



Julie Thomas, Chair
Sean M. Duffy, Sr., Vice-Chair
May 12, 2022

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Dr. Spinrad,

The remotely hosted Spring 2022 Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) meeting was highlighted by the policy update provided by Assistant Administrator Nicole LeBoeuf on priorities of the National Ocean Service. Nicole updated us on National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) recently published Sea Level Rise Report. We look forward to a briefing on this report at a future Working Group meeting. It was informative to hear Nicole talk about NOAA's implementation of the New Blue Economy. The Assistant Administrator expanded on other administration priorities and highlighted Diversity and Equity as an overarching theme.

The Panel benefited from the presentation by Randy Tebeest as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Programs and Administration for NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations on the status of the NOAA fleet. It was good to hear Randy mention the goal of designing the fleet for multi-missions and the standardization of vessels and technology. He also recognized the growing impact and future integration of uncrewed vessels, vehicles and aircraft.

RDML Ben Evans Director of the Office of Coast Survey gave an informative overview of the Office of Coast Survey (OCS) efforts highlighting many priorities such as the transition to Electronic Navigation Charts (ENCs), supporting the National Bathymetric Source, Precision Navigation, the National Mapping Efforts, introducing the Panel to Blue Topo data management presentation developments, and the use of uncrewed systems. Director Juliana Blackwell of the National Geodetic Survey highlighted the collaboration with the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) to measure the vertical land motion, GRAV-D implementation and encouraging community sharing of Global Position System data for expanded product development. Rich Edwing as the Director of CO-OPS informed regarding water-level station updates, work on tidal currents and additional ports to the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS). Rich also displayed graphics of the global progression of the Tonga volcanic eruption which was fascinating. Captain Andy Armstrong from the Center for Coastal & Ocean Mapping's video presentation on Virtual Reality within the vessel framework was well received and referenced throughout the day.

The HSRP meeting held two information panels.

- Mind the Gap: Plans for Data Licensing and Big Data Ingestion/Use for Charting and Bathymetry Products". The HSRP members have discussed this at length and appreciate all the discussion and responses from OCS. The panel views this effort as productive and will support this task as described in the attached document.
- Bridge Heights and Datums:" What does National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), Air Gap Sensors and Navigation Have to do with it?" In this session we heard from a diverse group of presenters and moderators. The inconsistency of datums was highlighted, affecting vessel transits,

and highlighting the value of “invisible” geospatial infrastructure provided by NOAA to critical construction and maintenance projects like dredging rivers while avoiding buried pipelines.

Following are the HSRP recommendations:

- 1) Advocate for the continued emphasis on equity, diversity, inclusiveness, and acceptance. This should continue to be an overarching theme for all projects with NOAA.
- 2) Resilience and Sea Level Rise should stay at the forefront of NOAA’s efforts.
- 3) Continue to foster NOAA’s leadership. This is particularly important for the navigation sector and supply chain industry.
- 4) Continue to explore the Digital Twin technology and the benefit to NOAA.
- 5) Follow the developments of the Precision Navigation efforts and evaluate if there are advances to navigating in low visibility.
- 6) Promote a national standard for a mapping framework including standardization of datums.

As documented in the attached Priorities Matrix, the HSRP will continue to follow topics addressing equity, climate, and the economy. Additional attachments include:

- Response from the HSRP regarding “Data Licensing Request from OCS”. The HSRP supports this implementation pursuant to several briefings and discussions regarding the request.
- Issue Paper entitled “Private/Public Partnerships”, highlighting the value of private/public partnerships for NOAA’s data acquisition, and encouraging NOAA to further establish these partnerships.
- Issue Paper entitled “Electronic Navigation Charts (ENC’s) and Paper Charts for Small Vessels” addressing the transition from paper to digital charts, ensuring the boaters will have the best possible information to support safe navigation. The paper highlights the challenges of this transition and recommends critical steps for NOAA services to pursue.
- Issue paper entitled “NSRS: All U.S. Latitudes, Longitudes, and Elevations to Change” discusses the impact of the new geometric reference frames and geopotential datum highlighting the socio-economic benefit to the Nation.

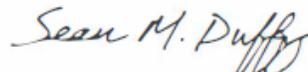
Future Issue Paper updates will include those on Coastal Resilience and Precision Navigation,

The HSRP looks forward to a productive year and to further communication with you and NOS leadership.

Sincerely,



Julie Thomas
Chair, HSRP



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Vice Chair, HSRP

Attachments: HSRP Priorities Matrix
 Response on OCS Data Licensing
 3 Issue Papers
 HSRP Meeting Minutes