

WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT: SHIPPING AND PORTS CHAPTERS OVERVIEW & INSTRUCTIONS FOR POTENTIAL REVIEWERS

The first draft of a World Ocean Assessment (WOA) has just been released for public comment. The U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) has been tasked to lead coordination of the U.S. review of two WOA chapters – one on ports and one on shipping. On behalf of the Department of State, the lead agency of the U.S. WOA review effort, the CMTS is encouraging marine transportation stakeholders to provide comment by Friday, February 6, 2015. To both view and enter comments on one or both of the chapters, visit <http://review.globalchange.gov> to register for an account.

The shipping chapter (Chapter 17) covers world trade routes and patterns, environmental impacts of shipping, and links to other industries (e.g. charts and navigation services). The ports chapter (Chapter 18) covers the significance of port activities (including economic benefit), impacts of the creation and maintenance of ports, and significant environmental/economic/social aspects related to ports. Both chapters also identify gaps in capacity to assess the environmental/social/economic aspects of shipping and ports.

Written by an international writing team as part of a United Nations effort, the WOA includes 50+ chapters under four main subject themes, marine environment and understanding of the ocean's role in the global integrated Earth system; food security and food safety; human activities that influence the ocean or are influenced by the ocean; and marine biological diversity. It is intended that a WOA will be produced every five years.

To assist you with the review process, please refer to the following resources:

WOA Guidance for Contributors:

http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/Guidance%20for%20Contributors.pdf

U.S. Federal Register notice requesting reviewers: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-06-06/pdf/2014-13224.pdf>

Outline of the WOA:

http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/Final%20Outline%20First%20Global%20Integrated%20Marine%20Assessment.pdf

WOA overview website: <http://www.worldoceanassessment.org/>