



Programme Advisory Group meeting – Tuesday 12th November

1. Annual Science Meeting (ASM), Southampton, UK, 1-3 April 2025

As only the two stage 1a and the three stage 1b projects will be running at this time, we may not need the full three days, probably only 1.5 to 2 days. Hope to confirm structure and timings shortly.

2. International data workshop, Glasgow, UK, 2-4 March 2026

International meeting on synthesis of data will take place the week immediately following Ocean Sciences. Aim is for the meeting to be hands on, i.e. examining and comparing existing datasets. 6 international projects involved (EXPORTS, OceanICU, APERO, SOLACE, TCA and BIO-Carbon) and supported by MASTS. Convening organising committee to identify topics for the meeting.

Working on ~70 places. Aiming to advertise early in 2025.

Noted that it might be difficult for ECRs to continue involvement to attend. BIO-Carbon has no central funds that could be used to support attendance.

3. Fieldwork update

Both cruises (May and September) went well. Gliders and floats launched as planned. Two ALRs launched in June, one had problems and was recovered during first cruise but the other made it back to Scotland as planned.

PIs happy with the data that they have collected and the FMRI team were happy with the ALR operations.

4. Fieldwork feedback to NERC

Comments in project reports and informal conversations indicate that it could be of value to gather feedback from those involved in projects on how fieldwork was structured in the programme (e.g. timing within 1b projects, requirement for projects to share the same cruises etc), to assist planning for future ones. We were very lucky to have three PIs who worked together well, otherwise it could have been much more complicated. Feedback to PAG to date has been restricted to the progress reports. It was agreed to have a session at the 2025 ASM discussing pros and cons to provide feedback to PAG – for PAG to then add their own thoughts and considerations and feedback to NERC.

5. Further PAG feedback following progress reports

PIs are keen to receive feedback from PAG.

Subsequent to the PAG meeting Adrian held a regular call with project PIs. They expressed a wish to have some direct feedback from PAG to individual projects.

As progress reports coincided with the end of the projects, these served as the final reports. However, it was suggested that there should be different questions for a final report and that it is important to have a final report so make sure outputs are in the public domain.

The BIO-Carbon website will be updated with the outcomes of each project.

PAG would also like to see a summary of the projects at the start of the progress reports.

6. Feedback to FMRI about autonomous missions

As the BIO-Carbon-FMRI mission has pushed the capability of biogeochemical fieldwork using autonomy it can potentially be informative for future developments and thinking particularly under FMRI. It was agreed to hold a session at the 2025 ASM, with a MARS representative present, to discuss the issues and strengths of autonomous missions including the QC/calibration of autonomous data that stage 1b projects don't use (e.g. how will this be funded – and how will similar missions in the future deal with this). This discussion would be summarised for PAG who could then add their own thoughts and recommendations and submit to FMRI and NERC as feedback.

Next PAG meeting

PAG is scheduled to meet every 6 months - next call Apr/May 2025.