

June 2006

Summary Record
Hydrographic Services Review Panel
May 25, 2006
Washington, DC

Introduction:

On the call of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Captain Steven R. Barnum, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and after public notice in the Federal Register (Volume 71, No. 81, Page 24842 dated April 27, 2006), the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) meeting was convened on May 25, 2006, at The Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE), 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 420, Washington, DC. All voting members attended except Admiral Richard Larrabee. The following report summarizes the deliberations of that meeting. Documents available to and or prepared by the HSRP are available for public inspection via the web at <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/archive/library.htm> and copies can be requested by writing to the Director, Office of Coast Survey (OCS), 1315 East West Highway, SSMC3, N/CS, Silver Spring, MD 20910. A list of the HSRP members and other attendees is provided in Appendix 1.

HSRP Chair, Mr. Scott Rainey, called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and thanked Admiral West for hosting the HSRP meeting at CORE.

Welcoming Remarks:

Captain Steve Barnum, NOAA, introduced himself as the newly appointed Designated Federal Officer for the HSRP and introduced Mr. John (Jack) H. Dunnigan, Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service (NOS) and keynote speaker for the meeting.

Keynote Speaker:

Mr. Dunnigan discussed his previous NOAA work experiences, his background and expertise, his views on the importance of sustaining productive oceans and coasts and his forward look for HSRP advice and recommendations on critical navigation services issues in the country. He mentioned stakeholders and decision makers' interests, the Integrated Ocean Observing System, NOS program integration, efficient internal resources management, and his commitment to the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) and the importance of the HSRP for the CMTS. Panel discussions followed his briefing and focused on Physical Oceanographic Real-time Systems (PORTS[®]) support and funding; NOAA program funding concerns relative to U.S. defense spending, tax relief, social security, and economic relief for areas hit by storms; congressional education on marine safety; and the importance of ocean observing systems integration. Panel members agreed that prevention and

safety should be emphasized more than emergency response, and concluded that while NOAA is concerned with environmental issues, commerce and transportation is equally as important, and our ports and waterways are unprepared for rapid increases in ship size and traffic volume. The Panel stated that further maritime education with the Department of Commerce, NOAA and NOS would be useful. Mr. Dunnigan and the Panel briefly discussed synergy among the NOAA goal teams, NOAA budget processes and planning, and internal business management. Mr. Dunnigan said he would present more information at the upcoming meeting in August. The Panel requested NOAA program and policy support, longer-range work plans and an acknowledgement or status regarding HSRP advice and recommendations the Panel had recently put forth.

HSRP Deliberations and Discussions on NOAA Navigation Services' Role in Response to Incidents of National Significance:

Mr. Rainey lead discussions focused on NOAA's emergency response plans; referenced the "NOAA All Hazards Incident Management Draft Concept of Operations," the "NOAA Incident Coordination Center Standard Operating Procedures" and the "Emergency Support Functions (ESF) Table." The Panel discussed several of NOAA's efforts and resource allocations in the Gulf of Mexico area during the 2005 hurricane season; discussed the importance of water-level information concerns and fully equipped Navigation Response Teams (NRTs); emphasized the important role NOAA played and will be expected to play again in the reopening of ports in affected areas; and, discussed the criticality of identifying, in advance, the individuals or organizations that are important to contact in an emergency. The Panel expressed concern that it could have been useful in getting supplemental funding by informing Congress about NOAA's role in ensuring that waterways are navigable. Mr. Dunnigan stated that NOS did receive supplemental funding for hardening water-level stations and PORTS[®]. Panel members stated that many port areas are forming Marine Transportation System (MTS) recovery groups and would like to ensure that NOAA personnel, such as navigation managers or NRTs, are part of the local groups. Panel members recommended that NOAA seek to amend the National Response Plan listing of Agency's Essential Support Functions (ESF Table) to include NOAA's Navigation Response Teams (NRTs) and other hydrographic services programs. The HSRP further recommended that NOAA educate its federal agency partners on its navigation services capabilities and role in the federal response to a significant incident involving the maritime transportation system.

HSRP Deliberations and Discussions on the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA):

The Panel asked Mr. Dunnigan to provide his perspective and timeline for HSIA reauthorization. Mr. Dunnigan stated that the general advice and HSRP support contained in Ms. Brohl's letter to Admiral Lautenbacher was an adequate initial statement from the Panel and that further deliberations, discussions, briefings and NOAA input would be accomplished at the August 2006 public meeting. Ms. Brohl added that the Panel suggests that NOAA offer its viewpoints to Congress so that reauthorization can take place in a timely manner. The Panel voted to forward its letter of recommendation to Admiral Lautenbacher through Mr. Dunnigan.

HSRP Deliberations and Discussions on NOAA Issues for the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS):

The Panel discussed the structure and functions of the CMTS and the roles of its component agencies. Mr. Rainey presented his list of most-wanted issues for NOAA to offer the CMTS, including recommending that NOAA work within the CMTS to ensure that full-bottom coverage hydrographic surveys are conducted in all federally maintained channels, that NOAA work to broaden funding for navigation projects to evaluate aids to navigation and water-level and current information, and to broaden funding to accelerate the completion of backlogged hydrographic surveys. The Panel also discussed the effects of earmarks on the federal charting budget and strategies NOAA might use in order to produce a more effective overall charting program.

Presentation: CORE, Current Ocean Initiatives and Pending Issues:

Ms. Nina Young, Deputy Director for Public Affairs, CORE, presented information on this organization's efforts to inform Congress and the public about the impact of the oceans on our lives, on its efforts to grow the National Science Foundation's budget for ocean-related issues, and its efforts to increase awareness and support for programs related to oceans and human health.

Presentation: The Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS):

Mr. Dave Zilkoski, IOOS Program Manager, presented information on NOAA's navigation services priorities relative to the IOOS. Currently 10 agencies are actively participating in IOOS, and approximately 18 agencies have expressed interest in participating in the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology to guide the future direction of IOOS. Mr. Zilkoski explained that IOOS focuses on making existing data sets interoperable, rather than on collecting new data sets. NOAA's approximately 45 programs that collect ocean-related data sets will continue to collect observational data to support their programs, but the fact that IOOS will allow these data sets to be interoperable will increase their usefulness. IOOS will bring the ability to use disparate data sets in real time, and along with that, the ability to plan and conduct many different observing programs more efficiently.

Other panel discussions:

The panel agreed to review a draft of a HSRP annual report outlining NOAA's navigation services and the work of the HSRP at its next meeting. The panel approved the minutes from its last meeting in January 2006 and agreed to schedule time for public comments near the middle, rather than at the end, of the next public meeting, scheduled for Anchorage, AK, in August 2006.

Recommendations

The Panel deliberated extensively on several sets of recommendations and, with the approval of the Decision Maker and the Designated Federal Officer, recommendations were approved on the following topics:

- NOAA Navigation Services Issues for CMTS Consideration
- NOAA Navigation Services Emergency Response Capabilities
- Adequacy of appropriations to maintain a complete portfolio of Electronic Navigational Charts
- NOAA's Vision for Coastal Management
- HSRP Letter of Support for HSIA

Public Meeting Adjourned:

The public meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. To view or download the verbatim meeting transcript, please visit:
http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/archive/minutes/May25_06tran.txt.

**Appendix I
Attendees**

Voting HSRP Members

Helen Brohl, HSRP Vice Chair	Executive Director, Great Lakes Shipping Association and Vice Chair, HSRP
Jon Dasler	Director of Hydrographic Services, David Evans and Associates, Inc.
Elaine L. Dickinson	Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.)
William Gray	President, Gray Maritime Company, Maritime Advisor to INTERTANKO
Captain Sherri Hickman	Houston Pilots Association
Dr. Lewis Lapine	Chief, South Carolina Geodetic Survey
Adam McBride	Port Director, Lake Charles and Terminal District
Captain Andrew McGovern	Sandy Hook Pilot's Association
Captain Minas Myrtidis	Norwegian Cruise Line
John Oswald	President, John Oswald and Associates, LLC
Scott Rainey, HSRP Chair	Deputy Director, American Pilots' Association
Tom Skinner	Senior Project Manager, Durand & Anastas Environmental Strategies, Inc.
Rear Admiral Richard West, USN (Ret.)	President and CEO, Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE)
Larry Whiting	Hydrographer, Terra Surveys LLC

Non-voting Members

Captain Andrew Armstrong, NOAA (Ret.)	Co-Director, NOAA/UNH Joint Hydrographic Center
Dave Zilkoski	Director, National Geodetic Survey
Michael Szabados	Director, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services

Designated Federal Officer

Captain Steven R. Barnum, NOAA	Director, Office of Coast Survey
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HSRP Decision Maker

John H. Dunnigan	Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service
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Presenter/Speaker

Ms. Nina Young	CORE
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Staff

Steve Vogel	National Geodetic Survey
Monica Cisternelli	Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services
Barbara Hess	Office of Coast Survey
Virginia Dentler	Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services

Others/Public

Jerry Mills	Office of Coast Survey, NOAA
Karl Kieninger	Kongsberg
Darren Stephenson	Tenix Lads, Inc.
Bob Richards	Fugro Pelagos
Jana Lage	Fugro Pelagos
Cdr Gerd Glang	Office of Coast Survey, NOAA
Natalia Donoho	Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, NOAA
Rod Evans	Science Applications International Corporation
Tom Newman	Terra Sond, Ltd.