



We are looking to engage members of the seabed community to sit on our Steering Committee! This will give you the opportunity to shape the development of a national seabed data collaboration that is actively influencing Australian policy and the development of the blue economy.

The positions up for election are **one academic position**, **one Federal Government position**, **two State Government positions**, **two industry positions**, and **one early career ocean professional (ECOP) position**.

This flyer introduces our annual election process, which is about to begin. It gives an overview of the AusSeabed program, the purpose of the Steering Committee and the expectations associated with tenure. Don't hesitate to contact ausseabed@ga.gov.au if you require more information.

About AusSeabed

AusSeabed is a collaborative national seabed mapping initiative that is central to the Australian seabed information ecosystem. It was established in 2018 and focuses on delivering freely accessible seabed mapping data and coordinating efforts to map the gaps across the Australian maritime region of responsibility. The program is governed by a cross-sector [Steering Committee and Executive Board](#).

The [AusSeabed Strategy](#) and [2025 Activities Roadmap](#) guides the direction of the program, as we work to achieve three key goals.



Products

All seabed mapping data and products in the Australian region are guided by F.A.I.R principles and meet the needs of users



Coverage

Seabed data is collated and collected in areas of the Australian region to provide maximum benefit to users



Awareness

The mission of AusSeabed is widely understood, valued and used across Australian Governments and the community

To reach our vision, AusSeabed fosters an open collaboration space for our stakeholders. Here, data creators and users can better connect to develop AusSeabed initiatives and products. We publish all processed data to our [Data Portal](#), which is openly accessible under a Creative Commons licence.

AusSeabed activities include developing data portal infrastructure, building community tools, preparing guidelines and standards, and leading outreach, education and training initiatives. We keep the wider community up to date through regular newsletters, quarterly public showcases and annual reports. These resources are all published on the [AusSeabed website](#).



The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee (SC) provides leadership in guiding AusSeabed to achieve our vision. The SC is made up of three standing members (Geoscience Australia, Australian Hydrographic Office and CSIRO Marine National Facility), ten general members that renew on a staggered basis following a three-year term and an early career ocean professional (ECOP) member that is renewed every 18 months. This governance mechanism ensures that a proportional representation across sectors is maintained and that the varied needs of our collaborators and stakeholders are met. This results in a diverse leadership group of both data collectors and end users to provide strategic direction to AusSeabed work plans.

Nominations for general membership on the Steering Committee are open to all interested parties. They are awarded to an organisation, who put forward a representative to sit on the SC.





Responsibilities and Time Commitments

The Steering Committee meets three times a year. For each Steering Committee meeting we expect 2-3 FTE days of commitment towards meeting attendance, following up on action items and reviewing meeting minutes. Members may be required to attend occasional interim meetings (1-2 hours) to facilitate feedback on specific program outcomes or reports. Outside of these meetings, we expect a time commitment of 1 FTE day per month may be required for program work tasks.

Members of the Steering Committee are expected to:

- Actively contribute to the success of AusSeabed.
- Bring with them the perspectives of their organisation and the sector of the seabed community that they represent.
- Attend and prepare for meetings. This includes proposing agenda items for meetings, moving along action items and nominating a proxy when unavailable to attend.
- Facilitate the collation and review of feedback or progress on initiatives from their respective sectors, as required, in a timely fashion.
- Facilitate the acquisition of advice from experts within their workplace and sectors in support of AusSeabed objectives and specific projects.

For more information on the AusSeabed Steering Committee you can refer to our [Terms of Reference documentation](#).

Election Timeline

Key dates for the 2023 election are outlined below. Please see our [AusSeabed Election SOPs](#) for detailed information on the election process. Note that unlike the general memberships, if contested, the ECOP position is elected by the existing Steering Committee, not the public.





Applications

Nominations will open on the 10th of May and close at 5 pm on the 24th of May. We encourage all organisations that are interested to submit a nomination. Nominations for General membership and the ECOP position can be submitted to ausseabed@ga.gov.au and will need to provide the following responses:

General Membership

1. The name of your organisation and sector position being applied for.
2. The number of AusSeabed meetings or workshops that your organisation has attended.
3. The name and pronouns of the representative from your organisation that would sit on the Steering Committee.
4. Has your organisation agreed to support the representative's participation in the Steering Committee (flights to in-person meetings, accommodation, time commitments etc.)?
5. In 75 words or fewer: Explain why your organisation should help lead AusSeabed as part of the Steering Committee.
6. Completed skills matrix (below).

ECOP

1. Name, pronouns, and organisation of the applicant.
2. Name of most recent degree and year graduated (or expected to graduate).
3. Why would you like to be a part of AusSeabed? (<75 words)
4. What your previous experience is with seabed mapping? (<200 words)
5. Has your organisation agreed to support the representative's participation in the Steering Committee (flights to in-person meetings, accommodation, time commitments etc.)?
6. Completed skills matrix (below).

Voting and Appointment

After nominations are closed, uncontested nominations are immediately appointed. If we receive more nominations than positions available, then the contested positions will be put to a community vote.



Each AusSeabed partner entity is entitled to one voting submission. Voting consists of assigning each nomination a preference number, with 1 being the highest preference. The Chairing Agency will tally the results and the entities with the lowest scores are offered general membership on the Committee, dependent on the number of positions available.

All entities will be advised of the election results via email prior to the announcement of appointments to the wider community via AusSeabed's communication channels.



AusSeabed Skill Matrix

| Score 3 (Strong) to 0 (none) | | | Score 3 (expert) to 0 (no knowledge) | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Sphere of influence | Academia, research and education | | Domain Expertise | Marine data acquisition | |
| | Ocean, hazards and climate modelling | | | ICT solutions and services | |
| | Aquaculture and fisheries | | | Emerging technologies | |
| | Marine estate management | | | Policy and decision making | |
| | Coastal development | | | Biodiversity and habitats | |
| | Offshore development | | | First Nations Engagement | |
| | National Seabed Programs | | | Marine research | |
| | State government agencies | | | Education and training | |
| | International seabed programs | | | Research, Development | |
| | Philanthropic funding Programs | | | Outreach and Communications | |
| | First Nations Australians | | | Funding and program development | |
| | Hydrographic industry | | | Other (please specify) | |
| | Other Industry (please specify) | | | | |
| | Other (please specify) | | | | |