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# Mass Change Designated Observable Science and Applications Traceability Matrix

The Mass Change Study Team<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>

February 13, 2020

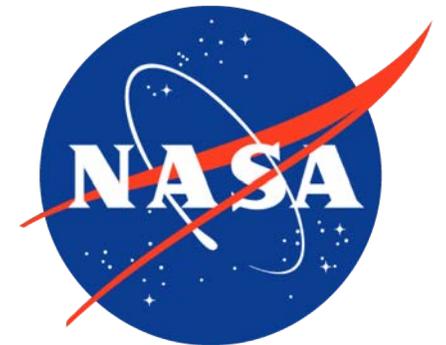
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<sup>4</sup>NASA Headquarters

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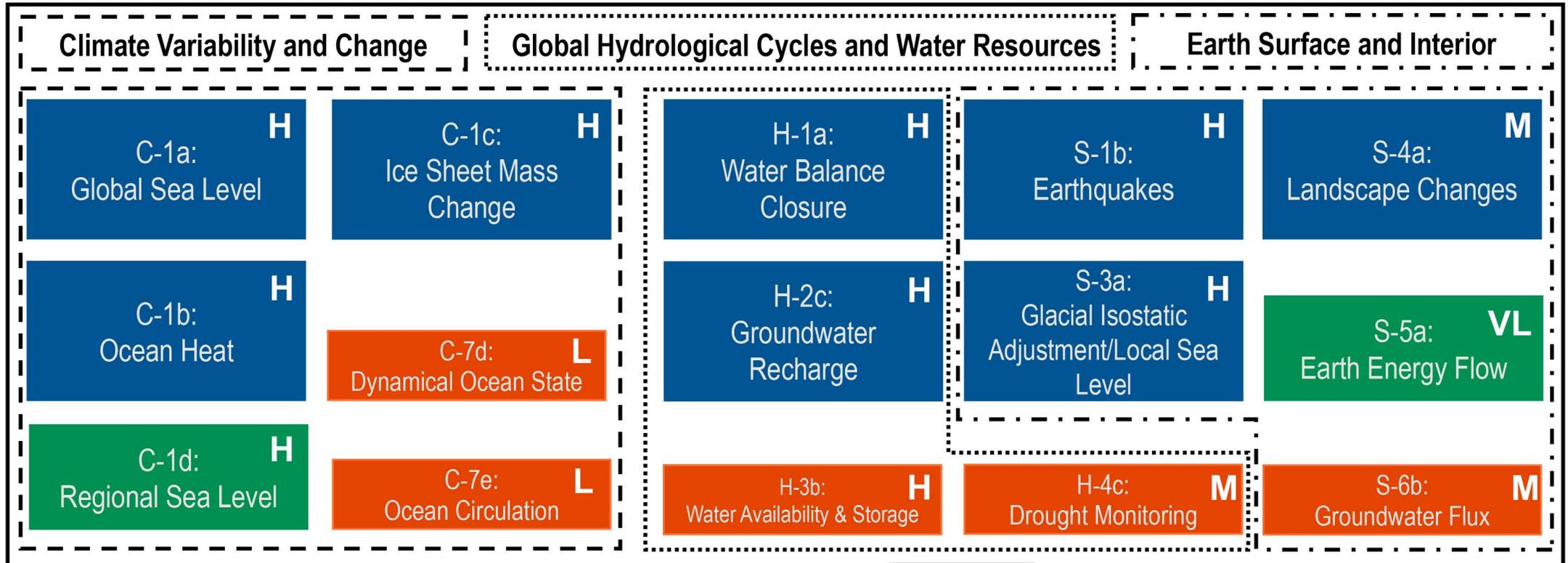
# Overview of the SATM process

- The following slides summarize the traceability of 15 science and applications objectives listed in the Decadal Survey (DS) that can be addressed by measurements of Mass Change (MC) to suggested measurement parameters.
  - Each objective is characterized with the following:
    - Importance: This is given in the DS
    - Utility: Prescribes the relative importance of MC in addressing the objective.
    - Suggested measurement parameters for Baseline and Goal scenarios. Baseline supports full science objectives, while Goal will support additional science. The measurement parameters include a targeted:
      - Spatial Resolution
      - Temporal Resolution
      - Accuracy
-



# Decadal Survey Science and Application Objectives for Mass Change

A Diverse Set of Objectives Spanning Three Panels



### DS Prescribed Weights [Importance]



### Mass Change Utility

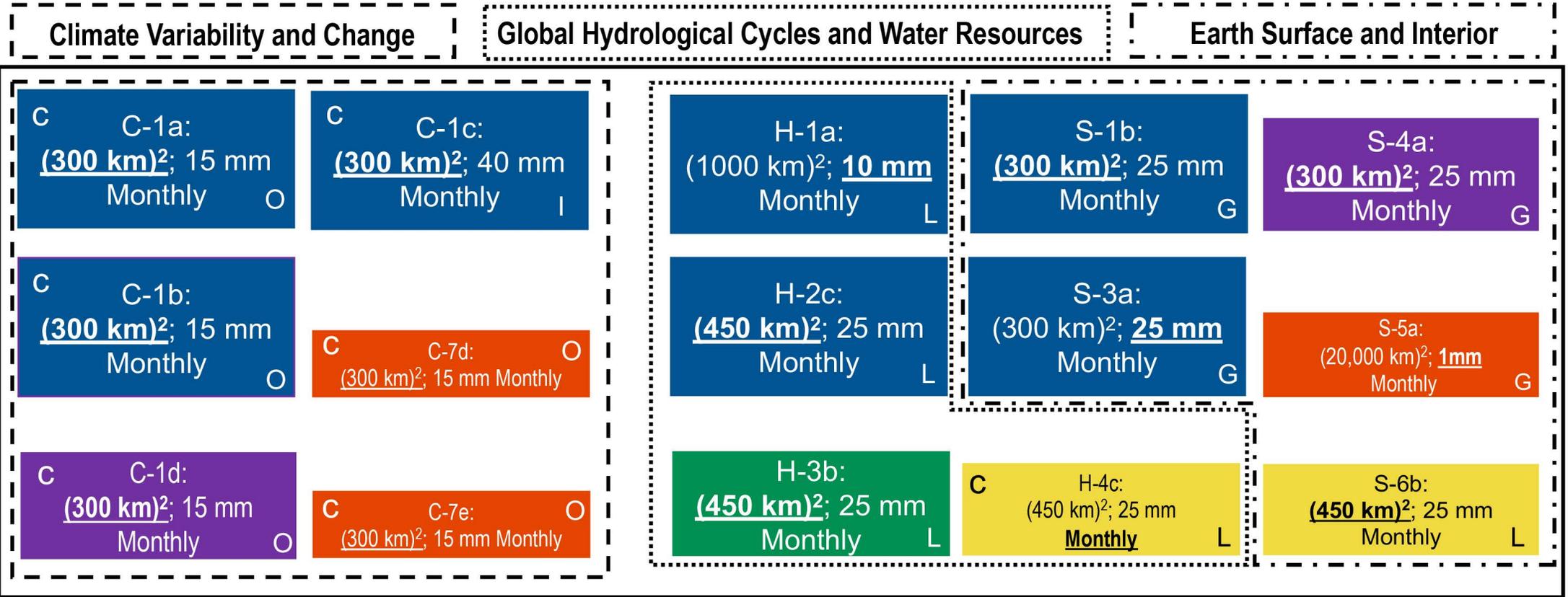
H: High  
M: Medium  
L: Low  
VL: Very Low

Science Performance Targets



# Suggested Measurement Parameters for Baseline

Weighting Combines Decadal Survey Importance with Mass Change Utility | Most Important Parameter Is Underlined | Units: Equivalent Water Height



C: Continuity explicitly recommended in Decadal Survey

G: Global  
O: Ocean  
L: Land  
I: Ice

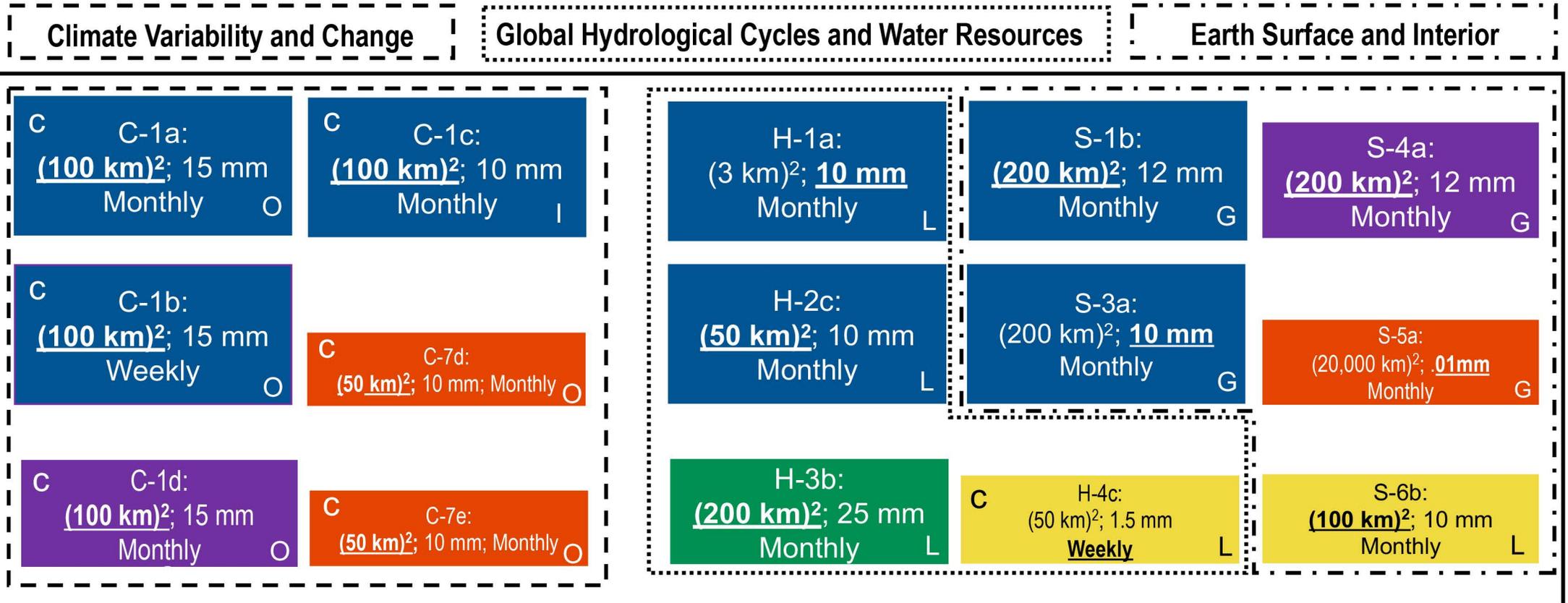
Highest Weight	Medium – High Weight	Medium Weight	Medium-Low Weight	Low Weight
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Science Performance Targets



# Suggested Measurement Parameters for Goal

Weighting Combines Decadal Survey Importance with Mass Change Utility | Most Important Parameter Is Underlined | Units: Equivalent Water Height



C: Continuity explicitly recommended in Decadal Survey

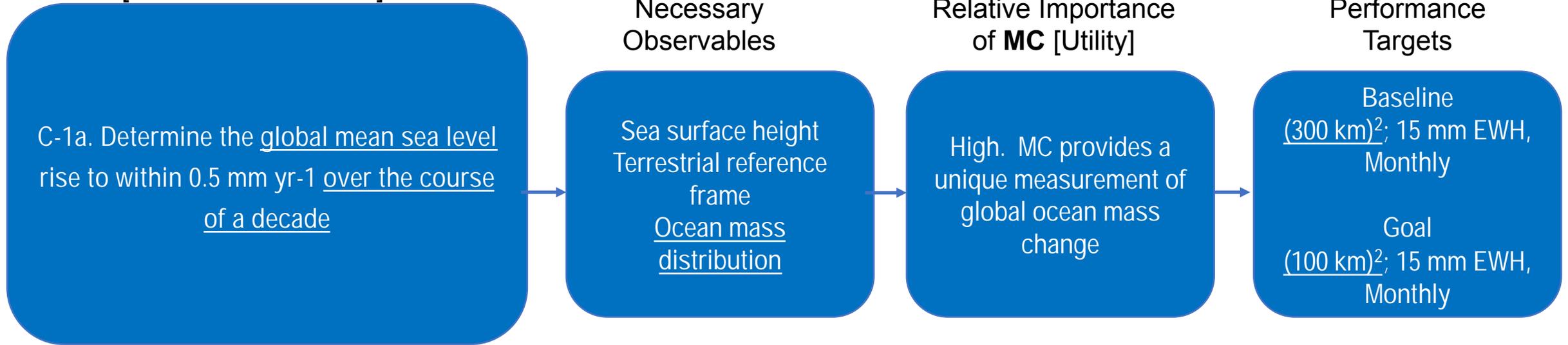
Highest Weight	Medium – High Weight	Medium Weight	Medium-Low Weight	Low Weight
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G: Global  
O: Ocean  
L: Land  
I: Ice

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**Science Performance Targets**

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: C1-a

DS Science Objective – C-1a  
[**MOST IMPORTANT**]



## Community interpretation and justification for performance target

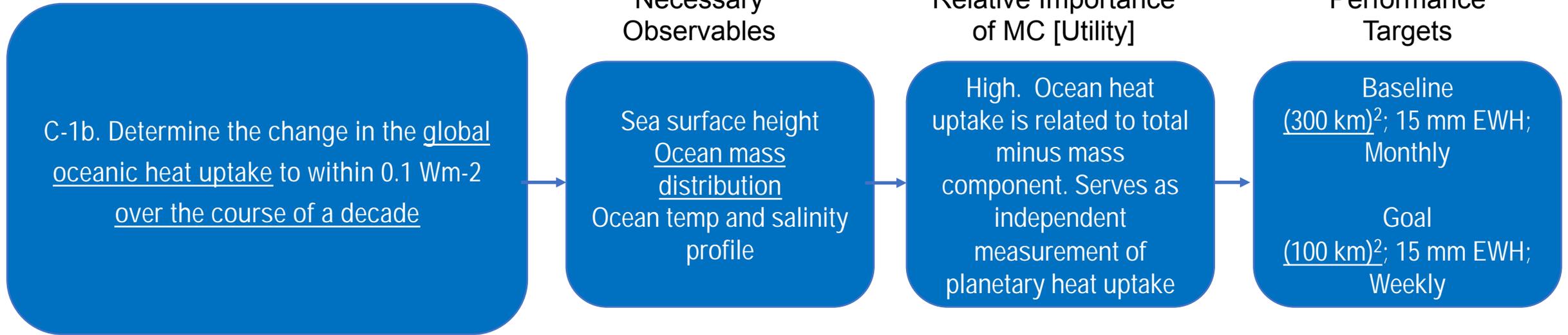
Key measurement parameter is underlined

Baseline: Specified in DS Appendix B

Goal: Higher spatial resolution will reduce land leakage errors which are one of the dominant sources of error in determining global ocean mass.

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: C-1b

DS Science Objective C-1b  
**[MOST IMPORTANT]**



## Community interpretation and justification for performance target

Key measurement parameter is underlined

Baseline: Specified in DS Appendix B

Goal: Higher spatial resolution will reduce land leakage errors which are one of the dominant sources of error in determining global ocean mass. Higher temporal resolution will allow for understanding the role of the ocean in the Earth's energy budget at short time scales.

*(1 mm/yr corresponds to 0.75 W/m<sup>2</sup>)*

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: C1-c

DS Science Objective – C-1c  
**[MOST IMPORTANT]**

C-1c. Determine the changes in total ice sheet mass balance to within 15 Gton/yr over the course of a decade and the changes in surface mass balance and glacier ice discharge with the same accuracy over the entire ice sheets, continuously, for decades to come

Necessary Observables

Ice sheet mass  
 Ice sheet velocity  
 Ice sheet elevation  
 Ice sheet thickness, ice shelf thickness  
 Ice sheet bed elevation, ice shelf cavity shape  
Ice sheet surface mass balance

Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

High. Ice sheet mass change is directly measured through MC

Performance Targets

Baseline  
(300 km)<sup>2</sup>; 40 mm;  
 Monthly  
 Goal  
(100 km)<sup>2</sup>; 10 mm;  
 Monthly

**Community interpretation and justification for performance target**

Baseline: Consistency with program of record

Goal: Specified in DS Appendix B. Higher spatial resolution to resolve glacier outlets for separation of drainage basins

Key measurement parameter is underlined

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: C-1d

DS Science Objective C-1d  
[VERY IMPORTANT]

C-1d. Determine regional sea level change to within 1.5- 2.5 mm/yr over the course of a decade (1.5 corresponds to a  $\sim(6000 \text{ km})^2$  region, 2.5 corresponds to a  $\sim(4000 \text{ km})^2$  region)

Necessary Observables

Sea surface height  
Vertical land motion  
Ocean mass distribution  
Wind vector

Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

High. MC provides a unique measurement of ocean mass change

Performance Targets

Baseline  
(300 km)<sup>2</sup>; 15 mm;  
Monthly

Goal  
(100 km)<sup>2</sup>; 15 mm;  
Monthly

Key measurement parameter is underlined

**Community interpretation and justification for performance target**

Baseline: Specified in DS Appendix B

Goal: Higher spatial resolution will reduce land leakage errors which are one of the dominant sources of error in determining regional ocean mass.

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: C-7d

DS Science Objective C-7d

[IMPORTANT]

C-7d. Quantify the linkage between the dynamical and thermodynamic state of the ocean upon atmospheric weather patterns on decadal timescales. Reduce the uncertainty by a factor of 2 (relative to decadal prediction uncertainty in IPCC 2013). Confidence level: 67% (likely).

Necessary Observables

Ocean velocity, temperature, salinity, wind stress

Ocean bottom pressure

Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

Low. Mass change is a secondary observable for this objective.

Performance Targets

Baseline  
(300 km)<sup>2</sup>; 15 mm;  
Monthly

Goal  
(50 km)<sup>2</sup>; 10 mm;  
Monthly

Key measurement parameter is underlined

Community interpretation and justification for performance target

Baseline: Consistency with the current Program of Record

Goal: Specified in the Decadal Survey (Appendix B). Higher spatial resolution will allow for resolution of major oceanic fronts.

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: C-7e

DS Science Objective C-7e  
[IMPORTANT]

C-7e. Observational verification of models used for climate projections. Are the models simulating the observed evolution of the large scale patterns in the atmosphere and ocean circulation, such as the frequency and magnitude of ENSO events, strength of AMOC, and the poleward expansion of the sub-tropical jet (to a 67% level correspondence with the observational data)?

Necessary Observables

Ocean velocity, temperature, salinity, wind stress  
Ocean bottom pressure

Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

Low. Mass change is a secondary observable for this objective.

Performance Targets

Baseline  
(300 km)<sup>2</sup>; 15 mm; Monthly  
Goal  
(50 km)<sup>2</sup>; 10 mm; Monthly

**Community interpretation and justification for performance target**

Baseline: Consistency with the current Program of Record

Goal: Specified in the Decadal Survey (Appendix B). Higher spatial resolution will allow for resolution of major oceanic fronts.

Key measurement parameter is underlined

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: H-1a

## DS Science Objective H-1a [MOST IMPORTANT]

H-1a. Develop and evaluate an integrated Earth System analysis with sufficient observational input to accurately quantify the components of the water and energy cycles and their interactions, and to close the water balance from headwater catchments to continental-scale river basins.

### Necessary Observables

Precipitation  
Evapotranspiration  
Runoff  
Terrestrial Water Storage Mass Change.

### Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

High.  $\Delta$ TWS is essential to closing the water budget and only a mass change measurement can provide it.

### Performance Targets

Baseline  
(1,000 km)<sup>2</sup>; 10 mm;  
Monthly

Goal  
(3 km)<sup>2</sup>; 10 mm;  
Monthly

### Community interpretation and justification for performance target

Baseline: Consistency with the current program of record, allowing water budget closure at continental, monthly and annual scales with less than 10% (of precipitation) total uncertainty.

Goal: Improved spatial resolution enabling water budget closure at the scale of headwater catchments.

Key measurement parameter is underlined

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: H-2c

## DS Science Objective H-2c [MOST IMPORTANT]

H-2c. Quantify how changes in land use, land cover, and water use related to agricultural activities, food production, and forest management affect water quality and especially groundwater recharge, threatening sustainability of future water supplies.

## Necessary Observables

Terrestrial water storage change and either (1) simplifying assumptions; or (2) precipitation, solar radiation, soil moisture, land cover and irrigation information, and a hydrological model.

## Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

High. dTWS can be used to infer dGW (with auxiliary info or assumptions). GW discharge is also needed to compute GW recharge as a residual.

## Performance Targets

Baseline  
(450 km)<sup>2</sup>; 25 mm;  
Monthly

Goal  
(50 km)<sup>2</sup>; 10 mm;  
Monthly

## Community interpretation and justification for performance target

Baseline: Consistency with the current program of record, which has supported estimates of dGW at regional scales.

Goal: From Decadal Survey Table 6.3: "Groundwater storage, at basin scale (50 km or better)".

Key measurement parameter is underlined

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: H-3b

DS Science Objective H-3b

[IMPORTANT]

H-3b. Monitor and understand the coupled natural and anthropogenic processes that change water quality, fluxes, and storages in and between all reservoirs (atmosphere, rivers, lakes, groundwater, and glaciers), and response to extreme events.

Necessary Observables

Numerous terrestrial water cycle observations including terrestrial water storage change (MC).

Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

High: Monitoring and understanding dTWS provides clues to the natural and anthropogenic processes that control water storage changes and fluxes.

Performance Targets

Baseline  
(450 km)<sup>2</sup>; 25 mm;  
Monthly

Goal  
(200 km)<sup>2</sup>; 25 mm;  
Monthly

**Community interpretation and justification for performance target**

Baseline: Consistency with the current program of record, which has supported estimates of dTWS at regional scales.

Goal: Improved spatial resolution would allow for quantification of dTWS at scales that better support process understanding.

Key measurement parameter is underlined

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: H-4c

DS Science Objective H-4c

[IMPORTANT]

H-4c. Improve drought monitoring to forecast short-term impacts more accurately and to assess potential mitigations.

Necessary Observables

Precipitation (GPM, A-CCP), soil moisture (SMAP, SMOS), water storage change (MC), surface waters (SWOT), vegetation health and evapotranspiration (imagers).

Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

Medium: Terrestrial water storage anomalies are useful indicators of drought, particularly when downscaled and temporally extrapolated via data assimilation.

Performance Targets

Baseline  
(450 km)<sup>2</sup>; 25 mm;  
Monthly

Goal  
(50 km)<sup>2</sup>; 1.5 mm;  
Weekly

## Community interpretation and justification for performance target

Baseline: Consistency with the current program of record, which has supported quasi-operational groundwater and soil moisture drought monitoring with the aid of data assimilation.

Goal: Enables drought monitoring at the spatial and temporal scales that water managers need without data assimilation; see Decadal Survey Table 6.4.

Key measurement parameter is underlined

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: S1-b

DS Science Objective – S-1b  
[**MOST IMPORTANT**]

S-1b. Measure and forecast interseismic, preseismic, coseismic, and postseismic activity over tectonically active areas on time scales ranging from hours to decades.

Necessary Geophysical Observables

Land-surface deformation  
Large scale gravity change  
Reference frame  
Topography  
Land-cover change

Relative Importance of **MC** [Utility]

High. MC provides a unique measurement for constraining long-wavelength post-seismic processes

Performance Targets

Baseline  
(300 km)<sup>2</sup>; 1  $\mu$ Gal or 25 mm EWH, Monthly  
  
Goal  
(200 km)<sup>2</sup>; 0.5  $\mu$ Gal or 12 mm EWH, Monthly

**Community interpretation and justification for performance target**

Baseline: Consistency with the current Program of Record is needed for decadal-scale post-seismic and other seismic cycle processes

Goal: Improved spatial resolution and accuracy will enable better resolution of key seismic cycle processes and detection of  $M < 8.1$  events

Key measurement parameter is underlined

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: S3-a

DS Science Objective S-3a  
**[MOST IMPORTANT]**

S-3a. Quantify the rates of sea-level change and its driving processes at global, regional, and local scales, with uncertainty < 0.1 mm yr-1 for global mean sea-level equivalent and <0.5 mm yr-1 sea-level equivalent at resolution of 10 km.

Necessary Geophysical Observables

Surface melt  
 Ice topography  
 Snow density  
Gravity  
 3-D Surface deformation on ice  
 Sea-surface height  
 Terrestrial reference frame  
 In situ temperature/salinity  
 Ice velocity  
 High-resolution topography

Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

High. MC is an essential component of global GIA estimates

Performance Targets

Baseline  
 (300 km)<sup>2</sup>; 25 mm EWH;  
 Monthly  
  
 Goal  
 (200 km)<sup>2</sup>; 10 mm EWH;  
 Monthly

## Community interpretation and justification for performance target

Baseline: Consistency with the current Program of Record is needed to estimate GIA and to separate GIA from other signals

Goal: Specified in the Decadal Survey (Appendix B)

Key measurement parameter is underlined

Importance of obtaining sea level fingerprints (enabled by satellite gravimetry observations) to address this objective is noted. These performance targets will additionally enable the resolution of sea level fingerprints.

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: S-4a

DS Science Objective – S-4a  
**[MOST IMPORTANT]**

S-4a. Quantify global, decadal landscape change produced by abrupt events and by continuous reshaping of Earth's surface due to surface processes, tectonics, and societal activity.

Necessary Geophysical Observables

Bare-earth topography  
 Land-surface deformation  
 Changes in optical surface characteristics  
Mass change  
 Rain and snow fall rates  
 Reflectance for freeze/thaw

Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

Medium. Mass movement as discussed in other elements (earthquake related mass movement, ice mass change, and hydrological flux)

Performance Targets

Baseline  
(300 km)<sup>2</sup>; 1 uGal or 25 mm; Monthly  
 Goal  
 (200 km)<sup>2</sup>; 0.5 uGal or 12 mm; Monthly

## Community interpretation and justification for performance target

Baseline: Consistency with the current Program of Record is needed for abrupt to decadal-scale seismic and other processes

Goal: Improved spatial resolution and accuracy will enable better resolution of key processes and detection of M<8.1 events

Key measurement parameter is underlined

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: S-5a

DS Science Objective S-5a  
[VERY IMPORTANT]

S-5a. Determine the effects of convection within the Earth's interior, specifically the dynamics of the Earth's core and its changing magnetic field and the interaction between mantle convection and plate motions.  
For MC: Determine exchange of angular momentum between core and mantle from Earth rotation parameters. Measure mean pole coordinates to within 50  $\mu\text{s}$

Necessary Geophysical Observables

Earth Orientation Parameters  
Mass Change  
Reference frame;  
Center of Mass

Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

Very Low. VLBI is the primary necessary observable. SLR is a secondary necessary observable.

Performance Targets

Baseline ( $C_{21}/S_{21}$ ):  
(20,000 km)<sup>2</sup> ; Monthly  
2E-11 = 1 mm EWH  
  
Goal ( $C_{21}/S_{21}$ ):  
(20,000km)<sup>2</sup> ; monthly  
2E-13 = .01 mm EWH

Key measurement parameter is underlined

Community interpretation and justification for performance target

Baseline: Consistency with the current Program of Record. This is defined as the agreement between  $C_{21}/S_{21}$  derived from SLR and satellite gravimetry

Goal: Improved accuracy of 2E-13 will allow for the determination of the angular offset between the Earth's figure axis and the mean mantle rotation axis to within 50  $\mu\text{s}$  (Wahr, 1987)

# Performance Targets Derived from Community Interpretation: S-6b

## DS Science Objective S-6b [IMPORTANT]

## Necessary Geophysical Observables

## Relative Importance of MC [Utility]

## Performance Targets

S-6b. Measure all significant fluxes in and out of the groundwater system across the recharge area (see also See also H-2c, recharge rates)

Soil moisture, Snow WE, rainfall  
Gravity  
Topography  
Deformation from fluid fluxes\*  
Land-surface deformation

Medium. MC provides global, long-wavelength gravity change

Baseline  
(450 km)<sup>2</sup>; 25 mm;  
Monthly  
  
Goal  
(100 km)<sup>2</sup>; 10 mm;  
Monthly

## Community interpretation and justification for performance target

Baseline: Consistency with the current Program of Record

Goal: Specified in the Decadal Survey (Appendix B)

Key measurement parameter is underlined