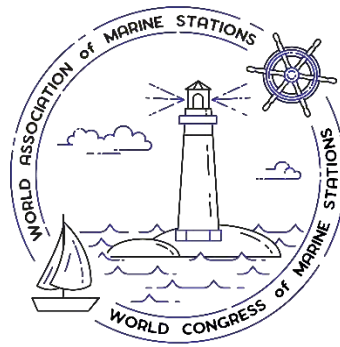


World Association of Marine Stations (WAMS) Steering Committee

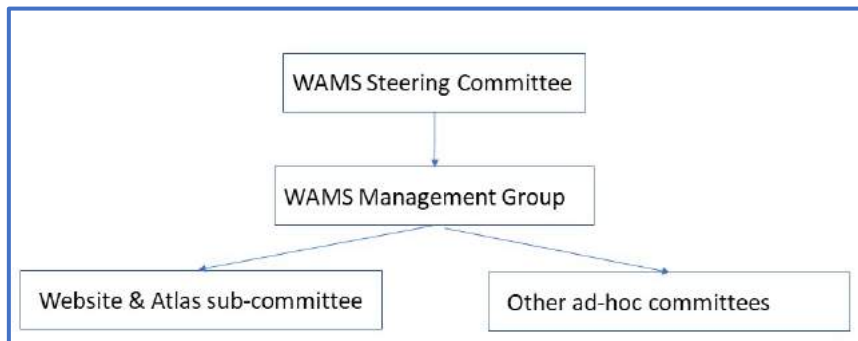


Version of September 2023, accepted by the WAMS Steering Committee on 11 September 2023.

Background

Discussions on the establishment of a World Association of Marine Stations (WAMS) date back to 2008 when a small delegation met with representatives from IOC-UNESCO. In November 2021 the first [World Congress of Marine Stations](#) was held and key members from Marine Stations across the globe signed a joint [communiqué](#) committing to the formal establishment of WAMS. The WAMS Steering Committee was formed on the final day of this congress.

WAMS Structure



WAMS will consist of the:

- Steering Committee, responsible for overall strategic oversight
- Management Group, responsible for operational delivery of the WAMS work programme including developing a regular World Congress
- Website & Atlas sub-committee, responsible for progressing the WAMS Website and World Atlas of Marine Stations
- Other ad-hoc committees as required.

Role and purpose of the Steering Committee

The key objectives of the Committee are to:

- Lead on the further development of WAMS
- Support the WAMS Management Group through advice, expertise and strategic direction

Steering Committee Membership / Terms of appointment

- The Committee consists of members appointed at World Congress meetings (every 3 years)
- Members can be appointed to represent their organisation (e.g. Marine Station, network), a specific sector (e.g. Early Career Ocean Professionals, ECOPs) or as individuals being specific expertise
- Membership will be reviewed at each World Congress with the expectation that members should serve one term with the option for one further term if required
- Individuals can be invited onto the committee by the Chair with committee agreement (e.g. to fill gaps in representation or to meet a skills requirement) and there will also be an ongoing open application process)
- A subset of the Steering Committee will serve on the Management Committee with responsibility to implement the WAMS strategy. The Management Committee will be chaired by Chair of the Steering Committee
- The Secretary of the Steering Committee will also be Secretary to the Management Committee
- The Chair of the Steering Committee will be eligible for re-appointment at each World Congress
- The Secretary of the Steering Committee will be appointed by the Management Committee

Meetings

- The Steering Committee will meet twice a year in addition to ad-hoc meetings as required. In years where a World Congress is held the Steering Committee meeting will be held as part of the Congress.
- The Management Group will meet as required but generally once a month.
- A 'Website and Atlas Committee' and other ad-hoc committees will meet as required.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The role of the WAMS **Chair** will be to provide leadership; represent and promote the value of WAMS externally; liaise with the WAMS host institute (for IT, website); oversee the sub-committees and work with the World Congress organisers.
- The role of WAMS **Secretary** will be to organise meetings; maintain a record of WAMS files (meeting agendas, notes, supporting documents); maintain WAMS communications (monthly newsletter, mailing list, social media); liaise with external and internal partners as necessary to support the Chair in the running of the association.