

AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION  
BYLAWS OF THE OCEAN SCIENCES SECTION

Article 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Ocean Sciences Section of the American Geophysical Union.

Article 2. Objectives

(a) To promote the aims and activities of the American Geophysical Union across the spectrum of ocean sciences.

(b) To promote the scientific study of the ocean and to make the results of such studies available to the public by (1) scientific discussion, publication, and other dissemination of information, and (2) by sponsorship of scientific and technical symposia, colloquia, and meetings.

(c) To foster oceanic research programs, including those which depend upon international cooperation.

(d) To promote cooperation among those scientific organizations whose objectives include furtherance of knowledge in the ocean sciences.

Article 3. Membership

(a) Types of members are as defined in Article 2 of the Union Bylaws.

(b) Members of the Section shall be all classifications of Union members who indicate an interest in affiliation with this section.

(c) A Union member who becomes an inactive member of the Union shall also become an inactive member of the Section.

(d) Any member of the Section who ceases to be a member of the Union shall also cease to be a member of the Section.

(e) All Section members who are classified under Article 2, Sections a, b, or c, of the Union Statutes are entitled to vote and are eligible to hold office in the Section.

Article 4. Administration and Officers' Duties

(a) Officers \_\_ The officers of the Section shall be the President, President\_Elect, and four Secretaries. The officers shall be members under Article 2, Sections a, b, or c, of the Union Statutes. There shall be Secretaries for the subsections of physical oceanography, chemical oceanography,

geological oceanography and biological oceanography.

(b) Term of Office \_\_ The Section officers shall serve a two year term, without honorarium, coincident with the term of the Union Officers. The President shall not be eligible for election as President\_Elect immediately following a term serving as President. The Secretaries's terms may be renewable. If any office becomes vacant, the Executive Committee of the Section shall designate a successor to complete the term. Officers designated by the Executive Committee cannot hold office, without election, beyond the term of their predecessor.

(c) Executive Committee \_\_ The Section shall have an Executive Committee which shall include the President, President\_Elect, four Secretaries, immediate Past President, and at least two other members. Up to five members\_at\_large may be added to the Executive Committee. The members\_at\_large shall be appointed by the Section President with the recommendation and approval of the other Section Officers, for a term coincident with that of the President. These members\_at\_large shall be chosen largely from other Past Presidents; Task Group, Committee, or Division Chairs; Editors; and Program Chairs.

(d) Duties of the President \_\_ The President shall preside at meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee. The President shall appoint members to Section committees and task groups and have the power to withdraw appointments made while in office or by previous Presidents. The President shall be an ex\_officio member of all Section task groups or committees. The President is a voting member of the Union Council and shall attend, or appoint an alternate to attend and vote at, all Council meetings.

(e) Duties of the President\_Elect \_\_ The President\_Elect shall assume the duties and powers of the President, at the request of the President or in the absence or incapacity of the President. The President\_Elect is a voting member of the Union Council and shall attend and vote at all Council meetings. The President\_Elect shall have such other powers and duties as may be assigned by the Section President. The President\_Elect shall succeed the President at the end of the President's term of office.

(f) Duties of the Secretaries \_\_ The Secretaries will serve as the representatives for the Section on the program committee for each national meeting and the Ocean Sciences meeting. One of them shall be designated to prepare the official minutes of all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee and submit a brief report of such meetings for publication in Eos, as appropriate; conduct letter ballots for the Section; receive and disburse funds as authorized by the Executive Committee of the Section and Council of the Union; and perform such other duties as may be delegated by the Section President. One of the Secretaries may serve as an alternate for the President or President\_Elect at meetings of the Council of the Union as provided in the Union Statutes.

#### Article 5. Nomination and Election of Section Officers

(a) Nominations \_\_ At least six months before the general election, an ad hoc Nominations Committee composed of at least three Section members, one of whom shall be designated Chairman, shall be appointed by the Section President, subject to approval of the Executive Committee. The Nominations Committee shall submit to the Section President a slate of at least two nominees for the offices of Section President\_Elect and each of the four Secretaries. The President shall submit that slate to the Union Council at least four months before the Union's general election. The slate of approved

nominees shall appear in an AGU publication of general circulation not fewer than 30 days before the general election. Petitions of nominations from Section membership shall be honored provided that (1) each Petition is signed by at least one percent of the full voting membership of the Section, and (2) such Petitions are received by the Union's General Secretary before the termination of the 30 days notification period required before the general election .

(b) Elections \_\_ The general election shall take place by letter ballot at the end of the 30\_ day notification period. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election to an office. No mail ballot shall be closed until at least 30 days after date of issue. The election results shall be announced at the Annual Business Meeting. The term of office for all officers shall begin on July 1 following the elections.

#### Article 6. Divisions, Committees, Task Groups, and Representatives

(a) Divisions \_\_ The Section may be subdivided into appropriate Divisions. Proposals for a new Division or discontinuance of an existing Division must be approved by the Section's Executive Committee and by the Union's Council. Each Division will have officers.

(b) Committees \_\_ The Section may have standing and ad hoc committees. Proposals for a new committee or discontinuance of an existing committee may be made by the Section President, subject to the approval of the Section's Executive Committee. Each committee shall consist of a chair appointed by the President, and at least two members appointed by the President, with the recommendations and advice of the committee chair. In the interest of continuity, the standing committee members should be appointed to definite terms such that the terms of only one\_half of the members expire every two years.

(c) Representatives \_\_ Upon mutual agreement with the Section, the Union Council may appoint Section representatives to other organizations, when such representation may promote coordination and interest in the geophysical sciences. The Executive Committee of the Section shall make tentative arrangements for interorganizational relationships and shall select the representatives for the Section. Arrangements and commitments must be ratified by the Council before they are binding on the Union.

#### Article 7. Meetings

(a) The Section may hold as many section meetings, or Executive Committee meetings, and at such locations, as may be deemed desirable by the Executive Committee, but at least one Annual Business Meeting shall be held per year. This Annual Business Meeting will be held in conjunction with one of the major section meetings. Committees may hold as many meetings as they need. At least 60 days advance notice shall be given for the Annual Business Meeting in an AGU publication of general circulation and at least 15 days advance written notice shall be given to committee members for Executive Committee or other committee and task group meetings. Specialty meetings dedicated to the pursuit of a specific scientific subject may be sponsored by the Section, subject to approval of the Council.

(b) Written minutes shall be prepared for each Section, committee, and task group meeting and copies shall be distributed to the Union office and to section committee, or task group members, respectively.

#### Article 8. Publications

The Section may publish a newsletter and other items of interest in the ocean sciences. The type of publication and the means of financing same shall be subject to approval by the Council of the Union.

#### Article 9. AGU Fellows Nominations

The President\_Elect will chair an AGU Fellows Ocean Sciences Nominating Committee consisting of at least two others but not to exceed six other members of the Section appointed by the President. The Committee will screen nominations from the membership and put forward a slate of candidates to the President, who will make the final selection and forward it to the AGU Fellows Committee in accordance with the quota assigned the Section.

#### Article 10. Ocean Sciences Awards

The Section may make awards for outstanding and long-standing service to the ocean sciences community, usually on an annual basis. The President\_Elect will chair an Awards Committee consisting of the four Secretaries. The membership will be polled for nominations. These awards will be presented at an appropriate section occasion.

#### Article 11. Bylaws, Adoptions and Amendments

(a) Adoption \_\_ New Bylaws may be adopted by the same methods as are provided for the amendment of Bylaws.

(b) Amendments \_\_ Any voting member of the Section may propose an amendment to the Bylaws. Such a proposal shall be considered by the Union's Committee on Statutes and Bylaws and presented with recommendations to the Section's Executive Committee. Upon approval of the Executive Committee the Bylaw shall be submitted to the AGU Council for final approval. In case of conflict with Statutes and Bylaws of the Union, the Union takes precedence over the Section.

#### Article 12. Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed except as otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

Revisions approved by Council December 18, 1996