

United States Senate

September 11, 2017

Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith
Director, Office of Coast Survey
NOAA National Ocean Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Rear Admiral Smith:

I regret that I am unable to attend the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) meeting in Portsmouth today, but I would like to welcome you to New Hampshire and thank all of the stakeholders and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) partners for attending this important meeting.

The Hydrographic Services Review Panel meeting is an important opportunity for NOAA officials, HSRP members, NOAA partners, and other marine stakeholders to come together and discuss ways to improve NOAA data, products, and services and recommend changes. This work is critical to ensuring that the users of our waterways, from small recreational boaters to large commercial vessels, have the data and tools that they need to safely and efficiently navigate our nation's waterways.

A well-functioning marine transportation system is critical for global commerce and our economy. The Hydrographic Services Review Panel and these meetings are important tools to ensure that we continue to improve and enhance our marine transportation system.

Once again, thank you for your work. I look forward to continuing to work together on these and other important marine issues.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator