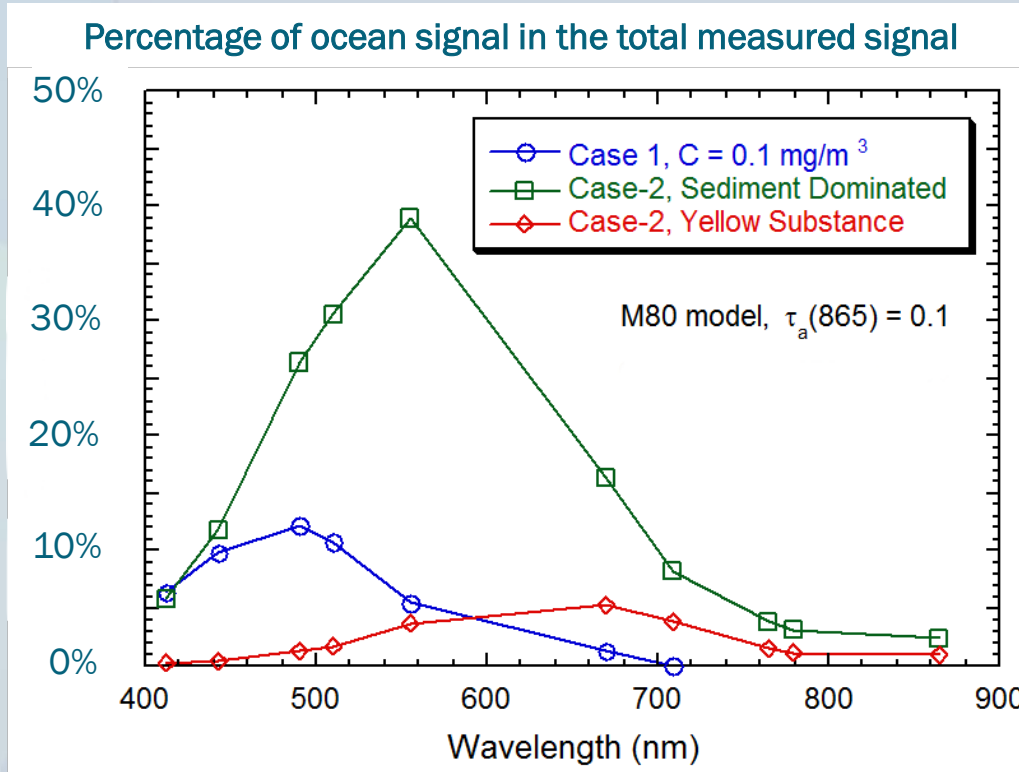


# Ocean Colour: Calibration Approach

*CEOS WGCV-39, May 2015*

**The International Ocean  
Colour Coordinating  
Group**

# Ocean Colour requires special calibration considerations



Case 1 - open ocean waters dominated by phytoplankton and their byproducts

Case 1 - the great majority of the global ocean

Ocean Colour = Weak Signal

atmosphere contributes approximately 90% of the total measured signal  $L_t$

0.5% error in instrument calibration



5% error in water-leaving radiances

# Ocean Colour measurement requirements

## Measurement requirements

water-leaving radiances / reflectances

- 5% absolute uncertainty in blue/green (Case 1)
  - 0.5% stability per decade (GCOS)
- chlorophyll concentration,  $C_a$
- 30% absolute uncertainty (Case 1)
  - 3% stability over a decade (GCOS)

uncertainties are present in processing algorithms, including atmospheric correction

to meet the measurement requirements,  $L_t$  needs to have uncertainties **better than 0.5%**

uncertainties of instrument characterization need to be even smaller, **0.2%**:  
e.g. solar diffuser BRDF, straylight, polarization, detectors, mirror RVS



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SATELLITE-BASED DATA PRODUCTS FOR CLIMATE

2011 Update

Supplemental details to the satellite-based component of the "Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC (2010 Update)"

December 2011

GCOS - 154



DOCUMENT

Sentinel-3 Mission Requirements Traceability Document (MRTD)



Reports and Monographs of the International Ocean-Colour Coordinating Group

An Affiliated Program of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)  
An Associated Member of the (CEOS)

IOCCG Report Number 13, 2012

Mission Requirements for Future Ocean-Colour Sensors

Edited by:  
Charles McClain and Gerhard Meister (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD, USA)



Reports and Monographs of the International Ocean-Colour Coordinating Group

An Affiliated Program of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)  
An Associated Member of the (CEOS)

IOCCG Report Number 14, 2013

In-flight Calibration of Satellite Ocean-Colour Sensors

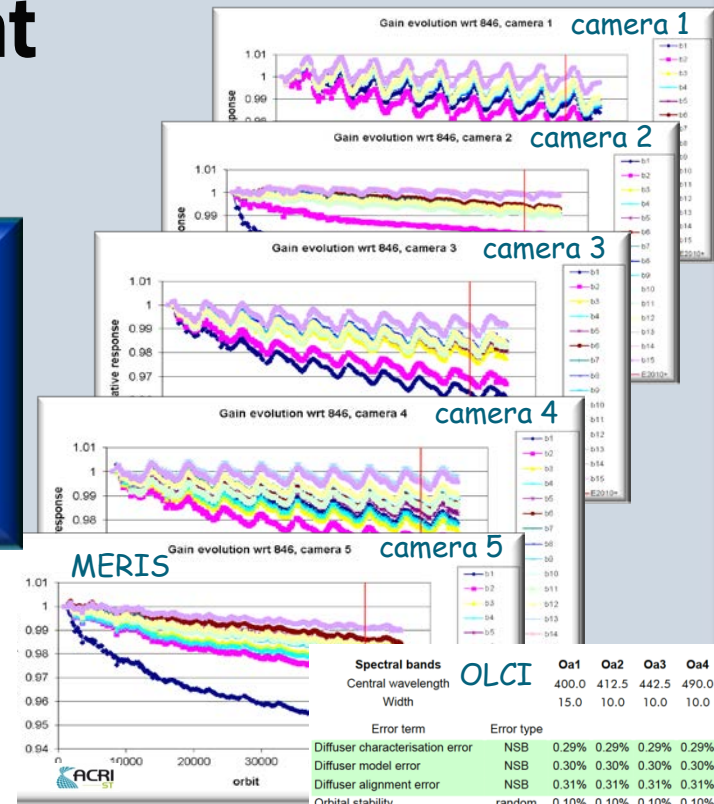
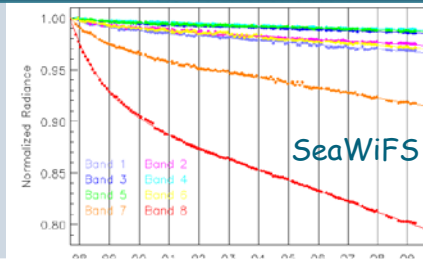
Edited by:  
Robert Frouin (Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California, USA)

Report from an IOCCG working Group on In-flight Calibration of Ocean-Colour

# Direct Instrument Calibration

## Sensor calibration requirements (e.g. S3 OLCI)

- 2% pre-launch absolute radiometric uncertainty ( $\leq 900\text{nm}$ )
- 1% inter-band radiometric uncertainty
- no long-term stability requirement



**Pre-launch** – sensor is characterized / calibrated in a laboratory

**On-orbit** – regular radiometric & spectral calibrations track temporal changes in sensor response  
 – absolute calibration separated from degradation monitoring and characterization

radiometric degradation      solar diffusers (single or dual)  
 lunar calibration (lunar irradiance model)  
 lamp sources

spectral calibration      spectroradiometric calibration assembly  
 erbium diffuser  
 Fraunhofer lines, O<sub>2</sub> A-band

characterization      solar diffuser BRDF, straylight  
 polarization, detectors, mirror RVS

radiometry verification:  
 Rayleigh absolute calibration  
 DCC inter-calibration  
 desert cross-calibration



# Vicarious Instrument Calibration

## Sensor calibration requirements

2% pre-launch absolute radiometric uncertainty

2% uncertainty

## Absolute measurement requirements

5% absolute uncertainty in blue/green (Case 1)

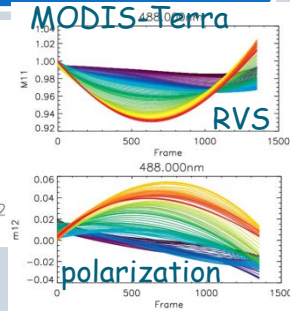
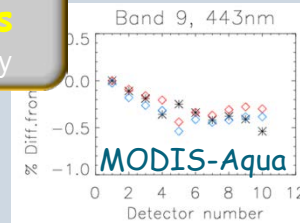
<< 0.5% uncertainty

Characterization requirements  
0.2% uncertainty

0.2% relative uncertainty

## Vicarious Methods

\* Earth-view



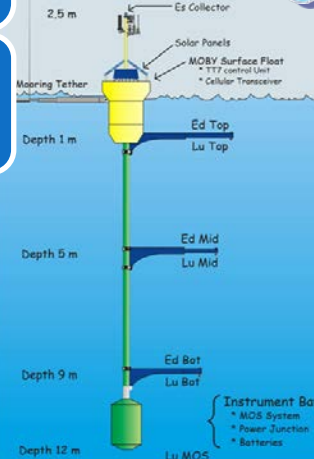
## System Vicarious Calibration

- \* Earth-view – comparison against an independent source; single gain per band
- \* Calibration of the combined instrument-algorithm system

NIR calibration oceanic gyres, e.g. South Pacific Gyre

VIS calibration *in situ* SI-calibrated source, < 4% uncertainty, hyperspectral

## MOBY Schematic



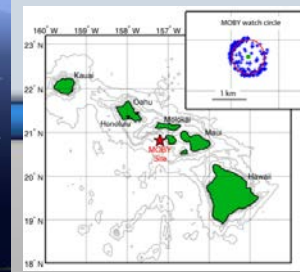
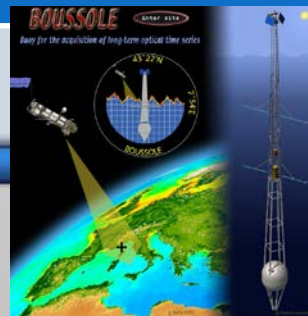
Remote Sensing of Environment

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rse

### System vicarious calibration for ocean color climate change applications: Requirements for in situ data

Giuseppe Zibordi<sup>a,\*</sup>, Frédéric Mélin<sup>b</sup>, Kenneth J. Voss<sup>b</sup>, B. Carol Johnson<sup>c</sup>, Bryan A. Franz<sup>d</sup>, Ewa Kwiatkowska<sup>e</sup>, Jean-Paul Huot<sup>f</sup>, Menghua Wang<sup>g</sup>, David Antoine<sup>h</sup>

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<sup>g</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Center for Coastal Applications and Research, College Park, MD, USA  
<sup>h</sup> Sorbonne Université, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris 06, UMR 7093, Laboratoire d'Optique Atmosphérique, Villeurbanne cedex, France  
<sup>i</sup> Department of Imaging and Applied Physics, Remote Sensing and Satellite Research Group, Curtin University, Perth, WA, Australia



# PACE Threshold Ocean Mission Science Traceability Matrix (STM)

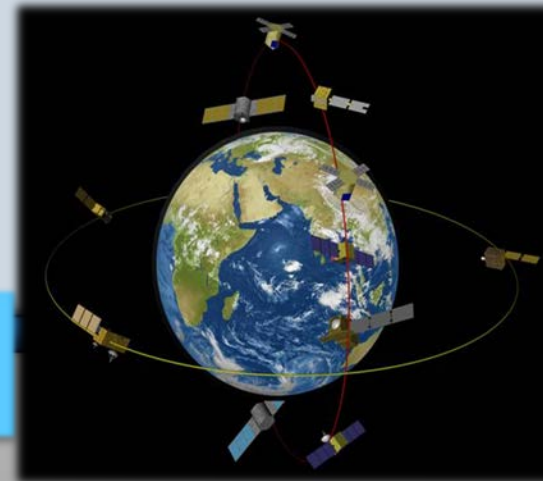
Science Questions	Approach	Maps to Science Question	Measurement Requirements	Platform Reqmts.	Other Needs
<p><b>1</b> What are the standing stocks, compositions, and productivity of ocean ecosystems? How and why are they changing?</p> <p><b>2</b> How and why are ocean biogeochemical cycles changing? How do they influence the Earth system?</p> <p><b>3</b> What are the material exchanges between land &amp; ocean? How do they influence coastal ecosystems and biogeochemistry? How are they changing?</p> <p><b>4</b> How do aerosols influence ocean ecosystems &amp; biogeochemical cycles? How do ocean biological &amp; photochemical processes affect the atmosphere?</p> <p><b>5</b> How do physical ocean processes affect ocean ecosystems &amp; biogeochemistry? How do ocean biological processes influence ocean physics?</p> <p><b>6</b> What is the distribution of both harmful and beneficial algal blooms and how is their appearance and demise related to environmental forcings? How are these events changing?</p> <p><b>7</b> How do changes in critical ocean ecosystem services affect human health and welfare? How do human activities affect ocean ecosystems and the services they provide? What science-based management strategies need to be implemented to sustain our health and well-being?</p>	<p>Quantify phytoplankton biomass, pigments, optical properties, key groups (functional/HABS), &amp; estimate productivity using bio-optical models, chlorophyll fluorescence, &amp; ancillary physical properties (e.g., SST, MLD)</p>	<p>1 4</p> <p>2 5</p> <p>3 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>water leaving radiance at 5 nm resolution from 350 to 800 nm</li> <li>10 to 40 nm wide atmospheric correction bands at 350, 820 (or 940), 865, 1240, 1640, and 2130 nm</li> <li>characterization of instrument performance changes to <math>\pm 0.2\%</math> in first 3 years &amp; for remaining duration of the mission</li> <li>monthly characterization of instrument spectral drift to 0.3 nm accuracy</li> <li>daily measurement of dark current &amp; a calibration target/source with its degradation known to <math>\sim 0.2\%</math></li> <li>Prelaunch characterization of linearity, RVVA, polarization sensitivity, radiometric &amp; spectral temperature sensitivity, high contrast resolution, saturation, saturation recovery, crosstalk, radiometric &amp; band-to-band stability, bidirectional reflectance distribution, &amp; relative spectral response</li> <li>overall instrument artifact contribution to TOA radiance of <math>&lt; 0.5\%</math></li> <li>image striping to <math>&lt; 0.1\%</math> in calibrated top-of-atmosphere radiances</li> <li>crosstalk contribution to radiance uncertainties of 0.1% at <math>L_{typ}</math></li> <li>polarization sensitivity <math>\leq 1\%</math></li> <li>knowledge of polarization sensitivity to <math>\leq 0.2\%</math></li> <li>no detector saturation for any science measurement bands at <math>L_{max}</math></li> <li>RVVA of <math>&lt; 5\%</math> for entire view angle range &amp; <math>&lt; 0.5\%</math> for view angles differing by less than <math>1^\circ</math></li> <li>Stray light contamination for the instrument <math>&lt; 0.2\%</math> of <math>L_{typ}</math> 3 pixels away from a cloud</li> <li>Out-of-band contamination <math>&lt; 0.01</math> for all multispectral channels</li> <li>Radiance-to-counts characterized to 0.1% over full dynamic range</li> <li>Global spatial coverage of 1 km x 1 km (<math>\pm 0.1</math> km) along-track</li> <li>Multiple daily observations at high latitudes</li> <li>View zenith angles not exceeding <math>\pm 60^\circ</math></li> <li>Standard marine atmosphere, clear-water <math>[r_w(\lambda)]_N</math> retrieval with accuracy of <math>\max[5\%, 0.001]</math> over the wavelength range 400 – 710 nm</li> <li>SNR at <math>L_{typ}</math> for 1 km<sup>2</sup> aggregate bands of 1000 from 360 to 710 nm; 300 @ 350 nm; 600 @ NIR bands; 250, 180, and 15 @ 1240, 1640, &amp; 2130 nm</li> <li>Absolute calibration to 2% pre-launch and 5% on-orbit (before vicarious calibration)</li> <li>3 hour data latency and direct broadcast of aggregate spectral bands</li> <li>Simultaneity of 0.02 second</li> </ul>	<p>2-day global coverage to solar zenith angle of <math>75^\circ</math></p> <p>Sun-synchronous polar orbit with equatorial crossing time between 11:00 and 1:00</p> <p>Maintain orbit to <math>\pm 10</math> minutes over mission lifetime</p> <p>Mitigation of sun glint</p> <p>Mission lifetime of 5 years</p> <p>Storage and download of full spectral and spatial data</p> <p>Monthly lunar observations at constant phase angle through Earth observing port</p> <p>System-level pointing accuracy of 2 IFOV and knowledge equivalent to 0.1 IFOV over the full range of viewing geometries</p> <p>System-level pointing jitter accuracy of 0.01 IFOV or less between any adjacent spatial samples</p> <p>Spatial band-to-band registration of 80% of one IFOV between any two bands, without resampling</p>	<p>Capability to reprocess full data set 1 – 2 times annually</p> <p><i>Ancillary data sets from models missions, or field observations:</i></p> <p><b>Measurement Requirements</b></p> <p>(1) Ozone</p> <p>(2) Water vapor</p> <p>(3) Surface wind velocity and barometric pressure</p> <p>(4) NO<sub>2</sub></p> <p><b>Science Requirements</b></p> <p>(1) SST</p> <p>(2) SSH</p> <p>(3) PAR</p> <p>(4) UV</p> <p>(5) MLD</p> <p>(6) CO<sub>2</sub></p> <p>(7) pH</p> <p>(8) Ocean circulation</p> <p>(9) Aerosol deposition</p> <p>(10) run-off loading in coastal zone</p>
	<p>Measure particulate &amp; dissolved carbon pools, their characteristics &amp; optical properties</p>	<p>2 3</p>			
	<p>Quantify ocean photobiochemical &amp; photobiological processes</p>	<p>2 4</p>			
	<p>Estimate particle abundance, size distribution (PSD), &amp; characteristics</p>	<p>1 3</p>			
	<p>Assimilate PACE observations in ocean biogeochemical model fields to evaluate key properties (e.g., air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> flux, carbon export, pH, etc.)</p>	<p>2 4</p>			
	<p>Compare PACE observations with field- and model data of biological properties, land-ocean exchange, physical properties (e.g., winds, SST, SSH), and circulation (ML dynamics, horizontal divergence, etc)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p>			
	<p>Combine PACE ocean &amp; atmosphere observations with models to evaluate ecosystem-atmosphere interactions</p>	<p>4</p>			
<p>Assess ocean radiant heating and feedbacks</p>	<p>5</p>				
<p>Conduct field sea-truth measurements &amp; modeling to validate retrievals from the pelagic to near-shore environments</p>	<p>1 4</p> <p>2 5</p> <p>3 6</p>				
<p>Link science, operational, &amp; resource management communities. Communicate social, economic, &amp; management impacts of PACE science. Implement strong education &amp; capacity building programs.</p>	<p>7</p>				
			<p><b>Implementation Requirements</b></p> <p><i>Vicarious Calibration:</i> Ground-based <math>R_{rs}</math> data for evaluating post-launch instrument gains. Features: (1) Spectral range = 350 - 900 nm at <math>\leq 3</math> nm resolution, (2) Spectral accuracies <math>\leq 5\%</math>, (3) Spectral stability <math>\leq 1\%</math>, (4) Deploy = 1 yr prelaunch through mission lifetime, (5) Gain standard errors to <math>\leq 0.2\%</math> in 1 yr post-launch, (6) Maintenance &amp; deploy centrally organized, &amp; (7) Routine field campaigns to verify data quality &amp; evaluate uncertainties</p> <p><i>Product Validation:</i> Field radiometric &amp; biogeochemical data over broad possible dynamic range to evaluate PACE science products. Features: (1) Competed &amp; revolving Ocean Science Teams, (2) PACE-supported field campaigns (2 per year), (3) Permanent/public archive with all supporting data</p>		
			<p><b>Ocean Biogeochemistry-Ecosystem Modeling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand model capabilities by assimilating expanded PACE retrieved properties, such as NPP, IOPs, &amp; phytoplankton groups &amp; PSD's</li> <li>Extend PACE science to key fluxes: e.g., export, CO<sub>2</sub>, land-ocean exchange</li> </ul>		

OCR-VC established by IOCCG to provide **a long time series of calibrated ocean colour radiances** from measurements obtained from multiple satellites

## Goals of the OCR-VC

- 1) To ensure the continuity of the ocean colour time series – Climate Data Record (CDR) / Essential Climate Variables (ECVs)
- 2) **To provide high quality data sets** through a concerted inter-agency effort on activities relating to sensor inter-comparison (INSITU-OCR)
- 3) Data harmonization, support implementation of ECVs
- 4) Facilitate timely and easy access to data (user interface)
- 5) Capacity building and outreach

All space agencies on the IOCCG Committee contribute to the OCR-VC



# Motivation for the calibration task force

International Network for Sensor Inter-comparison and Uncertainty Assessment for Ocean Colour Radiometry produced a White Paper with recommendations on:

- **space sensor radiometric calibration, characterization and temporal stability**
- development and assessment of satellite products
- in situ data generation and handling
- information management and support

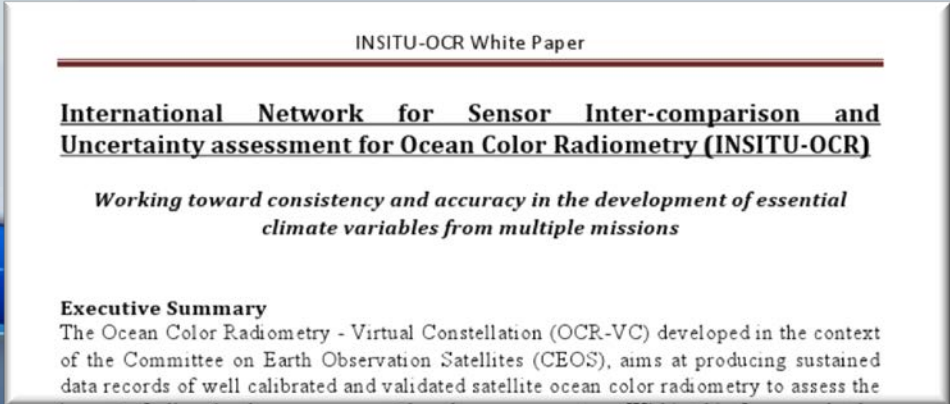
INSITU-OCR White Paper

Task Force on ECV Assessment

Provides guidance on the generation of better, long-term OCR climate data records

**Task Force on Satellite Sensor Calibration**

Facilitates collaboration to maximize the accuracy and stability of OCR data records from individual missions



- **R1.3 Permanent working group on satellite sensor calibration**  
 To facilitate collaboration between sensor calibration teams, a joint satellite calibration working group should be formed including members from all relevant ocean color sensor teams. This working group would focus on instrument

June 8, 2012 3



## Mission Statement

Provide a framework for active and hands-on collaboration among instrument calibration and characterization experts from Agencies engaged in the OCR-VC initiative.

The collaboration focuses on calibration needs specific to ocean-colour measurements and has the objective

- to maximize the accuracy and temporal and spatial stability of OCR records from individual missions for the purpose of climate, research and operational applications
- to facilitate the implementation of the pre-launch and on-orbit sensor calibration and characterization recommendations within respective Agencies

Reports and Monographs of the International  
Ocean-Colour Coordinating Group

An Affiliated Program of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)  
An Associated Member of the (CEOS)

IOCCG Report Number 13, 2012

Mission Requirements for Future Ocean-Colour  
Sensors

Edited by:  
Charles McClain and Gerhard Meister (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center,  
Greenbelt, MD, USA)

# Task force affiliation, scope, reporting

## Scope

- Ocean colour satellite instrument calibration and characterization, pre-launch and on-orbit
- System vicarious calibration is not in the scope of this task force

## Affiliation

- Joint IOCCG and CEOS OCR-VC activity (in response to OCR-VC White Paper)
- Aim to be recognized by CEOS WGCV IVOS, with direct links and adoption of IVOS guidelines relevant to ocean colour

## Reporting

- Reporting to IOCCG and CEOS OCR-VC (INSITU-OCR project office)
- Reporting to CEOS WGCV IVOS when suitable
- Reporting of recommendations, results, to individual missions (e.g. S3OLCI QWG)

# Permanent task force structure

## Long-term structure

Terms of Reference supplemented by an annual program of work

## IOCCG website

[http://www.ioccg.org/groups/Calib\\_TF.html](http://www.ioccg.org/groups/Calib_TF.html)

## Meetings

- Dedicated splinter sessions during the IOCS meetings
- Piggybacking on ocean colour community meetings (e.g. S3VT)
- Hands-on activities (e.g. SD BRDF, yaw maneuvers)
- Representation to meetings of CEOS WGCV IVOS
- Representation to meetings of GSICS (e.g. lunar calibration)
- Next meeting: Satellite Instrument Pre- and Post-Launch Calibration III, IOCS, June 2015, San Francisco

## Chairs

Ewa Kwiatkowska (EUMETSAT), Gerhard Meister (NASA GSFC), Bertrand Fougnie (CNES)

## Membership

- Proposed by the Space Agencies in agreement with the Chairs
- Expertise required: hands-on experience in ocean colour instrument design, characterization, calibration, and calibration validation; pre-launch and on-orbit

Colleagues actively involved in the meetings up to date

Ludovic Bourg, ACRI-ST

Seongick Cho, KIOST

Prakash Chauhan, ISRO

Steven Delwart, ESA

Gene Eplee, NASA

Bertrand Fougnie, CNES

Xianqiang He, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ins. Oceanography

Tim Hewison, EUMETSAT

Ewa Kwiatkowska, EUMETSAT

Constant Mazeran, SOLVO

Gerhard Meister, NASA

Hiroshi Murakami, JAXA

Samir Pal, ISRO

Frederick Patt, NASA

Junqiang Sun, NOAA

Menghua Wang, NOAA

Xiaoxiong (Jack) Xiong, NASA

Giuseppe Zibordi, JRC





# Possible topics

Support for INSITU-OCR White Paper recommendations

Support for pre-launch and on-orbit sensor calibration and characterization recommendations for global ocean-colour sensors and data harmonization (IOCCG Report #13)

- L1 product uncertainties per pixel for VIS, NIR, SWIR imagers: guidelines, outline of procedures
- Guidelines towards cal/val activities and infrastructures within space agencies
- Guidelines on on-orbit calibration strategies: yaw maneuvers, lunar calibration
- Support for lunar calibration: improvement of the irradiance model to enable absolute calibration

# INSITU-OCR White Paper recommendations relevant to WGCV

## 1.0 Space Sensor Radiometric Calibration, Characterization and Temporal Stability

- R1.1 Comprehensive pre-launch instrument calibration/characterization
- R1.2 Open access to calibration and characterization data
- R1.3 Permanent working group on satellite sensor calibration
- R1.4 Vicarious calibration
- R1.5 Support for calibration teams
- R1.6 Assess and correct for instrument degradation

## 2.0 Development and Assessment of Satellite Products

- R2.1 Distribution of calibrated and uncalibrated data
- R2.3 Product uncertainties
- R2.6 Long-term field measurement programs
- R2.7 Validation protocols

[http://www.ioccg.org/groups/INSITU-OCR\\_White-Paper.pdf](http://www.ioccg.org/groups/INSITU-OCR_White-Paper.pdf)

## 3.0 In Situ Data

- R3.1 Improving traceability of in situ measurements
- R3.8 General coordination of field campaigns

## 4.0 Information Management and Support

- R4.2 Processing capabilities for calibration and validation activities