

**QARTOD IV: Breakout Group Description**  
June 21 – 23, 2006  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Woods Hole, MA

QARTOD IV breakout sessions will address quality assurance (QA) procedures for the following four data parameters:

- In situ currents
- Waves
- CTD
- Dissolved Oxygen

Attendees are asked to indicate their preference for one of the above parameters, as advanced materials and inquires may be distributed prior to the meeting.

Each breakout group will address the questions below. This information will then be compiled and shared in plenary on Thursday afternoon.

**PROPOSED FOCUS QUESTIONS**

1. **Identify existing and emerging standards that should be considered.** (Participants should be prepared to provide a very brief [~5 min.] description of their existing QA standards and/or practices.)
2. **List the manufacturer specifications that should be used to evaluate the instrument** (e.g., expected accuracy, reporting frequency, etc.).
3. **Identify, discuss, and document processes a user can employ to confirm that a sensor is producing the highest quality data.** Indicate whether this process should be *required* or *recommended*.
4. **Identify potential options or partnerships to conduct field verification of the system while deployed** (e.g., ships of opportunity)
5. **Identify available venues where QA-related issues and information can be exchanged among users.** Provide web sites.
6. **Identify centers where instruments can be sent for calibration; Document sites where users can compare their sensors to established reference sensors** (e.g., PORTS, CMAN, etc.).
7. **Does the QC standard for this parameter address biofouling and fault tolerance?** What procedures can be used to minimize effects of bio-fouling (region-specific)? If the data stream is interrupted, what are the preferred methods to address the discrepancy (e.g., interpolation, assign "missing data" flag, etc.)?
8. **Any additional QA topics or issues that should be addressed?**