

Appendix B – white paper template

Objectives to Identify National Ocean Exploration & Characterization Priorities in the US EEZ White Paper Submission Form

This form serves as the preliminary IWG-OEC thematic and (or) topical expert elicitation. Each IWG-OEC subgroup should identify subgroup-specific exploration and characterization priority areas in the US EEZ and provide the relevant data needs for these areas. Priority areas can be unique areas of significant relevance, and (or) representative areas that broadly typify subgroup-specific interests.

Submissions should be no longer than **four pages** of text and **eight pages** total, including any graphics, figures, captions, and references. Graphics and figures are highly encouraged. A minimum of 11-point font is required. Please send your completed form (either as a Word document or PDF) to Caitlin Adams (caitlin.adams@noaa.gov) by **COB April 2nd**.

Subgroup:

Lead/Co-Lead:

Email Address:

Collaborators (including agency represented):

Descriptor of subgroup interests and disciplines represented:

Please list the themes/topics (e.g., critical minerals or wind energy for Marine Resources subgroup) that are of the greatest priority for your subgroup (limit 200 words):

Priority Geographic Areas:

(Indicate these areas using the provided Seasketch survey. Each polygon/point will collect a suite of metadata including POC, types of data required, resolution, justification, assets required, etc.)

These areas should be identified and ranked based on subgroup prioritization.

Description of Priority Areas (maximum of five (5), in ranked order):

(Include a brief summary of the setting, what is known about the area, and provide a rationale for exploration and/or characterization. For each priority area please indicate if data collection over this area can be done as an exploratory endeavor or has very specific data collection needs at a higher degree of fidelity – making it an optimized area for characterization data collection.)

Provide a list or brief description of the data needed within each priority area:

(Common data needs should be stated first, followed by specific data needs unique to each priority area. Be specific on issues of scale and resolution.)

Describe relevance to national security, conservation, and/or the economy:

From your perspective, what makes each priority area unique?

(If applicable, why is an area relevant to your organization?)

Please list other partners or organizations that may also be interested in this area:

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What are the existing technologies that can currently support these priorities and what types of technology needs to be developed/improved upon to advance data collection/planning/processing techniques?

What are the challenges to gathering data or getting what is needed to assess? How could these challenges potentially be overcome?