

Issue: Arctic Nautical Charting Requirements and Prioritization

Assigned To: Emerging Arctic Priorities Working Group

Tasks:

- 1) The Emerging Arctic Priorities (EAP) WG is asked to note and consider the announcement by the Coast Guard on a proposed rule entitled “Port Access Route Study: In the Chukchi Sea, Bering Strait and Bering Sea” by [Federal Register Notice \(12-05-2014\)](#). Comments must be received on or before June 3, 2015.
  - a. The EAP WG, through the HSRP, may wish to respond to the Coast Guard with the panel’s views on this proposed rule.
  - b. HSRP members may also respond to the Coast Guard as private individuals without reference to the HSRP.
- 2) The [Implementation Plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region \(January 2014\)](#) includes an objective to “Chart the Arctic Region”. NOAA requests the panel’s views on:
  - a. What criteria should NOAA consider to prioritize its national mission for hydrography and charting between the U.S. Arctic and the rest of the Nation?
  - b. What criteria should NOAA consider to prioritize hydrography and charting requirements within the U.S. Arctic?
  - c. What criteria should NOAA consider to prioritize tides/currents and positioning requirements within the U.S. Arctic?
  - d. What criteria should NOAA use to prioritize hydrography and charting requirements among potential U.S. Arctic deep draft ports and harbors of refuge?
  - e. Given the realities of shorter survey seasons and mobilization costs, what are realistic annual targets in percentage surveyed and charted over the next five years in:
    - i. the Bering Strait?
    - ii. potential U.S. Arctic deep draft ports and harbors of refuge?
- 3) Should NOAA look at alternative strategies to Arctic coverage other than our current approach of full bottom coverage?

- a. What might be some recommended new/creative approaches to partnerships and funding strategies that NOAA might employ to increase gravity data acquisition, develop Alaska geoid models, install tide gauges and survey for nautical charting?
- b. How might NOAA think about this region differently?

Other References:

- 1) NOAA Press Release “[NOAA Plans Increased 2015 Arctic Nautical Charting Operations](#)” (March 17, 2015)
- 2) NOAA [Arctic Nautical Charting Plan](#) (February 15, 2013)
- 3) [U.S. Committee on Marine Transportation System U.S. Arctic MTS: Overview and Priorities for Action](#) (2013)
- 4) NOAA [Hydrographic Survey Priorities](#), (2012)