

Summary Record
Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP)
March 31 – April 1, 2005
San Diego, California

Introduction – Thursday, March 31, 2005

On the call of the Designated Federal Officer, Captain Roger L. Parsons, NOAA, and after public notice in the Federal Register (Volume 70, No. 45, Page 11616, dated March 9, 2005), the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) meeting was convened on March 31, 2005, at The Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel, One Market Place, San Diego, CA 92101. All voting members attended except Rear Admiral Richard Larrabee, USCG (Ret.), who participated on Friday, April 1, 2005, by teleconference. 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, Deputy Director, American Pilots' Association, called the meeting to order at 0830 and requested Panel members introduce themselves for roll call purposes.

HSRP Mission Overview

Captain Roger Parsons provided a brief overview of the Federal Advisory Committee. He mentioned it was established in 2003 in accordance with the provisions of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA) of 1998 and the Amendments of 2002. The purpose of the Panel is to advise the NOAA Administrator on issues listed in Section 303 of the HSIA and any issues related to NOAA's hydrographic services programs. The Panel members are individuals who, by reason of knowledge, experience or training are especially qualified in one or more disciplines relating to hydrographic surveying, tides, currents, geodetic and geo-spatial measurements, marine transportation, port administration, vessel pilotage, and coastal and fishery management. The Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS), National Geodetic Survey (NGS), Office of Coast Survey (OCS) and the NOAA/University of New Hampshire Joint Hydrographic Center (UNH /JHC) are represented on the Panel by non-voting members. He mentioned that three to four meetings are held per year and this is the 4th HSRP meeting.

Welcoming Remarks

Captain Andrew Armstrong , NOAA (Ret.), President, The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA), and Rear Admiral Samuel De Bow, Jr., Director, NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations, provided welcoming remarks on behalf of their respective organizations.

Dr. Lewis Lapine requested information on NOAA fleet status and RADM De Bow mentioned that the 2005 appropriation language required his office to study fleet modernization. They've performed an internal study and are currently working with OCS on a cost benefit analysis utilizing contractual services.

Administrative Business

Mr. Rainey mentioned a public comment included in the HSRP binders from Ms. Cleo Brylinsky, Fisheries Biologist in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, regarding backscatter information and that the public would have a chance to comment during both meeting days.

Mr. Rainey reviewed the November 15-16, 2005, Meeting Summary from Norfolk, VA. With the exception of Mr. Tom Skinner's title and office correction, the minutes were approved by the HSRP. Ms. Helen Brohl suggested the agenda clearly reflect "Old Business" and "New Business" for future meetings.

HSRP Deliberation, Advice and Workgroup Process

Mr. Rainey reviewed the flow diagram for the Panel Deliberation and Advice process. The Chair will recognize speakers, limit speakers to about five minutes, and will suggest that Panel members who wish to submit a recommendation do so in writing and submit during meeting discussions. He explained that the public, Panel or NOAA can suggest agenda topics. The Panel raised questions about the recommendation submission process which Captain Parsons clarified.

Mr. Rainey discussed the Workgroup approvals and Captain Parsons offered that most of the HSRP topics would fall into either Workgroup 1: Observations, Modeling and Emerging Technologies (Chair: Tom Skinner) or Workgroup 2: NOAA Hydrographic Services: Roles and Missions (Chair: William Gray). Workgroup communication would be via phone conferencing or e-mail and that members needed to sign a compensation waiver. The Workgroup deliberations are not public until the full Panel deliberates and it is important to note that the Panel will task the Workgroups. Workgroup participation is voluntary and Panel members can work on issues relevant to their expertise, regardless of the Workgroup to which assigned. Captain Parsons further discussed that not all Panel recommendations will be forwarded to the NOAA Administrator; some will be handled at NOAA program levels but the final forwarding decision resided with the Federal Advisory Committee Decision Maker, Dr. Spinrad.

Ms. Helen Brohl requested information on the Federal Register Announcement to solicit replacement Panel members for the five whose terms expire in December

2005 and April 2006. Captain Parsons stated there were about 20 applicants including those whose terms expire. He said the OCS, NGS, CO-OPS and UNH/JHC review process was in progress; a selection announcement will be made this summer.

Workgroup Discussion

Mr. Bill Gray discussed Workgroup 2 and mentioned the benefits of studying relevant information for users, products available, NOAA products and services and creating a prioritized list. He suggested that Workgroup 2 work on an evaluation of NOAA's capabilities and ability to meet user requirements. He requested NOAA provide a timeline and strategy. Mr. Rainey stated that a well-defined work plan would be discussed and presented. Mr. Gray disagreed with two suggested Workgroup issues: contracting and costs analysis. He suggested a NOAA funding shortfall was more relevant than whether NOAA ships or contractors collect survey data. Panel members agreed that NOAA is underfunded.

Ms. Helen Brohl discussed NOAA's role in integrated ocean observing. Mr. Tom Skinner agreed that this topic falls within the scope of Workgroup 1 and he plans to write something more formal to provide Workgroup 1 members.

Dr. Lapine proposed Workgroups be issued one or two clearly defined tasks; Captain Parsons and Mr. Rainey agreed.

Ms. Brohl reverted back to the Deliberations flow diagram and stated NOAA can put forth task item ideas and the Panel can decide if they want to undertake the assignment.

Reauthorization Language for the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA)

Ms. Brohl stated that the HSIA authorization expires at the end of 2007 and the Panel should recommend reauthorization language to be considered. She offered to draft comments for both Workgroups to review and will have a final draft for the Panel before the next meeting. Captain Parsons mentioned that NOAA will be going forward with suggestions for additions and deletions; he encouraged the Panel to weigh-in.

Public Comment

Members of the public introduced themselves: Mr. Fred Ganjon, President, IIC Technologies (IIC has a strong interest in HSRP activities and he wished the Panel well); Karl Kieninger, Treasurer of the Maritime Administration Port of New York/New Jersey; Cleo Brylinsky, Alaska Department of Fish & Game; Eric

James, C-Map; Jon Pepper, UKHO; Paul Fielding, UKHO liaison to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

Cleo Brylinsky, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Sitka, AK:

Ms. Brylinsky thanked the National Ocean Service for making data available for fisheries management. She stated that the data are useful for habitat mapping for rockfish research and crab fishery management. Often NOAA Ship RAINIER works in AK deep water and the platform is equipped with an ELAC system but it doesn't collect useful backscatter information. As the fleet is modernized the ADF&G requests it be equipped with a RESON system which collects useful backscatter data. Ms. Brylinsky suggested that the NOAA office in Sand Point would benefit immensely by hiring a liaison to work with other agency user requests. She said the data doesn't have to be snippet data but if it was, that would be better for habitat use. Captain Parsons mentioned that bathymetric data, collected by NOAA and contractors, is archived in Boulder, CO, at the National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC). There is a time lag between processing and NGDC transfer but the data is fully available; if users need data sooner, NOAA would consider making it available.

Mr. Oswald informed Ms. Brylinsky that there was now an Alaska Ocean Policy Coordinator at the State level and asked if she had requested assistance, through the Governor's office, about mounting a multibeam system on an ADF&G vessel. Mr. Oswald offered that there are also contractors working in the Alaska area (particularly the southwest area) that could possibly be utilized to collect backscatter data. He informed Ms. Brylinsky that he's attended some ocean policy and strategy conferences recently and backscatter is among the discussion topics. He said the most critical requirements, expressed within the conference focus groups, were for high resolution multibeam bathymetric data and LIDAR data for shoreline mapping. He suggested she visit the Alaska Ocean Observing System website (<http://www.aoots.org>) for more information.

Captain Parsons took this opportunity to discuss NOAA's approach to integrated ocean mapping so that when NOAA survey vessels operate they try to support more than just the nautical charting program. Vessels may support fish habitat mapping, bottom characterization and other requirements that utilize the collected data. The vessels, however, must collect data that meets minimal nautical charting requirements so OCS doesn't have to send resources to resurvey. NOAA realizes it needs to consolidate resources.

Mr. Dasler mentioned the same instrumentation is used to collect backscatter data and that data are useful in evaluating anomalies.

Presentation: Hydrographic Surveys Cost Analysis

Mr. Mike Gibson, Chief, Hydrographic Surveys Division, briefed the Panel on OCS Hydrographic Survey Cost Analysis (copy available at <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/archive/library.htm>). Mr. Gibson reviewed the NOS contracting policy established in 1996 (reiterated by the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA)): “..to fulfill the data gathering and dissemination duties of the Administration under the Act of 1947, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator may procure, lease, evaluate, test, develop, and operate vessels, equipment and technologies necessary to ensure safe navigation and maintain operational expertise (i.e., core capability) in hydrographic data acquisition and hydrographic services..” Several main points were made: a steady decline in the number of NOAA survey platforms in the last 15 years, Congressional support for outsourcing to reduce critical area survey backlog, and vessel leasing (time charter) to increase data acquisition. In-house, contract and chartered vessel survey methods underwent a cost analysis in 2001 by KPMG but there were insufficient data available for the vessel chartering cost analysis. In 2005, there are additional data to analyze all three survey methods and the results would provide the cost per square nautical mile (SNM) for conducting surveys in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA has requested the HSRP provide advice and recommendations on the cost analysis model and methodology, and consider “normalized” versus “bottom line” cost per SNM comparison, additional new technologies (Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, LIDAR) and adequacy of the “cost per SNM” metric. NOAA will provide the cost analysis methodology for the Panel’s review.

Navigation Services: FY 05 and FY 06 President’s Request

Captain Parsons, Director, OCS; Mike Szabados, Director, CO-OPS; and Charlie Challstrom, Director, NGS presented NOAA’s Navigation Services Budget information (to review the presentation, visit <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/archive/library.htm>).

NOAA’s Mapping and Charting Contracting Strategy

Brian Greenawalt, OCS Hydrographic Surveys Division, presented a contracting strategy presentation (to review the presentation, visit <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/archive/library.htm>) and overview that included: (1) a detailed explanation about navigation services budget and contracting history, (2) an FY 05 House Appropriations Committee Report that stated “..the Committee expects NOAA to work with the private mapping community to develop a strategy for expanding contracting with private entities to minimize duplication and take maximum advantage of private sector capabilities in fulfillment of NOAA’s mapping and charting responsibilities,” and (3) a brief description of the current NOS contracting policy that was established in 1996, Brooks Act Architect-Engineering contracting details, NOS contract negotiation policies and NOAA core capabilities.

Admiral West questioned whether private survey contractors on the Panel were satisfied with the criteria NOS uses to determine when contracting is inappropriate (inherently government in nature, no commercial source available that meets the required performance standards and can compare with government costs, national defense requirements, and data quality control concerns).

Mssrs. Whiting, Dasler and Oswald offered remarks regarding GSA Schedule-related concerns, contractor and NOAA SNM cost differential related to platform differences, Requests for Proposals (RFP) timing frustrations and other challenges. On balance, they were satisfied with the contracting process and appreciated the partnership with NOAA. Captain Parsons said it was very encouraging to OCS and NGS that success stories exist.

Admiral West encouraged the Panel to endorse and support that NOAA must maintain an inherent hydrographic services capability and that 100% outsourcing isn't advisable, contrary to the message that is often times carried to the Hill.

The Panel is charged with reviewing and recommending revisions to the current contracting policy; recommending strategies for NOAA to adopt to improve and expand mapping and charting contracting services; and, assessing and analyzing NOAA's core capabilities.

Interest Topics

Mr. Scott Rainey requested that Panel members provide him with their top, HSRP-related interest issues from their expertise areas; he'll compile and distribute to the members through the Workgroups.

Public Comment

Written transcripts of Public Comments may be requested through hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov.

Don Jagoe, Science Applications International Corporation, Newport, RI
Contracting with NOS is truly a partnership and going extremely well. NOAA technical staff and the Hydrographic Surveys Division have tremendous capabilities but they need help getting the contracts awarded. The Department of Commerce legal reviews impede the RFP process; perhaps the Panel could have some input.

Friday, April 1, 2005

Administrative Business

HSRP Chair, Mr. Scott Rainey, called the meeting to order at 0830 and reviewed administrative procedures. *For the Record*: Captain Roger Parsons corrected information provided on previous day: costs to establish a Navigation Response Team are about \$1M, yearly operating costs are about \$500,000.

Congressional Fact-finding Visits

Admiral West provided an overview of recent Panel Members' Congressional visits and re-emphasized the importance of HSRP's continued presence on the Hill. He reported that Congress values NOAA's survey work and realizes there should be a balance between federal efforts and contract efforts. There was a lengthy discussion of IOOS and how hydrographic services fit into ocean observation systems. Congress realizes the importance of ocean observations but is unclear on the role of hydrographic services in IOOS. Admiral West feels the IOOS management is not transparent but he feels that NOAA should have the lead role--should become the one "Federal Ocean Agency." NOAA isn't mandated for this role but the Organic Act could help this year if passed. Admiral West also stressed the importance of "ocean health."

Ms. Helen Brohl offered that maritime functions should be a higher priority, not only within NOAA but in Congress as well. She suggested an ombudsman would be helpful. Mr. William Gray suggested recreational and shipping missions should be in one Agency, not split between several federal agencies (NOAA, USCG, etc.)

Ms. Brohl suggested that Mr. Scott Rainey, HSRP Chair, testify and present the Panel's taskings and current issues if feasible (Mr. Rainey reminded Panel members that he would have to clear his testimony through NOAA General Counsel before delivery in hearings and/or frame a formal recommendation to Admiral Lautenbacher.) Captain Parsons offered to provide the Panel with NOAA's views on S. 364 (a Bill to establish a program within NOAA to integrate Federal coastal and ocean mapping activities).

U.S. Ocean Action Plan Letter

Mr. Tom Skinner, Chair, Workgroup 1, drafted a letter to Admiral Lautenbacher to present initial comments on the Bush Administration's *U.S. Ocean Action Plan*. Mr. Rainey received some comments from the Panel and incorporated them in the final draft version. Panel members Mr. William Gray and Admiral Richard West praised the letter; a few technical word additions and changes were made. The letter was approved. It was suggested that the letter be hand-delivered to Admiral Lautenbacher by the HSRP Chair.

Workgroup Taskings and Deliverables

Captain Parsons provided five documents that outlined suggested HSRP Taskings and Deliverables, Timelines and specified Information or documents NOAA will provide to help the Panel with the tasks. The issues presented were: Hydrographic Survey Cost Analysis, National Ocean Service Mapping and Charting Contracting Policy and Expansion Strategy, NOAA Hydrographic Services Requirements, NOAA Hydrographic Services' Role in the Integrated Ocean Observing System and language for inclusion in the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA) reauthorization (Ms. Helen Brohl has agreed to take the leadership role for this task).

The Panel has been offered MCI Meet-Me conference call services that will record the meetings if necessary and Barbara Hess will look into better e-mail coordination to keep track of correspondence. Workgroup 2 Chair, Mr. William Gray, requested Panel members inform him of their desire to take a leadership role on any of the Workgroup 2 taskings and Captain Parsons offered NOAA personnel support on any tasks, if required. Mr. Rainey informed the Panel that the Workgroups were stood up with the intention that only HSRP members would work on the tasks; no outside input can be solicited at this time.

Public Comments

Mr. Eric James, C-Map

Mr. James expressed his desire to have the Panel support the ISO standard for Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs) and supplemental materials. Mr. James stated that with NOAA's current free ENC web distribution policy, data encryption is not included; malicious file corruption possibly would not be detected by users. He recommends NOAA encrypt its data.

Captain Parsons responded with information about the recently published Quality Assurance and Certification Program. The NOAA Program will certify procedures rather than certify products.

Mr. James would appreciate better communication with NOAA and the U.S Coast Guard. Captain Parsons has promised to look into the ENC encryption issues and provide more information at the next HSRP meeting.

Written transcripts of Public Comments may be requested through hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov.

Closing Remarks

Captain Parsons said that NOAA will recommend continuation of the HSRP via the charter renewal process and he also agreed with Panel members that NOAA should broaden notification to solicit new Panel members on the next go-around. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for August or September and would be held in Alaska, Washington, DC, or New Hampshire. Panel members were

requested to send their July-September 2005 availability information to Barbara.Hess@noaa.gov. Ms. Helen Brohl provided the Panel a website address: <http://highwayh20.com/>. This site, HWY H₂O, offers shipping statistics and includes the merits of shipping by ship. HSRP public meeting was adjourned and a one hour administrative meeting ensued.

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
Rear Admiral Richard Larrabee, USCG (Ret.) (via telecomm)	Director, Port Commerce Department, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Adam McBride	Port Director, Lake Charles and Terminal District
Captain Andrew McGovern	Sandy Hook Pilots 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
Charlie Challstrom	Director, National Geodetic Survey
Michael Szabados	Director, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services

Designated Federal Officer

Captain Roger L. Parsons, NOAA	Director, Office of Coast Survey
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Presenter/Speaker

Captain Andrew Armstrong, NOAA (Ret.)	President, The Hydrographic Society of America
RADM Sam De Bow, Jr. NOAA	Director, NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps and Director, NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations
Mike Gibson	Chief, Hydrographic Surveys Division, OCS
Brian Greenawalt	Chief, Data Acquisition and Control Branch, OCS

Staff

Barbara Hess	Office of Coast Survey
Gretchen Imahori	Office of Coast Survey
Steve Vogel	National Geodetic Survey

Others/Public

Karl Wm. Kieninger	Maritime Association, Port of NY/NJ
Don Jagoe	SAIC
Eric James	C-Map USA
Lisa Fraley	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
Cleo Brylinsky	Alaska Department of Fish & Game
Bob Richards	Fugro Pelagos
Dennis Hill	Coastal ES
Kyle Ward	NOAA, Office of Coast Survey
Rhys Barker	Tenix LADS Corporation
Mike Aslaksen	NOAA, National Geodetic Survey
Adam J. Kerr	Editor, International Hydrographic Review
Robert Markle	Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services
John Pepper	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
Paul Fielding	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
Fred Ganjon	IIC Technologies