliabue | University of Liverpool |
| Prof | Robert | Upstill-Goddard | Newcastle University |
| Mr | Malcolm | Woodward | PML (apologies) |
| Mr | Lewis | Wrightson | University of Liverpool |

A mission statement and road map for delivery

The Chair proposed we write a Mission Statement to focus AMBIO activities – stemming from those listed on Challenger Website, but bespoke to AMBIO members. The outcome of a discussion by attendees is summarized below:

Our mission is to:

- Provide a technical forum for students, educators, researchers and governmental and industrial partners with shared interests in marine biogeochemistry;
- Communicate and facilitate the proposal of strategic research, infrastructure development and collaboration;
- Connect Early Career Researchers (ECRs) with the UK-marine biogeochemical network;
- Enable access to mentoring across institutions for early- and mid-career marine biogeochemists;
- Disseminate recent advances in marine biogeochemistry through the biennial AMBIO science meetings;
- Promote ECRs and celebrate important contributors to marine biogeochemistry through awards, recognition and social engagements at AMBIO meetings;
- Engage other Special Interest Groups for the benefit of cross-disciplinary research.

Organisation

The Chair proposed a structure for running AMBIO to improve transparency and ensure continuity. The proposal that follows was developed through open consultation and agreed upon by AMBIO attendees. The present Chair (Homoky) shall sit until the AMBIO science meeting of 2021. A new position of Vice Chair will be appointed at AMBIO 2019. The Vice Chair will assist in the execution of the duties of the Chair for two years before becoming the new Chair at the close of an AMBIO science meeting in 2021, at which point a new Vice Chair will be selected from a pool of nominations. Thereafter, the positions of Vice Chair and Chair may be refreshed every 2-years at AMBIO Science Meetings, for so long as AMBIO members think the approach is working well.



Vice Chair nominations can be sought from within the AMBIO community. Members should be able to nominate themselves or other members as they choose. Nominees should consider the likely tenure of the appointment and their career stage commitments before accepting a nomination, however ECRs and MCRs are encouraged to benefit from the skills and experience acquired by the appointment. Vice Chair nominees ought to be announced and voted for in a forum that is open to all attending AMBIO members (e.g. by a show of hands) – ensuring the selection process is transparent, practical and convenient.

Communication

We all recognise the need for AMBIO to be GDPR compliant. An action item is for **CSMS Council** to instruct all SIGs how to maintain a membership database and communicate with their members. E-mails seem to be the preferred option for official communications so long as we meet BCC and GDPR requirements first.

The twitter handle @ChallengerAMBIO is active – **Will Homoky** needs to retrieve login credentials from Emma Cavan and get this running again. We'll use the hashtag #AMBIOIX for the 9th AMBIO science meeting.

WhatsApp was suggested by Rich Simms as a platform for group discussion, because it has strong merits in convenience and accessibility, but risks sharing personal phone info and was deemed unsuitable for AMBIO's own administration.

Slack was proposed by **Ryan Pereira** as a private forum for any discussion topics among all AMBIO members – access is by an administrated invitation only, but all members can see and edit content. This platform was favored by a vocal-minority who have experience of it, and was deemed worthy of a trial to see test for user engagement.

Mentoring within AMBIO

A cross-institutional mechanism was proposed and agreed upon as a trial exercise to ensure good and equitable access to mentoring for AMBIO's - primarily, but not exclusively - ECR members. Mentoring topics will be advertised on the AMBIO website. Anyone seeking the advice of a mentor in one of these areas can contact the Chair who will link the enquiry to a suitable mentor via a privately held database. The database should include the names of individuals willing to serve as mentors for specific themes this data base can be refreshed at any time, but ought to be done so routinely at future Town Hall meetings. Six suggested themes were as follows, and **any members** with experience in these or any other topics are encouraged to contact Will Homoky if they would like to register as mentors on these issues:

1. Research and parenting
2. Writing fellowship proposals
3. Applying to lectureships
4. Cruise planning for new PI/PSO's
5. Negotiating start-up
6. Building Labs/research facilities

CLASS funding and research opportunities



CLASS will run for 5 years from ~July 2018. It was *estimated here* that as much as £500,000 (5% of £20M) *might* be available for expenditure on collaborative training opportunities with HEIs. Good avenues for engagement with this might be internships, or CLASS-partnership PhD proposals that seek an (e.g.) a placement in a NERC-facility or ship-time/samples from the CLASS remit.

HEIs have missed the chance to design interactions for the academic recruitment year of 2018/2019, and therefore we must get organized promptly if they wish to succeed in the academic recruitment year 2019/20 and attract a PhD candidate within the expenditure timeframe of CLASS, which runs until 2023.

Richard Sanders identified and requested he pursue the following actions (1) to encourage CLASS to inform us how HEIs can engage with proposal-writing in our PhD-recruitment timeframe; and (2) to inform potential collaborators with more detailed information - what samples and analyses are already planned and have been funded by CLASS? - so that any gaps and opportunities for new samples, analyses and research can be identified.

An emphasis was made that CLASS ship-time might be available, but ought not be considered a suitable default-substitute to writing NERC standard/large grants, which remain the principle means for us to deliver new science proposals requiring complex fieldwork at sea.

The NOC Association

The NOC association meets for one day a year and aims to engage the marine science community in an impartial forum to disseminate essential knowledge of National Marine Capabilities and developments, and discuss strategic research plans of government for policy UK and overseas development with a number of 'marine'-engaged institutes. These institutes, their representatives, NOC Association Board members and their annual meeting schedules and presentations are all openly accessible online: <http://noc.ac.uk/about-us/our-national-role/noc-association>. If **any members** wish to know more, they could lobby their NOC Association representative for engagement on an institute-by-institute basis, as this practice may vary widely between NOC Association members.

National Marine Facilities Advisory Board (NMFAB)

New this year, NMFAB is open to proposals for National Marine Facilities expenditure on new equipment. Forthcoming deadline is Sept 30 2019. Hyperlinks to applications are provided with the italicised text below:

National Marine Equipment Pool: Capital Expenditure Proposal Form

*Members of the NERC-funded marine science community, who are involved in research expeditions which utilize National Marine Equipment Pool (NMEP) equipment, are invited to submit proposals, by completing a **Capital Expenditure Proposal Form**, for sensors, systems or platforms to enhance the NMEP. This form has been updated to enable the community to submit a broader range of proposals:* https://noc.ac.uk/files/documents/about/ispo/MFAB_Capital_Expenditure_Proposal_Form_July_26th_2018.pdf



Further general information is available from the links below.

MFAB Leaflet: [https://noc.ac.uk/files/documents/about/ispo/Marine Facilities Advisory Board.pdf](https://noc.ac.uk/files/documents/about/ispo/Marine_Facilities_Advisory_Board.pdf)

MFAB web pages: <https://noc.ac.uk/about-us/our-national-role/advisory-bodies>

Strategic Planning Advisory Group (SPAG)

SPAG provides a mechanism for 'bottom-up' steers of NERC/RUK directed-research funding calls. SPAG reviews proposals submitted annually (usually early Sept), as the first step in a process that first considers, and then develops, short-listed ideas that ultimately invite directed-research proposals from the grant-writing community. In recent years the AMBIO community has benefited significantly from NERC-allocations into directive funding (OSNAP, SSB, ChAOS, Orchestra, RoSES...). All past proposals ought to be available on-line. There are probably pros and cons to writing either a single proposal with a large community consensus, or submitting multiple proposals from smaller groups, which may collectively motivate a common topic. Either way, we need to be in it to win it. It is proposed that AMBIO should revisit SPAG at our next science meeting in June 2019, and perhaps attract a SPAG representative (e.g. G. Underwood, SPAG-Chair) for a talk and to motivate our submissions for Sept 2019.

Announcement of our biennial science meeting AMBIO IX, Norwich, 2019

AMBIO IX meeting will be convened by **Alex Baker** in UEA, with co-conveners **Matt Humphries** (also UEA), **Amber Annett** (Southampton) and myself (Will Homoky, Oxford). We devised a meeting title for AMBIO IX: *Biogeochemistry Across Boundaries*. Planet-Ocean have already pledged sponsorship for the event. **Al Tagliabue** will reach out to SCOR and enquire if they might consider sponsoring our meeting in light of the occasion of Tim Jickell's retirement and Tim's immense contribution to SCOR/SOLAS and such like over the years. **Silke Kröger** has offered to explore ways that Cefas might contribute support (e.g. allocation of a venue for a drinks reception or similar).

We have two workshop ideas to wrap around AMBIO IX:

1. AMBIO-OMG. There was a healthy appetite for an adjoint AMBIO-Ocean modelling Group (OMG) workshop, where AMBIO members might experience how to use and interact with physical or bgc-model outputs (e.g. Steph Henson cited example of her positive interactions with NEMO) to test ideas and explore implications of new observational datasets. This could form a half-day event, and **Richard Sanders** thinks CLASS funding could support. **Steph Henson** proposed **Anna Hickman**, **Al Tagliabue** and **Andrew Yool** might be suitable people to lead this.
2. SPAG. An invited talk by G. Underwood and round table discussions for members to distil ideas and potentially identify or assign SPAG proposal teams and leaders.

Contact:

Will Homoky | SIG Chair for AMBIO

Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3AN

+44 (0) 1865 272012 / will.homoky@earth.ox.ac.uk