



Ed Saade, Chair
Julie Thomas, Vice-Chair

April 15, 2019

Dr. Neil Jacobs, PhD.
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the co-chair Julie Thomas and myself, please find the Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) recommendations, from the HSRP's March 5-7, 2019, Washington DC meeting. Thank you for the essential participation of NOAA leadership in the meeting. NOAA's services and contributions to the blue economy are essential for a more robust and successful navigation services portfolio. Below we present the highest priority recommendations, a brief meeting summary with background information on our recommendations and a Priority Matrix table which serves as a mechanism to track priority topics that arise during our discussions.

HSRP Recommendations:

1. NOAA should prioritize and advocate for the continuous investment in establishing and maintaining the Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) network. Several times throughout the DC meeting, the value of the CORS was mentioned. These stations are recognized as providing the foundation for all geopositioning and modeling. The need to modernize this system is critical.
2. Navigational restricted visibility (i.e. fog, heavy rain or dust storms) , in Ports and navigational Channels, was noted as an area for a deeper consideration for NOAA and HSRP. Fog was specifically discussed as having a large economic impact to the shipping sector and something that technology advances may be able to address. HSRP recommends NOAA look at the existing suite of products, and consider additions that NOAA can develop to address this issue.
3. NOAA should continue to support emergency response and sea level rise studies. These areas are key to many of the activities within NOS and critical to the future of our shoreline. The following items were identified supporting this topic: 1: Geodetic observations, emphasizing common datums and standard output. 2: Long term observations, 3: Climate and statistical analysis tools, 4: Model coupling, 5: Public Education (CMTS, advisory committees, etc.)
4. As mentioned in our March and August 2018 letter, NOAA should continue to work with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to support dissemination of real-time NOAA data streams to mariners and other stakeholders via the USCG National Automated Information System (NAIS). This is especially needed for safety to transmit water levels and other environmental data from NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS). We believe that with your added support, NOAA may be able to get a positive resolution.

5. The HSRP encourages the continual advancement of PORTS. During our panels, we heard many favorable reports regarding the value of this program. It is evident that the on-going Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs are of a concern to the operational users. However, the ability to maintain, expand and sustain PORTS is recognized as critical to our navigation system. The HSRP members ask you to work with OMB and Congress to secure their support for the full federal funding to cover the PORTS Operations and Maintenance costs, as mentioned in the HSRP PORTS White Paper which states, "Ensure reliable federal funding for installation, operation, and maintenance of PORTS." By increasing new PORTS funding by \$10 million per year NOAA could continue the ongoing operations and maintenance, perform emergency maintenance, and recapitalization responsibilities for all oceanographic sensors of the existing PORTS system presently paid for by the navigation stakeholders. The \$10 million will also ensure that CO-OPS has the base funding needed for PORTS program management capacity to continue supporting the addition of new PORTS as well as enhancements to the existing 33 PORTS.
6. Support and encourage the combined NOAA/USGS efforts to expand 3DNation from land, through the shoreline and into the deep ocean. One example of the critical application of this effort was RDML Gallaudet's reference to the White House increasing interest in the Southwest Pacific as an area of key strategic importance for the country and NOAA will be working to fulfill their hydrographic mission in the region.

During RDML Gallaudet's presentation, he asked the panel for specific recommendations to the CMTS. The two recommendations that we would like to put forth are 1) The issue of navigational restricted visibility as mentioned above and 2) Using the lessons learned in the Port of Long Beach, encourage NOAA to pursue the UKC effort in other ports with the goal of achieving optimization of cargo capacity by ports. Assess the existing infrastructure, and future needs.

Future issue papers will include topics highlighting the role of NOS on sea level rise and emergency management. The HSRP also recommend the National Geodetic Survey to develop materials that will focus on the impact of the datum changes in 2022 to the general public as a follow-on to our previous issue paper "All U.S. Latitudes, Longitudes, and Elevations to Change in 2022".

Two documents are attached: A Priority Matrix highlighting the topics for discussion, issue papers and greatest strategic interest to use for future HSRP meetings and work, and a meeting minutes.

Sincerely,



Edward Saade
Chair, HSRP



Julianna Thomas
Vice-Chair, HSRP

Enclosures (2)

HSRP Priorities Matrix

Attachment with HSRP Washington, DC meeting summary, March 5-7, 2019