



## **Terms of Reference**

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NETWORK ON COASTAL, OCEANS AND LAKE OPTICS REMOTE SENSING (NetCOLOR)

### **Purpose**

NetCOLOR is a network of Canadian experts and end-users in the field of aquatic colour remote sensing established in 2014 through funding from the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) and currently supported by the Marine Environment Observation Prediction and Response Network (MEOPAR). Its main purpose is to provide a means for researchers and other people working in the field of aquatic remote sensing to create an efficient and united centre of expertise through the development of a national strategy for research, training and dissemination of water colour products. NetCOLOR aims at establishing a community of practice to ensure advance research, promote collaboration and ensure best practices.

### **Background**

The Canadian aquatic colour community (CACC) has historically been a strong contributor to the international community. The geographical extent of the country and the relatively small size of the CACC have pushed to organise themselves to ensure efficient communication and promote collaboration at the national level, which has led to the creation of NetCOLOR. Its objectives are to:

1. Conduct a review of the status of various current and future international ocean colour missions with a view to assessing the availability of data relevant for the requirements of Canadian scientists
2. Identify the opportunities for Canadian contribution to space missions and the development of technologies for the use of ocean colour data, thereby providing inputs into the CSA Space Utilization RoadMap
3. Establish a national strategy to update Canadian user needs;
4. Identify Canadian technological capacity;
5. Identify the national priority for research in the field of remote sensing of ocean colour;
6. Improve the synergy within the academic, private and government sectors by creating an active network of Canadian ocean colour experts to engage in multi-institutional research projects; and

## Steering Committee

The steering committee (SC) will be made of 4 to 5 members from the government, academia, and private industry. A staff from the MEOPAR network will also attend the meeting as observer. The SC will respect equity between institutions and geographic locations with at least one member of each region (Central, Pacific and Atlantic), two members from academic institution, one member from government bodies. Members of the steering committee have to be active participant in the CACC.

A chair of the committee will be elected on the first meeting of the SC for a period of 3 years. Half the members of the steering committee will be renewed on a 3-year period to ensure an efficient rotation and representation of all the community within a 10- to 15-year time period.

## Responsibilities

The steering committee will

- meet 4 times a year by teleconference or during international conferences if more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the SC is attending the meeting,
- write the minutes of the meeting will be recorded and posted on the NetCOLOR website after approval from the SC
- Update the NetCOLOR website ([netcolor.ca](http://netcolor.ca)) on a regular basis (monthly or bi-monthly) with news and event of interest for the CACC
- Pending funding, the SC will organise national workshop to gather the CACC to exchange knowledge, promote collaboration and foster relationship with the CACC (e.g., students and research scientists)