



INTERNATIONAL OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAMME

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
**IODP³ SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT
ADVISORY (SEA) GROUP**

Deadline: 10 September 2026

Call for applications to serve as a Member of the IODP³ Safety and Environment Advisory (SEA) Group

Introduction

The International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP³) addresses fundamental questions about Earth's climate, deep life, geodynamics, and geohazards and is driven by a flow of **scientific ocean drilling/coring proposals** provided by the scientific community. Our Panels and Boards are staffed via open, international, competitive selection processes to ensure that IODP³ benefits from inputs from talented scientists and engineers while adhering to the highest standards of equality, diversity and social inclusivity.

The **Safety and Environment Advisory (SEA) Group** is an advisory body to the IODP³ MSP Facility Board (MSP-FB), Science Evaluation Panel (SEP) and the IODP³ Operators. It provides essential independent advice regarding potential safety and environmental issues associated with the general and specific geological settings of proposed drilling/coring sites. The SEA Group also provides advice on appropriate drilling/coring technologies for the avoidance of drilling hazards and the protection of the environment, plus advice on geopolitical and cultural considerations that may affect implementation of drilling/coring proposals.

Mandate of the SEA Group

The primary responsibility of the SEA Group is to evaluate all prospective IODP³ drilling/coring sites and advise SEP and the MSP-FB on safety and environmental issues. The principal geological safety issue and most significant environmental hazard in ocean drilling is the possible release of high-pressure fluids and/or volatiles (including hydrocarbons) from subsurface reservoirs. Careful planning and appropriate site characterisation reduce or eliminate this risk.

Specifically, the SEA Group is responsible for:

- in liaison with the SEP-Site Co-Chair and SEP membership, advising proponents of IODP³ scientific drilling proposals at an early stage of the development of their proposals on general safety and environmental issues (including geopolitical and cultural issues) that may be associated with their target areas, and raising their awareness of the types of site survey data that will be required to identify these issues and mitigate any risks.
- independently examining and reviewing site survey data and operational plans of proposals passing through the SEP system, to determine if and how proposed drilling/coring operations can be conducted to maximise safety and minimise environmental impact.
- advising the MSP-FB and IODP³ operators on safety and environmental issues associated with proposals being considered for implementation upon request.

The Terms of Reference for SEA group can be found on the IODP³ website [here](#)

Eligibility and scientific expertise required for this call

IODP³ seeks applications from specialists in the fields of marine geology, geophysics and/or engineering from across the geoscience community to join the **current members of the SEA Group** for a three-year term. Scientists with expertise in shallow gas/hydrocarbons, and in carbonate systems are particularly encouraged to apply. Applicants should be able to provide expert advice on maximising safety and minimising environmental impact associated with drilling/coring of proposed sites, including sites in hydrocarbon prone and biologically, environmental or culturally sensitive areas. Members of the SEA Group will be primarily selected based on this specific expertise.

Scientists invited to join the SEA Group will be asked to review up to two proposals each year. All meetings will be held virtually, with 2-3 short review meeting per year targeting scientific drilling projects about to be implemented by IODP³, and additional meetings as deemed necessary by the SEP/MSP-FB co-chairs.

How to Apply

Applications from scientists based in IODP³ Core and Associate Member nations must be submitted to the IODP³ Science Office by the deadline of **midnight BST on Thursday 10 September 2026** using the **IODP³ Gateway** system, accessed via the **Apply to Participate** link on the [IODP³ website](#).

Information on the content required in applications to this call is available in the IODP³ [Guide for Applicants](#).

Applications received by the deadline will be evaluated by the IODP³ Programme Member Offices and nominated candidates will be considered for approval by the SEA Group Chair and the MSP-FB Co-Chairs.

SEA Group members will be initially appointed for a three-year term renewable at the discretion of the SEA Group Chair and the MSP-FB. Meetings are convened virtually when requested by the SEP and/or MSP-FB Co-Chairs.

For enquiries about SEA Group responsibilities and meetings, please contact:
Katharina Hochmuth, SEA Group Chair, Katharina.Hochmuth@utas.edu.au

For enquiries about the application process and IODP³ Gateway, please contact:
Jodie Fisher, IODP³ Science Office, applications@iodp3.org