Last updated: November 18, 2026

General Agenda Outline
Community Forum on Ocean Observing
December 4-5, 2026
Marriott Marquis, San Francisco CA
In-person and virtual attendance

Friday, Dec 4th, 6-8pm: Opening Reception

- Keynote presentation delivered by **Dr. Lynne Talley, Scripps Institution of Oceanography.**
- Cash bar available with support from the University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography

Saturday, Dec 5th, 9-5pm: Collaborative Conversations and Framework Development

8:00 am — Check in, coffee, etc.

9:00 am — Welcome: Dr. Dax Soule, OOIFB Chair (agenda overview, goals, ground rules)

9:15 am — Framing Plenary: Dr. Paula Bontempi, University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography

- Understanding the current U.S. ocean science and policy landscape (impacts over the last year and upcoming opportunities)

9:45 am — Opening panel with experts across from across the broad ocean observing system (e.g. IOOS, OOI, Argo, LTER, Seafloor sensing, ONC). The goal of this moderated panel discussion is to understand the current status of ocean observing programs, gather insights from across the ocean observing system, and frame the collaborative discussions planned for the remainder of the day.

- ➢ What are the “facts” that we currently know about the U.S. ocean observing system?
- ➢ Why does ocean observing matter? What is the value of ocean observing?
- ➢ What do stakeholders stand to lose if these ocean observing programs do not exist?
- ➢ Who needs to know these details

Panelists will include:

- **Krisa Arzayus** (NOAA, representative for the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS))
- **Oscar Schofield** (Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, representative for Palmer Long-Term Ecological Research (PAL-LTER))
- **Susan Wijffels** (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI); representative for the Argo Program)
- **Jim Edson** (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI); representative for the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI))
- **Ethan WIlliams** (University of California, Santa Cruz; representative for seafloor sensing/cables/Dynamic Acoustic Sensing (DAS))

10:45 am BREAK

11:00 am [Facilitated} Breakout Session I: Broad Brainstorming Session in response to a suite of focus questions

- After initial framing provided by the facilitator, groups will work together to respond to a series of questions/prompts provided in each breakout space.

>> Virtual attendees will participate as their own breakout group(s) online

11:45 am Debrief and group discussion

12:15 pm LUNCH and continued conversations (boxed lunches provided on site)

1:15 pm Post-lunch regroup

1:30pm [Facilitated} Breakout Session II

2:10 pm Breakout II debrief

2:40 pm Breakout session III

3:25 pm BREAK

3:45 pm Breakout III debrief

4:10 pm Group synthesis: connecting the conversations
>> Who are the stakeholders we want to communicate these details to?
>> Is necessary information effectively communicated to those stakeholders?
>> Are there remaining questions or topics to cover?

5:00 pm Closing remarks (next steps) and adjourn