Public Comments and Questions for HSRP Virtual Meeting 28 April 2020

1) John Dasler, *David Evans and Associates Inc. Marine Services, Senior Vice President, Director of Marine Services,*

Question for HSRP

In the FY2021 NOAA Congressional Budget Justification we noted the following:
Under Navigation, Observations and Positioning Direct Obligations there is an increase for in-house Navigation, Observations and Positioning of $2.8 Million over the FY2020 Enacted and a decrease in Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts by $5.1 Million over the FY2020 Enacted obligation.
We also noted the following in Exhibit 13:

Schedule and Milestones:

FY2021

- Award one additional contract, for a total of 8 contracts awarded annually to survey all priority areas
- Develop and execute a Federal funding opportunity to address mapping gaps and increase awareness of the Coast Survey hydrographic contract survey services
- Develop and execute an outreach strategy for Federal and state mapping partners to increase awareness of the Coast Survey hydrographic contracting capability

FY2022-2025

- Award 8 contracts annually to survey all priority areas
- Conduct annual updates to the data on priority areas for shoreline and near-shore Alaska in support of the PM
- Increase the use of external source data contributions to nautical charts and inform survey prioritization

Deliverables:

- Collect an additional 150 square nautical miles of hydrographic survey data, for a total of 2,429 square nautical miles, in priority areas annually starting in FY2021

We applaud NOAA's outreach effort and the use of external data to analyze priority areas. While we commend NOAA for the outreach efforts in support of contracting and agree with the increase to support in-house operations to meet the needs of the Nation, we question why an additional contractor is needed when the contracting budget was reduced by $5.1 Million from $32 Million FY2020 Enacted, to $26.9 Million FY2021 Estimated. Many current contractors have capacity through subcontractors that is currently not being tapped. Can NOAA explain the rationale behind the desire for an additional contractor when budgets are being cut and there is adequate capacity among the existing seven contractors? This in effect undermines the capacity and expertise of the existing pool of contractors.

The following is for reference:

National Ocean Service Obligation in Thousands

FY2021 Operational Plan	FY2020 Enacted	FY 2021 Base	FY2021 Program Changes	FY2021 Estimate	FY2021 Delta from FY2020
Navigation, Observations and Positioning	158,456	164,823	(3,540)	161,283	+2,827
Hydrographic Survey Priorities/Contracts	32,000	32,000	(5,051)	26,949	-5,051

Exhibit 13

Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Operations, Research and Facilities
PROGRAM INCREASE FOR 2021
(Dollar amounts in thousands)

Schedule and Milestones:
FY 2021

- Identify priority areas for shoreline and near-shore data collection in Alaska in support of the PM
- Award one additional contract, for a total of 8 contracts awarded annually, to survey all priority areas
- Develop and execute a Federal funding opportunity to address mapping gaps and increase awareness of Coast Survey contract survey services
- Design and execute an outreach strategy for Federal and state mapping partners to increase awareness of the Coast Survey hydrographic contracting capability
- Perform geospatial observations in support of VDatum transformation tool

FY2022 – FY2025

- Award eight contracts annually to survey all priority areas
- Conduct annual updates to the data on priority areas for shoreline and near-shore Alaska in support of the PM
- Increase the use of external source data contributions to nautical charts and inform survey prioritization
- Perform geospatial observations in support of VDatum transformation tool

Deliverables:

- Collect an additional 150 square nautical miles of hydrographic survey data, for a total of 2,429 square nautical miles, in priority areas annually starting in FY 2021
- Collect 1,125 square miles (4,125 - 5,625 linear miles) of LIDAR/imagery data in Alaska priority areas annually
- Expand collection of LIDAR/imagery data to three additional priority ports in Alaska each year
- Release VDatum transformation tool for Alaska in 2025

2) Rada Khadjinova, *General Manager-Alaska, Fugro USA, Inc.*
Greetings HSRP,
Thank you for organizing this meeting and making it available to on-line participation. I am providing a comment below to the group.
Fugro is a global geodata company. We acquire, analyze and provide advise using geodata. In Alaska and other regions, our work includes research projects for resource and land management agencies. In the course of our research, we review all existing data including bathymetry and backscatter (both water column and seafloor) data. NOAA hydrographic data has uses much beyond accurate knowledge of the water depth. For instance, backscatter is valuable to characterize seafloor habitat and to make resource assessments (mineral, including critical minerals, hydrocarbon, biological etc.) among many other uses. I want to express support for NOAA's co-collecting backscatter data along with bathymetry and to continue to do the same in the future.

3) Denis Hains, *President & CEO, H2i*
Do you Ensure International linkages and how are interfacing internationally to ensure smooth transition with Canada (especially for theGreat Lakes) and Mexico?

4) Sean Murphy, *Business Unit Manager, Subsurface Applications*
Thank you for the invite to the meeting. I am interested in creating a multiple boat USV solution for swarm bathymetry that is driven by AI. I have previously accomplished a swarm USV survey. I monitored and controlled all sensors and USV's but I believe the next step is for an AI to adjust survey lines and automatically post process the data that I collect. I heard at the beginning of the presentation about a cache of bathymetric data that could be made available to commercial companies. Who do I contact to start the conversation about obtaining some of that data?

5) Colleen Roche, *NOAA/NOS/OCS*
As visibility/fog is big issue during the Spring and Fall on the Hudson River, are there any plans to install sensors on the upper Hudson?

6) Capt Scott Ireland
Good afternoon, my name is Capt Scott Ireland. I'm the senior pilot with the Hudson River Pilots Assoc. Back in 2017, NOAA undertook a resurvey of the Hudson River. As the existing soundings are 100+ years old, we are anxious to see the new surveys published. When might that happen?

7) Edward Albada, *Principal, EOMAP*
What is the best mechanism for private entities that have emergent remote sensing (satellite and hyperspectral imagery) derived bathymetry technology to get involved with NOAA's initiatives?