

Consensus Statements and Action Items

Summer 2026 SODCO Advisory Board Meeting

Consensus Statements

Consensus Statement 2026.08-1: The SAB members were impressed with the high quality and engaging presentations by the 2025-2026 Schlanger Ocean Drilling Fellows on their research and thank them for their excellent contributions to scientific ocean drilling research.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-2: The SAB recommends the following update to Consensus Statement 2026.03-16. PIs submitting ocean drilling legacy assets project proposals to NSF should communicate with ocean drilling core repositories to verify that sufficient sample material, equipment, and technical assistance are available to support their envisioned project.

Definition 1: Ocean drilling legacy assets project were defined in a [February 24, 2026 NSF update](#) as projects that make use of legacy scientific ocean drilling assets such as cores, samples, data, open boreholes, and downhole observatories. Projects are intended to facilitate collaboration at large scales, such as integrating data across multiple expeditions with multiple approaches

Consensus Statement 2026.08-3: SODCO will support outreach officers for US SciOD expeditions. The SAB recommends that PIs discuss science communications and outreach plans with SODCO for their proposed drilling expeditions during proposal development.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-4: The SAB recommends that PIs of drilling proposals include leadership plans in their proposal addressing who will act as co-chiefs on their expedition, with an aim to balance scientific expertise, career stage, and drilling experience.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-5: The SAB recommends that invitations to sail on US SciOD expeditions originate with SODCO.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-6: The SAB commends the Scripps Site Survey Databank for excellent progress towards a new system to receive site survey data for use by SODCO expedition scientists and the SODCO Safety and Environment Panel (SSEP).

Consensus Statement 2026.08-7: The SAB recommends that each US SciOD expedition involve at least one microbiologist on the science team, either as part of the PI team or through the community staffing model, to ensure consistent and sustained sampling and characterization of microbial communities.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-8: SAB recommends that SODCO and co-chiefs for US SciOD expeditions develop a comprehensive sampling and measurements plan that follows the SODCO Standard Measurements guidelines to meet the objectives of the expedition and the science needs of the science team.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-9: The SAB is pleased to accept the SAB Publications working group's SODCO Publication Policies and recommends that SODCO adopt these policies and requirements for US SciOD.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-10: The SAB recommends that all publications submitted during the moratorium period include all science team members as co-authors, for their contributions to the scientific data and results being published and archived.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-11: The SAB discussed priorities for US SciOD under a range of funding scenarios. The highest priority is U.S. led (SODCO implemented) expeditions, followed by U.S. co-leadership and participation in international expeditions.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-12: The SAB considers the continued development of a plan for a new U.S. scientific drilling vessel a priority.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-13: SAB encourages the involvement of US-based scientists in international drilling expeditions and IODP³ SPARC (Scientific Projects Using Ocean Drilling Archives) opportunities. Interested scientists are encouraged to contact NSF S3P early to discuss the funding options available for their participation.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-14: The SAB encourages the development of community-driven legacy assets projects involving US-based scientists that provide opportunities for broader community involvement and early-career scientists' professional development. Interested scientists are encouraged to contact NSF S3P to discuss these opportunities.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-15: The SAB recommends that a clarified process be developed and communicated on how legacy assets projects will be supported, announced, and staffed including the roles of the GCR and SODCO.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-16: The SAB plans to hold a community open house to aid in the flow of information about opportunities in US SciOD. To track community engagement the SAB will pursue voluntary listing of US SciOD proposals submitted to NSF.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-17: The SAB would like to thank the international working group responsible for developing the IODP Achievements volume, now nearing completion. The SAB looks forward to the release of the volume by the end of 2026 and to sharing it widely with the scientific drilling community and beyond.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-18: The SAB wholeheartedly thanks the American Museum of Natural History and Columbia University for hosting the Summer 2026 meeting and providing an exceptional experience for the board members.

Consensus Statement 2026.08-19: The SAB offers its gratitude to Larry Krissek, Kevin Johnson, and Justin Dodd for their service on the board. Their leadership through the end of the IODP and the transition from IODP to US SciOD has been invaluable, providing excellent corporate memory, lessons learned, and wise council in the SAB inaugural meetings, as the SAB developed its responsibilities, policies, and procedures. Their outstanding contributions to the US SciOD community during this critical time have laid the foundation for the program for years to come.

| Action Items

Action Item 2026.08-1: The SAB Science Communications subcommittee will work to develop an early career workshop concept that targets development of ocean drilling legacy assets proposals and skills-based training for scientific drilling research.

Action Item 2026.08-2: SODCO will develop procedures to invite participants on US SciOD expeditions to be reviewed at the SAB Winter 2027 meeting.

Action Item 2026.08-3: The SAB Science and Technology subcommittee will complete their review and make recommendations on the 14 Innovation Grant proposals received from the July 2026 call to the full SAB. The proposals will go through a comprehensive review process that includes internal and external reviews and discussion by the subcommittee that will be provided to the SAB for approval. The subcommittee will send SODCO a funding recommendation for each proposal and a consensus review summarizing the reviews and subcommittee discussion.

Action Item 2026.08-4: The SAB Workshop subcommittee will complete their review and make recommendations on the workshop proposals received from the July 2026 call to the full SAB. The approved recommendations will be forwarded to SODCO.

Action Item 2026.08-5: The SAB Scientific Measurements working group will continue their efforts to define standard, recommended, and supplemental measurements on US SciOD expeditions and will present their recommendations at the SAB Winter 2027 meeting.