

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC  
ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

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HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES REVIEW PANEL  
MEETING

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THURSDAY

MAY 24, 2012

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The Panel met in the Aleutian  
Conference Room in the Hilton Anchorage, 500  
West Third Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, at 8:30  
a.m., Matt Wellslager, HSRP Chair, presiding.

PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT:

MATT WELLSLAGER, Chair

SCOTT PERKINS, Vice Chair

RADM KEN BARBOR

LAWSON BRIGHAM, Ph.D.

JEFFREY CAROTHERS

CAPT. DEBORAH DEMPSEY

MICHELE DIONNE, Ph.D.

WILLIAM HANSON

DAVID JAY, Ph.D.

GARY JEFFRESS, Ph.D.

FRANK KUDRNA, Ph.D.

JOYCE MILLER

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

JULIANA BLACKWELL, NOAA/NGS Director  
RICHARD EDWING, NOAA/CO-OPS Director  
LARRY MAYER, Center for Coastal and Ocean  
Mapping, University of New Hampshire

NOAA STAFF PRESENT:

CAPT. JOHN E. LOWELL, JR., Designated Federal  
Official  
RADM EVELYN FIELDS, NOAA  
LTJG MATT FORNEY, NOAA/OCS, Navigation Manager  
of Alaska  
CAPT. GERD GLANG, NOAA/NOS  
AMY HOLMAN, NOAA Alaska  
BILL KNIGHT, NOAA West Coast and Alaska  
Tsunami Warning Center  
CARVEN A. SCOTT, NWS/Alaska Region  
Headquarters  
KATHY WATSON, HSRP Program Coordinator

ALSO PRESENT:

CAROLE ANDERSON, ADS-B Technologies  
ALAN BALDIVIES, Alaska Energy Authority  
LARRY BISCHOFF, Holland American Line  
RON BRITTON, Alaska Peninsula National

Wildlife Refuge

BRET CHRISTENSEN, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
JOEL CUSICK, National Park Service  
JON DASLER, David Evans & Associates  
ANNE DOLLARD, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
DARCY DUGAN, Alaska Ocean Observing System  
SHANNON EARL, Fugro Consultants

KAS EBRAHIM, Fugro Consultants  
AIMEE FISH, National Weather Service  
JOHN GERHARD, Woolpert Inc.  
CHUCK GILBERT, National Park Service  
PENNELOPE GOFORTH, SeaCat Explorations  
WILLIAM HAZELTON, Geomatics, University of  
Alaska Anchorage

TOM HEINRICHS, Director of GIS Network of  
Alaska at University of Alaska Fairbanks  
and Executive Committee for Statewide  
Digital Mapping Initiative

TOM LAKOSH, Public Interest Advocate for Oil  
Spill Prevention and Mitigation and  
Renewable Energy

CAROL LOCKHART, Woolpert, Inc.

MOLLY McCAMMON, Alaska Ocean Observing System

STEVE MILES, David Evans & Associates

JUDY MILLER, Brendan Environmental

TOM NEWMAN, TerraSond

JOHN OSWALD, JOA Surveys

BOB PAWLOWSKI, Office of State Senator Kevin  
Meyer and University of Alaska Anchorage  
(retired)

JOEL REYNOLDS, Western Alaska Landscape  
Conservation Cooperative

MICHELLE RIDGWAY, Oceanus Alaska and Alaska

Deep Ocean Science Institute

MARK SMITH, Vitus Marine

BOB STROBE, National Park Service

CAPT. MICHAEL TERMINEL, Edison Chouest

MIKE ZIEGERL, JOA Surveys

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 8:28 a.m.

3 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Good morning,  
4 everybody. Well, it's the last day. It's  
5 going to be a fun day. We're going to come up  
6 with some ideas and recommendations today.  
7 But, before we get started, we are fortunate  
8 to have two presentations this morning before  
9 the breakout sessions.

10 My nav manager of Alaska would  
11 like to give us a broad overview of things  
12 that he's seeing taking place in the state in  
13 the three different sections, and give us his  
14 ideas of where things actually are.

15 And then, we're going to have a  
16 presentation using GIS, and do a virtual fly-  
17 through the Arctic Ocean, and I'm actually  
18 looking forward to seeing that. That's going  
19 to be really cool to see the Arctic Sea floor  
20 map in a virtual setting.

21 So, if you would please, let's  
22 welcome LTJG Matt Forney, and let's hear what

1 he has to say.

2 LT. FORNEY: Thank you very much,  
3 Mr. Chair. It really is a pleasure to be up  
4 here after yesterday afternoon's discussion.  
5 Mr. Wellslager asked me if I'd pop up here and  
6 give a quick, brief overview of Alaska, and  
7 some of the navigation services, as well as  
8 some of the navigation concerns that are going  
9 on here in Alaska.

10 So really, if you look at the  
11 state of Alaska, we really do break it into  
12 three different regions. You have - and  
13 actually, they generally follow the same  
14 regions that the pilots follow, which is  
15 southeast, south central, and then you have  
16 the rest.

17 So, the way that this is - this  
18 area right in here, this is southeast, south  
19 central, and then the rest. So - and the rest  
20 just so happens to follow this federal  
21 definition of what the Arctic is. So really,  
22 when you start looking at it into a regional -

1 regionalize the state, there's different  
2 concerns in each of these areas.

3 So, to start out, in southeast,  
4 one of the main driving economic forces there  
5 is tourism, and it is the cruise industry.  
6 And in that cruise industry, one of the things  
7 that NOAA has actually dedicated a lot of time  
8 and resource to, is the effort of collecting  
9 100 percent bottom coverage multibeam data in  
10 that area.

11 I don't want to make it sound like  
12 we've completed the job, it's definitely not  
13 over. There are still definitely areas that  
14 we need to put forth quite a bit more  
15 resources. With that being said though, it is  
16 the best area.

17 It is one of the places that is  
18 actually, as you can imagine, the most  
19 accessible, as it is closest to Seattle, and  
20 as well as very, very well developed due to  
21 the economic availability of resources that  
22 have been developed there in the past, namely

1 gold.

2 Also in that area, there is a  
3 large fishing fleet as well. I want to call  
4 it as big as the Bristol Bay fishery,  
5 definitely not that large, but definitely  
6 still a user of our products and services.

7 So, now that we move over here  
8 into the south central, there's a number of  
9 things. We've heard about what's known as the  
10 Port of Alaska, which is the one that serves  
11 600,000 of the 700,000 citizens of Alaska.

12 The other thing that is in south  
13 central is the Valdez pipeline, which is also  
14 a major port facility, and also deals with a  
15 large amount of the commerce that does come  
16 out of Alaska.

17 Another thing that's actually  
18 affecting this entire coast area in the Gulf  
19 of Alaska area, is marine debris. That's a  
20 thing that we haven't heard much about. It is  
21 definitely a live, living, current topic, that  
22 is every day washing up on our beaches.

1 I would like to let you know that  
2 there is a process in place, as well as a  
3 great partnership with NOAA and the state, for  
4 identification of that marine debris, from  
5 aerial surveys as well as from the shipping  
6 industry.

7 And actually what we're doing now,  
8 is we're actually - when that is found, NOAA  
9 is notified, and then NOAA actually does  
10 notify the Coast Guard, and the Coast Guard  
11 will actually put out a local Notice to  
12 Mariners, or actually they'll give a position  
13 of marine debris that is found over weather  
14 radio as well. So, mariners are being made  
15 aware of these debris. Keep an eye out for  
16 them. Do avoid them to maintain safe  
17 navigation.

18 So, as we move out here into the  
19 rest of Alaska as I like to call it, one of  
20 the major areas that does see a large amount  
21 of shipping traffic is Unimak Pass. Unimak  
22 Pass is a part of the Great Circle route from

1 western United States to Asia. And this is  
2 actually a booming area due to the fact that  
3 it is, I don't want to call it narrow, I would  
4 call it quite a bit of a bottleneck.

5 But, if you think about it,  
6 there's only one port in this area, that's  
7 Dutch Harbor. And this port has actually been  
8 named as a port of refuge for stricken or  
9 disabled vessels.

10 And it seems like, you know, every  
11 December we kind of get a little bit of a  
12 situation, where we have a vessel lose  
13 steering, lose propulsion, and generally, for  
14 some reason, I don't know why, Adak is where  
15 this always happens. This, Adak, is right  
16 here.

17 To give you an idea of distance,  
18 that's 380 nautical miles. A lot of the  
19 response that actually comes to - for towing  
20 vessels to come in response to those disabled  
21 vessels comes from Seattle. As you can  
22 imagine, a vessel that is 20 miles off shore,

1 drifting at two knots, you got 10 hours.  
2 Seattle is greater than 10 hours away. So,  
3 it's one of those areas that - it's of great  
4 concern.

5 Resources are not in place in  
6 Dutch Harbor, and we are making - taking the  
7 efforts to get them in place, to have mooring  
8 buoys in those areas due to the fact that  
9 there just is not enough pier space to even  
10 put a ship, even once it is recovered by a  
11 towing vessel.

12 So, moving north, we do have our  
13 Bristol Bay fishery, as well as Norton Sound.  
14 So, another thing that I wanted to point out  
15 here is the Bering Strait. We had Commander  
16 Houck yesterday come and give us the talk on  
17 the PARS study.

18 And it's - the Bering Strait is  
19 over - is referred to over and over again as  
20 this choke point. I want to kind of put that  
21 in perspective. This choke point that  
22 everyone is referring to, on the US side

1 alone, between Little Diomedede and Cape Prince  
2 of Wales - actually, I know that's really hard  
3 to see, but just to let you know, that is 10  
4 nautical miles across.

5 The area in Prince William Sound,  
6 some of those - most of Prince William Sound,  
7 much, much narrower than that, and does see a  
8 higher volume of traffic than what is seen in  
9 the Bering Strait.

10 Is that going to increase? I  
11 don't know. I wish I had the ESP to make that  
12 judgment, but we don't know. NOAA is  
13 definitely taking the steps to prepare for  
14 that, and I think that's very evident in the  
15 2010 survey that was conducted in that area to  
16 better define.

17 So, as we move north, we also have  
18 the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas. So currently,  
19 and my chart plotter just failed. So, it's  
20 coming back up. Anyway, so in Beaufort, it is  
21 much easier to show on a chart here, so bear  
22 with me.

1                   So, in Beaufort, you have Prudhoe  
2 Bay. And there's a - the pipeline that I was  
3 talking about that runs into Valdez, starts  
4 out in Prudhoe Bay. And it's - we fuel a ship  
5 from up here, down to here, and export it from  
6 there.

7                   So, there's this idea that with  
8 oil and gas doing a large amount of drilling  
9 and exploration in the Chukchi Sea, that there  
10 is going to be a lot of vessel traffic, and  
11 it's - it's going to be more of a support  
12 traffic that's going to be present in that  
13 area.

14                   The oil and gas - the  
15 conversations that I've had with them, their  
16 idea right now is to actually put a subsea  
17 pipeline, run it over here to Wainwright, and  
18 then do a cross-North Slope pipeline, and put  
19 a spur into the Trans-Alaska pipeline. And  
20 from there, pump it to Valdez and then export  
21 it.

22                   So, I just wanted to really just

1 give you the broad overview of what the  
2 shipping and economic realities are here in  
3 Alaska, and kind of hopefully better inform  
4 you to maybe make some recommendations to NOAA  
5 leadership. So, I'm actually available for  
6 questions.

7 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: That was very  
8 interesting. Anybody else have anything they  
9 would like to ask? Jeff?

10 MEMBER CAROTHERS: Jeff Carothers.  
11 Yes, Matt, I'm just wondering that Shell next  
12 door here, doing that drilling bit, isn't  
13 there some way to - I know in a lot of places  
14 the oil companies will provide funding for  
15 different -- I mean, in California, they had  
16 to build a school in one spot to bring a  
17 pipeline ashore.

18 So, there's - is NOAA - I assume  
19 NOAA or Corps of Engineers, somebody is  
20 working with Shell and ConocoPhillips about  
21 providing some funding for some of their  
22 stuff.

1                   LT. FORNEY:  So, yes, we're  
2                   definitely having communications with Shell  
3                   about where their interests are, as well as  
4                   where their operations are going to be based  
5                   out of.  And I guess I should back up here and  
6                   state that Shell is still in the exploration  
7                   process.  They don't know if this is going to  
8                   be a profitable venture for them or not.

9                   They're purely in an exploration  
10                  state, and they think there's a lot of stuff  
11                  there.  And if there is, we're definitely  
12                  going to, you know, NOAA will be - where the  
13                  ships are moving, we will be the, you know,  
14                  there looking into producing some good  
15                  hydrographic support.

16                 MEMBER CAROTHERS:  And you need to  
17                  make sure you knock on the door and get some  
18                  money.

19                 CHAIR WELLSLAGER:  Interestingly  
20                  enough, seeing something like this could  
21                  actually be used to help with the geospatial  
22                  side of matters in Alaska, because if

1 Shell/Conoco does something, if pipelines are  
2 made, or added, or modified, you have power.

3 At the junction points, you're  
4 obviously going to have to have internet  
5 connection. These could be places where you  
6 might establish a reference station that could  
7 supply geodetic information, and help create  
8 the network, not necessarily densify it, but  
9 just have a location where you could input a  
10 spot, where prior to that, you did not have  
11 any type of a connection or geodetic control  
12 location that you could build from off that.

13 LT. FORNEY: So the densest  
14 location of our geodetic controls, run from  
15 the Aleutian Islands east, along the plate  
16 boundary, down into southeast, and from Valdez  
17 up to Prudhoe. And that is where we have our  
18 road, pipeline, and then of course the plate  
19 boundary observations that are occurring.

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, Michelle?

21 MS. RIDGWAY: Can you hear me?

22 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: No.

1 MS. RIDGWAY: Michelle Ridgway.  
2 Yes, Matt, I was wondering whether you  
3 currently have, or what the status of  
4 bathymetry is in Lease Sale 193, where we may  
5 see some potential drilling this year. And  
6 for those of you not familiar with that  
7 region, Lease Sale Area 193 is basically a  
8 triangle up here, and there's Chukchi. Maybe  
9 Matt can point it out.

10 Do we currently have data for that  
11 area, or is the industry providing data that  
12 NOAA charting is actually incorporating into  
13 survey data?

14 LT. FORNEY: So, NOAA has not  
15 conducted a survey in that area. The surveys  
16 that have been conducted in those areas, we  
17 can definitely zoom right on in and see what  
18 data is available.

19 There is data on the chart. That  
20 data is from either a Russian or a British  
21 admiralty survey. This area has not been  
22 surveyed by NOAA. As Molly referred to

1       yesterday, there is the MOU that is in place  
2       between Shell and NOAA, and that basically was  
3       the language to say we'll definitely share  
4       data.

5               But then, as she was saying, the  
6       challenge is definitely in the details, and  
7       that is where there are the Annexes 1, 2, and  
8       3. And the hydrographic side of things does  
9       live in Annex 3. And once that is approved  
10      and signed, we will see what Shell does, or I  
11      should say Shell/Conoco and Statoil do have  
12      the data, and we'll definitely get that.

13              VICE CHAIR PERKINS: Matt, is  
14      there a line of communication with the Navy,  
15      or a way to get the Navy data collected in  
16      that area declassified and into the chart  
17      program?

18              LT. FORNEY: That is a good  
19      question. Navy is - I'm trying to think of  
20      the best way to put this. So, Alaska, if you  
21      look at a picture of where the Navy assets are  
22      port-wise, Alaska is not on that map.

1                   And Navy, they definitely do  
2                   operate vessels in the region. The only  
3                   vessel that I know that is going to be making  
4                   a port call in Alaska is the USS Anchorage,  
5                   and that's going to be occurring in May of  
6                   2013 when that vessel is commissioned here in  
7                   its namesake.

8                   So, Navy is here. Navy does do  
9                   work here. The contact is not there. That  
10                  effort is being made. If the Admiral has a  
11                  contact, I'd love to tap in and, you know, get  
12                  the - meet someone, so.

13                  MR. MAYER: The Navy had, for the  
14                  last about 10 years, a program of  
15                  declassifying the submarine-derived data, and  
16                  we get that data regularly through the Arctic  
17                  Submarine Research Lab in San Diego, and that  
18                  data, it goes through a process at NGA, and  
19                  then Arctic Submarine Lab, and then to us in  
20                  a cleansed way. And that data has all be  
21                  incorporated into the IBCAO chart that I'll  
22                  show in a minute.

1                   CAPT. LOWELL: Just to add a  
2 little bit more onto that, is NOAA, our Coast  
3 Survey, has a very good relationship with the  
4 Navy, and the arrangement pretty much is at a  
5 high level, is if they collect bathymetric  
6 data in US territorial waters, or the US EEZ  
7 areas, we have access to that data.

8                   And unless it's for some other  
9 reason classified, it is all provided to NOAA,  
10 to NGDC Coast Survey for application to the  
11 chart. So, there's no mysterious - well,  
12 there may be some mysterious Navy data, I  
13 don't know, but I don't think so. Thank you.

14                  CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, actually,  
15 we're going to need to cut this off real  
16 quick, because we have one more presentation,  
17 and it's getting a quarter til, so - but,  
18 Lawson, you had one thing you wanted to say?

19                  MEMBER BRIGHAM: No, I was just  
20 going to add that about 15 years ago, it was  
21 the Arctic Research Commission which kicked  
22 off this process. It all happens in

1 Washington, and Matt doesn't feel any of this  
2 stuff. It's all bureaucratic in Washington  
3 among all the agencies, and well orchestrated.  
4 The latest data is not more than a year old,  
5 and this is all data from nuclear submarines  
6 in the Arctic.

7 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Thank you,  
8 Matt. That was very good, interesting.

9 (Applause)

10 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, Larry and  
11 Michelle Ridgway, a marine ecologist from  
12 Oceanus Alaska, would like to take us on a  
13 brief tour of multibeam mapping efforts in  
14 Alaska, showing highlights from research  
15 surveys, Law of the Sea, and the newest  
16 version of IBCAO, the Arctic sea floor map.  
17 So, let's take a virtual trip through the  
18 Arctic Ocean - Arctic Sea - Ocean.

19 MS. RIDGWAY: Great. So, while  
20 we're getting set up, very briefly, this is a  
21 great transition from Matt's introduction to  
22 the overall geography of Alaska, because Larry

1 and I are going to now take you down  
2 underwater, and take a look at, first,  
3 starting in the southern part of the state.

4 We'll start in a moment in the  
5 Gulf of Alaska, and work our way up through  
6 the Aleutian trench, up to the Arctic,  
7 highlighting some recent advances in mapping  
8 that benefit not only navigation, but also  
9 many, many sciences, geological sciences and  
10 biological sciences here.

11 So, Larry is first going to talk  
12 to you about sort of the overall state of  
13 mapping over the last several years.

14 MR. MAYER: Okay, just to put  
15 things into context, I thought I'd throw up  
16 the very first map of the Arctic as an ocean.  
17 Until this time, everybody thought there were  
18 giant land masses under the, what we know as  
19 the Arctic Ocean now. And it was quite  
20 amazing, based on Nansen, on the drift of his  
21 Fram, the vessel he locked into the ice.

22 And what's most amazing, is that

1 all he did - all he had was nine soundings.  
2 You can see these nine soundings. And from  
3 that, somehow concluded that the Arctic Ocean  
4 was a big basin. It's really quite amazing.

5 Well, since that time, there's  
6 been mostly individual discrete measurements,  
7 and the submarine data, which again, over the  
8 years, has been declassified slowly, usually  
9 eight or ten years behind, but they're quite  
10 steadily doing that.

11 And this led to what's really the  
12 iconic map of the Arctic, the IBCAO chart,  
13 which was a product of Mark Jacobson of the  
14 University of Stockholm, and then he was a  
15 post-doc at our lab.

16 The latest version until what I'm  
17 going to show you today, being a 2008 version.  
18 Now, this was based almost only on the  
19 submarine data, and individual soundings,  
20 either from ice stations, ice islands,  
21 helicopter flights, and it probably had about  
22 64,000 soundings in the entire Arctic Ocean.

1                   Martin is a phenomenal artist, and  
2                   created a beautiful, beautiful picture. And  
3                   that actually does us a disservice sometimes,  
4                   because you look at this and you say, "Oh,  
5                   well, we know what the Arctic looks like."

6                   And as we've gone out in the last  
7                   few years, and started to map, and this is no  
8                   discredit to Martin, it's just very sparse  
9                   data, we found that there are lots of  
10                  inaccuracies in this.

11                  And what's happened since that  
12                  time, at that point, that represented about  
13                  six percent of the Arctic. This is now the  
14                  Law of the Sea based mapping from the Healy  
15                  with multibeam since 2003, and you can see the  
16                  coverage.

17                  And there's been a few other  
18                  cruises. There's been some Japanese cruises  
19                  now. The Koreans are coming up - Japanese,  
20                  with multibeam. And the Russians finally,  
21                  last year, and the year before, started major  
22                  multibeam mapping programs.

1                   So, since that time, the IBCAO  
2 project, which is the project that accumulates  
3 all this data, has had very good relations,  
4 has had all that data entered into it. The  
5 red is the Healy data. You see it's dominated  
6 by that. You also see something we mentioned  
7 yesterday, the crowdsourcing around Iceland,  
8 Greenland.

9                   The fishermen collected a  
10 tremendous amount of data. And I was very  
11 suspicious of this at first, but it is a  
12 tremendous asset in places where you have no  
13 other information. So, that's gone in.

14                  And the other thing I want to  
15 point out, and this is really a sad thing, and  
16 Captain Lowell can attest to the fact, that we  
17 sat in St. Petersburg, and were promised that  
18 the Russians would contribute their data to  
19 the IBCAO project, but, if you see, that one  
20 side of the Arctic is completely white.

21                  The Russians have not at all  
22 followed through. Despite the fact they're

1 collecting good data, they're not contributing  
2 it to the IBCAO project.

3 And so, there's the new IBCAO, and  
4 I'll let Michelle take over, and we'll  
5 basically fly through that in a - well, we do  
6 - I guess we just do it right now.

7 And we're going to start actually  
8 outside of the IBCAO area, because Michelle  
9 wanted to show some of the other areas here.  
10 This is now the best dataset we have, global  
11 dataset, outside of IBCAO, which is a product  
12 called ETOPO 1.

13 It's a one mile gridded dataset,  
14 and it gives you the general characteristics.  
15 But, in places where we've collected multibeam  
16 data, like the Gulf of Alaska, you'll see the  
17 contrast is quite remarkable as I zoom in to  
18 the much higher resolution data.

19 And the level of features you can  
20 see now as we come, in terms of the channels,  
21 the down flow processes, the fan building, and  
22 we're now, just to give you an idea of depth,

1 we're now at - this is 2500 meters deep here  
2 at the bottom. And we come along and start  
3 seeing the tectonic and erosional features,  
4 again, all these fans that are building out.

5 Here is from 2000 to 3000 meters,  
6 a cascade, something we see subaerially at a  
7 waterfall, but they're obviously very dense  
8 waters coming from underneath the glaciers,  
9 sediment-laden waters making a cascade, and  
10 another one here with a plunge pool, a several  
11 hundred meter deep plunge pool down at its  
12 base, and this is at 3500 meters water depth.  
13 So, really quite remarkable in what we can see  
14 at this level of resolution, as opposed to the  
15 overall - mostly satellite based in a sense,  
16 datasets.

17 Michelle wanted me to show a  
18 dataset, and I don't know who collected it, on  
19 the Pribilof canyon area. And if we come out  
20 there --

21 MS. RIDGWAY: Larry's just showing  
22 you some of the new multibeam along the plate

1 boundary in southeast Alaska, that's sort of  
2 outside of the Alexander Archipelago. There's  
3 been quite a few surveys subsequent to that,  
4 multibeam, and some new vessels that Tommy  
5 Thompson and Fairweather and Rainier have been  
6 retooled with multibeam, have been doing  
7 multibeam in shallower areas. It provides  
8 tremendous elucidation of geomorphological  
9 features in southeast Alaska, that have  
10 contributed to biological research  
11 significantly.

12 Now, a lot of our southeast Alaska  
13 rockfish population assessments are based upon  
14 these habitat maps, where we have sufficient  
15 rugosity, where we can extrapolate some of our  
16 limited survey data. The multibeam is helping  
17 quite a bit in managing some of those long-  
18 lived habitat specific species.

19 It's also been very helpful for  
20 finding submerged formerly inhabited sites  
21 along southeast, that have been part of the  
22 early human migrations to North America.

1 MR. MAYER: So, you get the  
2 contrast here now, that before, what we - the  
3 kind of resolution that we had before, with  
4 what we have now. It's really quite -

5 MS. RIDGWAY: So, now Larry's gone  
6 all the way across the Aleutian basin, which  
7 is the southern half of the Bering Sea, and  
8 has gone up to the Beringian margin, which is  
9 the sloping feature you see here, the  
10 continental margin. And now he's going to  
11 show off some of the most amazing multibeam in  
12 this region.

13 MR. MAYER: From a Law of the Sea  
14 perspective, having this resolution has  
15 tremendous ramifications, because the Law of  
16 the Sea involves natural prolongation. And  
17 so, if we had just the dataset before, we'd  
18 have to put the edge of the slope somewhere  
19 out there, but with this new detail, we can  
20 now - each one of these prolongations becomes  
21 part of the extension of the continental  
22 margins. So, this new level of resolution is

1 quite critical.

2 And then finally into the Arctic  
3 and the new IBCAO dataset itself, start here  
4 in the Bering Strait. The area we focused  
5 most of our work on is Chukchi. This new  
6 IBCAO has all the new multibeam data, both  
7 Japanese, Healy, all incorporated into it.

8 And you can see the differences in  
9 places where it's a little more detailed, is  
10 where the multibeam data has been  
11 incorporated. And where it looks beautiful  
12 and smooth and flat, is - we just don't know  
13 anything.

14 So, this is Northwind Ridge,  
15 Chukchi plateau, a whole series of sea mounts  
16 that were discovered during our surveying, all  
17 these areas out here which are extending our  
18 continental margin tremendously, a feature we  
19 call Healy sea mount discovered in 2003. This  
20 was just a flat area before. And our  
21 continental margin is now extending  
22 tremendously in this direction.

1                   Here again, right here is a place  
2                   where you can see the difference between the  
3                   multibeam, where we have the multibeam data,  
4                   and the pre-multibeam data, where we still  
5                   have sparse measurements in here.

6                   MS. RIDGWAY: In this region, you  
7                   can see Point Barrow. Maybe you can show them  
8                   as a point of reference, right here, Point  
9                   Barrow, and then off of Point Barrow is this  
10                  tremendous feature, Barrow Canyon.

11                  Barrow Canyon is an area where  
12                  marine waters are advected up right toward  
13                  Point Barrow, and are responsible for  
14                  concentrating a lot of the food that feeds the  
15                  whales that are aggregated at Point Barrow,  
16                  that supports the Eskimo communities' hunting  
17                  activities, and an entire ecosystem is  
18                  intimately connected to Barrow Canyon.

19                  This is a region where this coming  
20                  summer, the Fairweather is going to be  
21                  transiting in this area, doing multibeam work  
22                  as well as some in situ work. We'll be

1       deploying an ROV, and taking samples in this  
2       region. And this is the North American  
3       continental margin.

4               This slope is virtually  
5       unexplored, but this new multibeam data is  
6       tremendously helpful to identify areas where  
7       methane hydrate may be exposed, other  
8       geological features that dictate what the  
9       biological community may also be like. So,  
10       we're really looking forward to taking a look  
11       with the ROVs, and hopefully later  
12       submersibles, into this region that's now been  
13       mapped.

14               MR. MAYER: I've just thrown on  
15       the international boundaries. This is the  
16       negotiated, but not yet settled, Russian/US  
17       boundary line, and then the 200 nautical mile  
18       EEZ coming around this way. If we take off  
19       this one, that's the Canadian recognition of  
20       the end of the EEZ, and then the US  
21       recognition here.

22               So, we have quite a large disputed

1 zone between the US and Canada, before we even  
2 get to the extended continental shelf still in  
3 the EEZ.

4 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Wow, that's  
5 really something else. It's a lot of work,  
6 and it's very useful to see what needs still  
7 to be done, but what has been done, and the  
8 decisions that could be made using good data.  
9 Are there any questions? Jeff, go ahead.

10 MEMBER CAROTHERS: Jeff Carothers.  
11 I was just wanting to know, on the new  
12 extensions, is there an agreed upon water  
13 depth of the - where, you know, the boundary  
14 lines are?

15 MR. MAYER: For the extended  
16 continental shelf. The extended continental  
17 shelf, it's really not tied into a water  
18 depth, it's tied into a morphological feature,  
19 and that's the foot of the slope. And that's  
20 why, where the foot of the slope is, is very  
21 clear along here.

22 And before we started this

1 project, everybody assumed the foot of the  
2 slope of Chukchi came along this way. What  
3 we're now finding, is that the foot of the  
4 slope comes all the way along here. It's a  
5 morphological break.

6 And so, that's why, based on this  
7 mapping, there's been a huge extension of  
8 hundreds and hundreds of kilometers of the US  
9 extended continental shelf. So, it's tied  
10 into the morphology, not a particular water  
11 depth.

12 MR. CUSICK: Joel Cusick, National  
13 Park Service. Approximately what percentage  
14 of the Beringian area, where the ancient  
15 persons were supposed to travel across, how -  
16 what percentage of the sea bottom is known to  
17 a level of detail that we can pull information  
18 from?

19 MR. MAYER: Our approach to the  
20 mapping, the Law of the Sea mapping, was  
21 basically one driven by the demands of the  
22 morphological requirements of the law, and so,

1 we were very constrained. And you're looking  
2 right there at the area of the Beringian  
3 Margin that was mapped. That's it.

4 It's a complicated set of formulae  
5 that allow you to establish the foot of the  
6 shelf, and so we backed that out and said,  
7 "Where did we have to map?" And this was  
8 being funding by the State Department, not a  
9 science agency.

10 And so, we basically had to stick  
11 to that. I would have loved to have mapped it  
12 all, believe me, but you're looking at the  
13 portion that's been mapped there.

14 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay,  
15 unfortunately we're limited by time, so I  
16 would like to thank both of the presentations.

17 (Applause)

18 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Moving on, we  
19 have the stakeholder breakout sessions, and  
20 there will be four again. The Alaska baseline  
21 data collection requirements for NOAA's nav  
22 data will still meet here in the Aleutian

1 Room. Arctic emerging priorities will be  
2 downstairs in Cook Inlet. The Alaska  
3 geospatial framework will be in the Prince  
4 William Room. And the Alaska tides and  
5 currents will be in the Lupine Room.

6 There are sign up sheets. And  
7 when we get in there, we're going to pass  
8 sheets around, so that everybody can at least  
9 put their name, and we can have name and your  
10 affiliation, that we can then incorporate into  
11 the minutes. This will last for about two  
12 hours.

13 And around 11:00, we would like  
14 for the breakouts to organize what you've been  
15 able to brainstorm into recommendations.  
16 We'll break for lunch, and then we'll debrief  
17 the HSRP panel from 1 to 2. So, let's go to  
18 our respective rooms, and - I'm sorry, Cathy?

19 MS. WATSON: Matt, I guess maybe  
20 we should - there should be staff kind of  
21 helping note taking. If you could ask who  
22 would be willing to, for the four breakouts.

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Would any NOAA  
2 staff like to help do the note taking? Capt.  
3 Glang, Capt. Lowell and Kathy and Mr. Forney.  
4 Yes, thank you.

5 MS. WATSON: Okay, for the  
6 navigation, it's this one here, the Aleutian.  
7 For the Arctic emerging, it's the Cook Inlet  
8 Room. Geospatial is the Prince William Room,  
9 and tides and currents is the Lupine. And  
10 those rooms are down on the first floor, and  
11 kind of around to the left.

12 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, let's do  
13 it.

14 (Whereupon, above-entitled matter  
15 went off the record at 9:00 a.m.,  
16 and resumed at 12:59 p.m.)

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A-F-T-E-R-N-O-O-N S-E-S-S-I-O-N

12:59 p.m.

1  
2 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, welcome  
3 back after lunch. It is time to hear what  
4 each of our stakeholder debriefs came up with  
5 as recommendations. I'm sure it was an  
6 interesting exchange of thoughts, provoking  
7 arguments, who knows what.

8 But, what I would like to do is  
9 have a representative from each of the panels  
10 talk, and - where did Joel go? Why don't we  
11 start with the Alaska geospatial. So, Joel?

12 MR. CUSICK: Thank you, Matt. I'm  
13 Joel Cusick, National Parks Service. I'm a  
14 GIS specialist. I was in the geospatial  
15 framework committee, had a great time. And  
16 again, thank you for letting us voice our  
17 recommendations to all of you. It's a great  
18 honor to be in this room with the NOAA  
19 players.

20 Number one I think for our  
21 recommendation, was hiring a civil servant to  
22 serve as the state geodetic advisor. We want

1 that advisor stationed here in Alaska, to  
2 facilitate partnerships among the feds,  
3 university, and private and native  
4 stakeholders.

5 We'd like NOAA to make funding  
6 available for the modernization of the Alaska  
7 shoreline, specifically representing the mean  
8 high water line, the boundary in many cases  
9 in this state, between state tidelands and  
10 federal uplands.

11 Expeditiously finish GRAV-D.  
12 Incorporate the use of GNSS, namely the  
13 Russian GLONASS system, into continually -  
14 into the CORS network, and online position  
15 user service or OPUS.

16 Number five, modernize, continue  
17 to modernize and densify the CORS network in  
18 Alaska. It serves as the backbone for 99  
19 percent of what we're talking about.

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: No, these are  
21 not actually in a priority ranking. These  
22 were just ones that we came up with as we were

1 doing the discussion. But, what I would like  
2 to do, is we have 15 minutes per, and we've  
3 got about 10 minutes for discussion.

4 So, let's open it up to the panel  
5 now, and let's talk about what we have with  
6 this set of recommendations, and how we should  
7 go about formulating this into something we  
8 can do in a letter. David?

9 MEMBER JAY: What I see there - is  
10 the first item a state item and the rest are  
11 federal? Is that correct?

12 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: No, actually  
13 the state geodetic advisor is an employee of  
14 the National Geodetic Survey, and it would be  
15 a representative there to work as an outreach  
16 program for other users within the state  
17 interested in geodetic information, data, and  
18 can serve as an outreach.

19 MEMBER JAY: Did you envision any  
20 state input, as far as money, into any of  
21 this?

22 MR. CUSICK: State input?

1 MEMBER JAY: Yes.

2 MR. CUSICK: Yes.

3 MEMBER JAY: I mean, as far as  
4 money. This all seems to be, you know, a to  
5 do list for the federal government.

6 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Juliana?

7 MS. BLACKWELL: David, and to the  
8 rest of the panel, just a quick update on the  
9 state advisor program as it's run by the  
10 National Geodetic Survey. Currently, the  
11 program is a co-sponsored entity in which  
12 states that are interested sign agreements  
13 with the National Geodetic Survey through NOS,  
14 and cost share for the hiring of a federal  
15 civil servant to serve as a geodetic surveyor.

16 We have approximately 22 of those  
17 positions. And over the last couple of years,  
18 we've had some challenges with continuing to  
19 cost share in those agreements, just because  
20 of budgetary issues, et cetera.

21 The National Geodetic Survey, over  
22 the past two years, has studied the program,

1 and has committed to advancing the state  
2 advisor program into a regional advisor  
3 effort, so that we're able to cover all states  
4 with a geodetic advisor.

5 So, in some cases, it may be that  
6 there's less focus on a state, but the idea is  
7 that from a federal perspective, having a  
8 point of contact for every state to have at  
9 their fingertips for geodetic advice, and that  
10 involves shoreline mapping too, I think is a  
11 better use of the federal funds.

12 So, NGS is moving forward into a  
13 regional advisor program, which we expect to  
14 have implemented by 2017. But, realizing that  
15 the state of Texas - I'm sorry, the state of  
16 Alaska, which is bigger than many of the  
17 states such as Texas, which are currently  
18 served by two advisors, really does - is at a  
19 disadvantage, and we do realize that there is  
20 a great need for an advisor here in Alaska.

21 So, while we transition, we  
22 realize that the state advisor program is

1 changing. It is an NGS supported and funded  
2 position, that we would be asked to put here,  
3 located in this state.

4 And just for the knowledge of the  
5 panel, some of the other advisor positions  
6 advise more than one state. We currently have  
7 an advisor that serves both Montana and Idaho,  
8 and those are pretty big territories to cover  
9 as well.

10 But, I think what the - they want  
11 to make sure - the group wanted to make sure  
12 that the state advisor for Alaska was actually  
13 physically located within the state itself,  
14 and focused on state/region of Alaska/Arctic.

15 MEMBER JAY: Thank you. But, I  
16 guess my point here is, what we've been  
17 hearing consistently is the needs of the state  
18 are so outsized relative to the federal  
19 resources, and I don't see how this can be  
20 accomplished by the federal government acting  
21 alone. I think the state needs to take a very  
22 active role in this, and it's sad that they're

1 not here today, by and large.

2 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: I lost that  
3 last bit of input, David, what did you say?

4 MEMBER JAY: Well, that I think -  
5 what we keep hearing is how outsized the need  
6 in Alaska is, and how limited federal  
7 resources are, and how limited they are going  
8 to continue to be for several years certainly,  
9 given the economic climate. And there, sadly,  
10 is no real state representative.

11 I mean, I'd like to see the state  
12 step up and say, "Yes, we can do some of  
13 this," or, "We want to partner with you."  
14 What I'm hearing, you know, is mostly, "Well,  
15 we want the federal government to do this."  
16 And, you know, that's somewhat appropriate,  
17 but I think there has to be a partnership.

18 MS. BLACKWELL: Juliana Blackwell,  
19 again. I would just say, David, we've always  
20 encouraged a state coordinator, a state-  
21 funded, a state employee coordinator, to work  
22 with the National Geodetic Survey, and will

1 continue to do so.

2 But, these are recommendations  
3 that were formed from the group to NOAA, so  
4 it's just, you know - I personally hear what  
5 you're saying, and just want to make the panel  
6 aware that we would love to work with  
7 identified contacts within any state to help  
8 coordinate the use, and needs for, geodetic  
9 control.

10 But, this, you know, again, from  
11 an NGS perspective, we're moving away from  
12 this cost-share program, which we don't have  
13 one in place here in Alaska, but realize that  
14 there is a great need for a geodetic advisor  
15 servicing this area, and/or a state-based, or  
16 a state funded geodetic coordinator, which  
17 again, if that were to come up to NGS, we  
18 would more than happy to work with that  
19 individual as well.

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: And I might  
21 also add onto that, David, in some states,  
22 there are geodetic surveys or Departments of

1       Transportation that have someone who could  
2       facilitate something like that. The state of  
3       South Carolina, we actually have two people,  
4       I being one of the two, and the fellow who is  
5       chief of field operations, work together as  
6       the geodetic advisor.

7                So, when situations like that  
8       occur, we definitely take the lead and run  
9       with that. And that's not to say someone in  
10      Alaska won't stand up to do that, but in the  
11      event that they don't, we would like to see  
12      this, which is part of the NGS program, be  
13      facilitated here in the state, because it is  
14      one of the hats that Matt Forney is wearing  
15      right now, among 10 others, and it should be  
16      something that is a permanent fixture here in  
17      the state, and stays in the state, and works  
18      with the user community.

19               MEMBER JAY: I don't disagree with  
20      any of that, but I just think that the need is  
21      so outsized here in Alaska, that unusual  
22      arrangements are needed, and there's going to

1 have to be some sort of partnership between  
2 private enterprise, the state, and the federal  
3 government.

4 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Admiral?

5 MEMBER BARBOR: When I look at the  
6 list, I mean, they're all very reasonable in  
7 the light, and what I guess I'm trying to  
8 gauge is, if we as a panel said, "Yes,  
9 incorporate that," and put the full weight of  
10 this panel behind it, what happens? Because  
11 they're all common sense.

12 I'm assuming that, yes, you need  
13 to densify the CORS network on 5, but that's  
14 not a small issue here, and it's a hugely  
15 financial issue.

16 Number 4 seems much easier to do.  
17 I'm assuming that, what, there's an old GPS  
18 system, and you want to get GNSS on upgraded  
19 receivers. You know, that is probably a  
20 little more manageable and doable, and  
21 expeditiously is an interesting word. You  
22 said you've got it in your game plan. Does

1 this recommendation change your game plan?

2 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Michele?

3 MEMBER DIONNE: Michele Dionne.

4 So, slightly tongue-in-cheek, but now that our  
5 wartime commitments in the Middle East are  
6 winding down, maybe it's time for NOAA to  
7 declare war on the climate, and slip into that  
8 military industrial complex, you know, feedbag  
9 somehow.

10 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Say that again.

11 MEMBER DIONNE: Well, if NOAA were  
12 sort of to appropriate, of all the government  
13 agencies, you know, dealing with climate  
14 change, and call it a war, you might get some  
15 - that might be an angle for getting some  
16 funds. I don't know. Certainly it's going to  
17 be as costly - it has the potential to be as  
18 costly to the US taxpayer as the other wars  
19 we've been funding for forever. So, just a  
20 little --

21 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Well,  
22 interestingly enough, and to follow along that

1 same tack if you will, densification of the  
2 CORS network could help do similar things like  
3 that, because the CORS receivers can be used  
4 to determine measurable humidity, or  
5 precipitation, or air mass movements and  
6 things, and you can use it as a predicting  
7 tool, and figure out when you've got storm  
8 fronts coming in and such.

9 So, we could tap into the National  
10 Weather Service, and have them put 60 stations  
11 here in Alaska, and, you know, work with it  
12 that way. How's that?

13 MEMBER DIONNE: I do think that  
14 the potential costs to the American taxpayer  
15 are going to be ultimately very, very large,  
16 that, you know, in terms of climate change  
17 drivers, and the sooner the agencies get on  
18 board with that, the more money we're going to  
19 save.

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Anybody else?  
21 I'm sorry, Gary?

22 MEMBER JEFFRESS: I believe the

1 shoreline mapping recommendation is already  
2 part of our five most wanted, just to  
3 reinforce that. And it's not just an Alaska  
4 problem, Texas has the same problem, so does  
5 Louisiana, rapidly changing shorelines that  
6 aren't up to date on the coastal mapping.

7 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: And this is  
8 actually good in the fact that this is Alaska  
9 we're talking about it, but we're actually  
10 seeing this as a national problem, so when  
11 this goes to the Administrator, she can say,  
12 "Okay, this is something that really has  
13 national impact, and needs to be  
14 accomplished." Good point.

15 MEMBER DIONNE: I think you all  
16 know the statistic that half of America lives  
17 within, what, 50 miles of the shoreline or  
18 something like that.

19 MR. CUSICK: As an Alaskan, I'd  
20 like to make a comment, how many of the lower  
21 48 shorelines have 1920s shoreline? Many of  
22 our charts are that out of date.

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, Joel,  
2 thank you.

3 MR. CUSICK: Thanks for the  
4 opportunity.

5 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Tides and  
6 Currents. Oh, yes, Kathy?

7 MS. WATSON: Oh, Matt, I'm sorry.  
8 Could we ask the navigation data collection to  
9 go first? Because we got some users that have  
10 to leave early today.

11 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Could we what?

12 MS. WATSON: The navigation data  
13 collection, could they report next?

14 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Tides and  
15 Currents. Oh, yes, Kathy?

16 MS. WATSON: Oh, Matt, I'm sorry.  
17 Could we ask the navigation data collection to  
18 go first? Because we got some users that have  
19 to leave early today.

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Could we what?

21 MS. WATSON: The navigation data  
22 collection, could they report next?

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay.

2 Navigation, please?

3 CAPT. LOWELL: Yes, this is John  
4 Lowell. Just a cautionary note to the panel,  
5 and I know you've heard this before, but we  
6 need to be careful that we don't create  
7 laundry lists of activities that we're going  
8 to send Dr. Lubchenco, who will really not  
9 want to engage at that level, especially when  
10 you get down to the weeds.

11 And so when you talk about what  
12 the problem is, especially if you can combine  
13 some of these kind of things -- and I'll just  
14 take the top bullet there that came out, is  
15 maybe we shouldn't come to the recommendation  
16 with a solution, which is really what happened  
17 there, since we said "Hire a civil servant to  
18 serve this purpose."

19 That's a solution. That's not a  
20 recommendation. So did we define what the  
21 problem was? Do we have a -- you know, what  
22 is the problem? Is it just better

1 coordination? I'm not clear what the problem  
2 was there, but those are the kind of things  
3 that we want to see coming out of the FACA, a  
4 better understanding of what the problem is.

5 And then, on the assumption that  
6 we just can't be delivering these laundry  
7 lists of solutions to the head of NOAA, what  
8 is it that you want to, as a FACA, to really  
9 focus in on, and can you take it to the level  
10 where she can engage with it? If she comes up  
11 with extra funds, could she apply it? Or  
12 focus on new efficiencies, on the assumption  
13 that we're not going to get big budgets.

14 So that's just a cautionary tale  
15 there. Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR PERKINS: Okay, great.  
17 We had a robust conversation, and the heading  
18 here is Baseline Data Collection for  
19 Navigation. You know, one of the solid themes  
20 that kept coming up was the need for better  
21 coordination.

22 So under that concept of, maybe,

1 map it once, use it many, U.S. Fish and  
2 Wildlife was at the table with us. And we  
3 came to a realization that they have a 65 foot  
4 boat on the water. You know, if we can do a  
5 better job of understanding what assets are  
6 really available, then maybe we can do some  
7 force multiplying and better leverage that,  
8 which led us to the recommendation of "We need  
9 a Geographic Information Officer or a  
10 Geospatial Czar that can help coordinate those  
11 type of activities."

12 So that was the recommendation,  
13 something similar to the concept of IOCM. If  
14 we know what boats are on the water, if we can  
15 get sensors on those boats, if we can  
16 understand who's doing what, where, maybe we  
17 can serve multi-mission purposes.

18 Part of what would drive that is,  
19 how can we get the users involved with the  
20 baseline data collection? You know, the  
21 possibility of using crowdsourcing, open-  
22 sourcing. If we need better data at a

1 particular river harbor where the barge is  
2 having trouble delivering the oil, and there's  
3 fishing vessels going in and out of there, and  
4 there's subsistence fishing taking place  
5 there, can we begin collecting data at the  
6 population level, by the actual users?

7           And if that data is -- maybe it's  
8 not fit for -- maybe it's referential data,  
9 not absolute data. But it might be data  
10 that's fit for use, and that data might be  
11 able to use multi-use applications. You know,  
12 so looking at that, how successful open street  
13 network has been for collecting street data,  
14 globally, by the users, in an open consortium-  
15 type fashion, how can we do that on the water  
16 side?

17           So that's a recommendation to look  
18 for new standards that would embrace  
19 collecting data that's fit for use, that can  
20 go into the system.

21           And then looking at, where do we  
22 need to spend the money? You know, kind of a

1 Pareto approach of 80/20. You know, what do  
2 we have? What do the users really need,  
3 either geographically or by type of data? And  
4 one of the things that came up was shoreline.

5 You know, soundings are important,  
6 but if you don't know where the shoreline is  
7 you can't navigate in that near land/shore  
8 interface. So it's encouraging to see  
9 shoreline came up in the prior group as well.

10 So those were it. We tried to  
11 keep it short, keep it succinct, to three  
12 things. And so that is what we have put  
13 forward.

14 Yes, Joyce?

15 MEMBER MILLER: Scott, as part of  
16 that better coordination, I just wanted to  
17 point out, we also discussed the need -- if  
18 users like National Park Service or U.S. Fish  
19 and Wildlife are collecting data, the need in  
20 the coordination side for somewhere that can  
21 organize that data, not necessarily on a  
22 national level, but on a regional level, where

1 people can go and sort of have a data  
2 clearinghouse.

3 And maybe that's a GIO-type person  
4 or a Czar, but the point was that National  
5 Park Service collects this data in the  
6 peninsula, and nobody else can get to it. I  
7 mean, they share it with their local users,  
8 but other people can't get it.

9 VICE CHAIR PERKINS: Yes, the  
10 geospatial one-stop concept. Maybe it takes  
11 a State Geographic Information Officer to make  
12 that work up here, because doing it on a  
13 national level, we've proven that that's not  
14 working terribly effectively.

15 Frank?

16 MEMBER KUDRNA: Our group hasn't  
17 reported yet, but we had a similar discussion.  
18 And AOOS, the regional association here in  
19 Alaska, has that data charge, and they have  
20 the ability to coordinate and make available  
21 data that doesn't have the same standard  
22 requirements of the many pieces of the federal

1 government.

2           So we, on our side, had been  
3 encouraged looking at them, and that also  
4 could take place in other parts of the  
5 country, where there are other regional  
6 associations, as being a coordinating  
7 mechanism for data to be available. And their  
8 DMAC program has that as a charge already, and  
9 they are doing a great deal of that.

10           VICE CHAIR PERKINS: Right. Thank  
11 you.

12           CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay. Lawson,  
13 would you like to go next? Or would that be  
14 Gerd?

15           MEMBER BRIGHAM: As Gerd goes up  
16 to the podium, we had a pretty robust  
17 discussion, and the title is Emerging Arctic  
18 Issues. Very broad, very eclectic. We didn't  
19 necessarily come up with specific  
20 recommendations, but perhaps some issues that  
21 are important, emerging, key that we could  
22 pass to the administrator.

1                   We kept it a fairly broad  
2                   discussion, but it was pretty robust. I  
3                   facilitated. Gerd helped to keep the notes  
4                   and issues. So go ahead, please. Plenty of  
5                   stuff.

6                   CAPT. GLANG: So as Lawson said,  
7                   we had a robust, and I'll throw in vigorous,  
8                   discussion. It was kind of a free-flowing  
9                   brainstorming session, and we tried to make  
10                  sure everyone had some input. So we came up  
11                  with 26 issues which -- this is the raw data,  
12                  which you could distill down. And all of  
13                  these, John, will be recommendations. They  
14                  sort of flow in a theme.

15                  You know, we did an hour and 55  
16                  minutes of discussion, and then five minutes  
17                  of analysis, so in those five minutes there  
18                  were kind of two overarching themes. There  
19                  may have been some outlier ideas that don't  
20                  wrap in very well here, but I think we can  
21                  distill these into -- and we heard this from  
22                  the other working groups -- surveys and

1 related data collection, and then I kind of  
2 put in the more descriptive words "to do this  
3 in an efficient and innovative way," because  
4 we want to take into account this concept of  
5 crowdsourcing and partnerships, both trusted  
6 partnerships and unknown partnerships, and  
7 then making the data available.

8           And I think, going back to Frank's  
9 point on Scott's question about making the  
10 data available, and Frank brought up the AOS, it's my understanding AOS doesn't deal with  
11 geospatial data. So we want to make that  
12 distinction, and I asked in our working group  
13 that we raise the issue of spatial data  
14 infrastructure, that we have some  
15 consideration for how we make the data  
16 discoverable and accessible.

18           And then the second overarching  
19 theme that came out had to do with oil spill  
20 prevention and response, and then associated  
21 with that is the research theme of oil and  
22 hazardous material spills in arctic and ice

1 conditions, which I think has been identified  
2 already as an area where research needs to be  
3 done.

4 So that's sort of, in a nutshell,  
5 the takeaway. There were lots of other  
6 associated ideas, but we'll leave that for you  
7 to discover on your own. Some of these can be  
8 lumped together quite nicely. We're open for  
9 discussion.

10 You didn't like 26 items, John?

11 (Laughter.)

12 CAPT. GLANG: This was a show all  
13 your work exercise, wasn't it?

14 (Laughter.)

15 CAPT. GLANG: Okay, if nothing  
16 else, we'll --

17 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Captain Glang,  
18 could you run it down to the very bottom, so  
19 I can see the two overarching themes?

20 MEMBER DIONNE: If you teach a  
21 course on how to collect geospatial data with  
22 jet skis, I don't think you'll have any

1 trouble with enrollments.

2 CAPT. GLANG: Actually, Michele,  
3 you bring up a good point. We did touch on  
4 training. Bob Pawlowski and some of the  
5 others brought up both the training specific  
6 to navigating in the Arctic and the ice  
7 training, and then I think we started to touch  
8 on some of the other training and jobs in  
9 Alaska, and what kind of jobs would come out  
10 of supporting the oil industry.

11 So there was a broad-ranging  
12 discussion on training and jobs, and that was  
13 very good. Some good ideas came out of that.

14 MEMBER DIONNE: Also, we talked  
15 quite a bit about the training arm, a how to  
16 train the trainer kind of thing, out of NOAA.

17 CAPT. GLANG: Yes, Joyce?

18 MEMBER MILLER: Yes, we talked  
19 about sort of training to figure out what  
20 minimum level of metadata you need to certify  
21 your data's correct. For instance, I said you  
22 only needed a position, a time, and a depth,

1 and then someone else added that if you just  
2 put in -- if you knew just the bare offsets --  
3 we're talking single-beam here, we're just  
4 talking really simple data collection -- if  
5 you added a little tiny bit more data to that,  
6 to make sure that single-beam soundings from  
7 various sources were good, that was pointed  
8 out as something that NOAA could do as sort of  
9 value-added, without a tremendous amount of  
10 cost to it.

11 CAPT. GLANG: I would hope that --  
12 so, you're talking about what kind of metadata  
13 you might need if you were crowdsourcing, for  
14 instance? I would hope that, within the  
15 construct of our IOCM standard, that the  
16 crowdsourcing already fits, and that the way  
17 we facilitate taking data from partners and  
18 trusted sources would incorporate what we have  
19 in those standards already. They're pretty  
20 broad standards. I don't think it's too much  
21 of a stretch.

22 MEMBER JAY: Crowdsourcing came up

1 in our group, the tides and currents, as well.  
2 It seems to be a persistent theme here, just  
3 because of the difficulty of the environment  
4 and the idea that standards needed to be  
5 flexible, or at different levels.

6 And the OPUS analogy that I didn't  
7 -- I'm not familiar with it -- was brought up  
8 in our context, that data can be made publicly  
9 available through that, even though it's not  
10 collected by the federal government.

11 CAPT. GLANG: I'm not sure I heard  
12 every word, but it was a commentary more that  
13 --

14 MEMBER JAY: It was a commentary  
15 that there are other models within, in this  
16 case, NGS, for crowdsourcing data of somewhat  
17 unknown or variable standard. And you know,  
18 you use it at your own risk.

19 CAPT. GLANG: Okay.

20 MR. MAYER: I wonder if what we're  
21 hearing kind of collectively is an evolution  
22 of what maybe we should think about as a

1 national kind of frontier survey strategy,  
2 something that is kind of set apart from our  
3 historic evolution of survey strategies, that  
4 is catered to -- in this case, it's Alaska-  
5 focused, but there may be other places.  
6 Joyce, out in the western Pacific, where you  
7 have responsibilities, where you focus on  
8 crowdsourcing, you focus on making every  
9 platform available, data collection platform.

10 But I wonder if we can articulate  
11 this as a central theme, in terms of a  
12 frontier survey strategy, that then we can  
13 start establishing guidelines to.

14 MEMBER MILLER: Actually, there  
15 was one really good -- I wrote it down.  
16 Someone said, it was one of our stakeholders  
17 "Perfect is the enemy of good."

18 (Laughter)

19 MEMBER MILLER: And I thought that  
20 was - I thought that was a really interesting  
21 way to think about things.

22 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: You know, and

1 again, once again, going back to a  
2 conversation, or a question that Dr. Sullivan  
3 posed out to us as a panel yesterday, and  
4 using what you said Joyce, does it need to be  
5 perfect in every situation? Are there not  
6 cases where good will suffice? Or okay will  
7 suffice?

8 Because, based on the conditions  
9 that you've got to work in, based on the  
10 situations you have, any data, if it can meet  
11 a standard, and maybe that standard might need  
12 to be somewhat modified, could be used, and  
13 it's better than nothing at all. And this  
14 might be a situation in Alaska where we need  
15 to look at doing something like that.

16 Aimee said without the tide gauge,  
17 there were no predicted tides, and they really  
18 were able to, having something like that,  
19 determine whether or not they needed to move  
20 or evacuate the town to the high school or  
21 whatever, and they made the decision not to,  
22 and were okay with that. But, without any

1 type of a tide gauge or without any type of  
2 predicted tides, they can't do that type of  
3 thing.

4 So, again, I think we need to sit  
5 back and think about the crowdsourcing, and  
6 maybe in some situations, do we have to have  
7 everything perfect, or as good as it possibly  
8 can be? And my thoughts are, maybe not.

9 MS. BLACKWELL: Following along  
10 that same line of conversation, and others, I  
11 just think we ought to be careful with, you  
12 know, if we are the authoritative offices that  
13 provide, you know, the best data and  
14 information that we have available, that we be  
15 careful in the recommendations and the  
16 expectations of doing it all, at all different  
17 levels.

18 Because, we're going to be  
19 competing, you know, to let different levels  
20 of standards be met. And I'm not saying it's  
21 wrong to do that, I'm just saying that it  
22 would, you know, from my office in particular,

1 I would speak and say, we want to make other  
2 crowdsourcing types of data available, but we  
3 have to be balanced in making sure the users  
4 know that this is a different level, this is  
5 not authoritative and very accurate  
6 information, but it is information that can be  
7 shared, and what the expected accuracies are  
8 of that data.

9 As well as, you know, realizing  
10 that we have resource constraints, and we want  
11 to appropriately, you know, put our resources  
12 in the right areas.

13 So, if you want, you know, very  
14 exact information about, you know, where  
15 stations are, and more CORS, and more improved  
16 models, then, you know, we're going to be, you  
17 know, torn in an area where we want to focus  
18 on providing the best of the best  
19 infrastructure, and also just being clear as  
20 to what the other data that's available is,  
21 and how much we can dedicate to those other  
22 levels or standards of data that's being

1 provided and disseminated.

2 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Ken?

3 MEMBER BARBOR: Yes, let me pick  
4 up where David left off, and follow on your  
5 comments there, Juliana. Again, NGS was  
6 brought up in that light as a shining example  
7 that while you have the CORS stations, and  
8 you've got a, you know, very rigidly specified  
9 requirements for that, you can also go in with  
10 your individual benchmark, and through OPUS,  
11 work up the data on it, and then have the  
12 ability to save that, and have it accessible  
13 to other users should they want. And it is  
14 appropriately attributed as a non-CORS - you  
15 know, whether highly suspect or whatever.

16 But, that is a valuable piece of  
17 data for somebody, and it is retrievable  
18 through you, and not through some circuitous  
19 Google search of all the available, you know,  
20 reference spots that anybody ever inputted  
21 somewhere. So, again, that was brought up as  
22 an excellent example of not compromising your

1 standards, but embracing all of the data  
2 that's out there.

3 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: David? And  
4 pull your mic to you just a little bit so I  
5 can hear you.

6 MEMBER JAY: Another example along  
7 the same line, would be the National Ocean  
8 Data Center. It doesn't just sanction the  
9 most recent data collected to the highest  
10 standards, it's got everything, you know. We  
11 recognize that the ocean is a very big place,  
12 and everything that was ever collected is in  
13 there somewhere, at least if somebody put it  
14 there it is.

15 The objective is to salvage all  
16 the historical data, and it is a variable  
17 standard. Some of it is outdated, because the  
18 ocean changes, but it's all there.

19 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Jon? A  
20 hydrographer can't turn a mic on?

21 (Laughter)

22 MR. DASLER: Okay, here we go, got

1 it. Jon Dasler. It's been said a person with  
2 one watch knows exactly what time it is. A  
3 person with two watches is never quite sure.  
4 And I think the problem is it's a tremendous  
5 expense to get, even if they're private assets  
6 and you're bringing that out to get out to  
7 these sites and collect the data.

8 So, I think just the basic concept  
9 of some basic standards rather than, you know,  
10 20 people out there with watches that aren't  
11 even at least synchronizing them. And so,  
12 there - that's what IOCM did. They took the  
13 hydrographic specifications and deliverables,  
14 and sort of compressed that a little bit.  
15 It's not quite as stringent, but at least get  
16 the basic standards of what really needs to be  
17 done.

18 It's a minimal extra effort, but  
19 like I said, the biggest effort is getting to  
20 these sites, and getting the data. And you  
21 really do need to have a set of standards.  
22 Otherwise, it's - to deconflict this

1 information and sort it out, is going to be  
2 more effort than it took to collect it. And,  
3 you know, you really need to take that into  
4 account.

5 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Can I add  
6 something -

7 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Sure.

8 MEMBER BRIGHAM: - from our group?  
9 What we did here, rigorously, from the  
10 stakeholders and the users, that there are  
11 wide swaths of the United States Maritime  
12 Arctic with no soundings, or some soundings  
13 from the Admiralty charts of Captain Cook.  
14 So, we are in the 21st century.

15 So, this conflict of whether the  
16 data is good enough, or bad enough, or what  
17 modes of strategies of collection and all of  
18 that, there are good arguments that you need  
19 international standards.

20 And what is fascinating, is our  
21 government is proposing detailed management  
22 principles, marine spatial planning, et

1 cetera, where we don't have the baseline data  
2 to do that kind of management. We don't have  
3 the baseline bathymetry, hydrography,  
4 observing stations, et cetera. So, we can't  
5 do all of those sophisticated - use those  
6 tools, et cetera, and do that management  
7 without some baseline information.

8 So, the message is clear. The  
9 stakeholders are telling us, you know, to use  
10 the place safely and efficiently. We don't  
11 have enough information to safely navigate.  
12 So, I mean, you know, it's a basic conflict.

13 But, I think at the upper echelons  
14 of policy making, pretty sophisticated  
15 management tools are being proposed, where we  
16 just don't have information available to  
17 actually employ those tools. And the flagship  
18 is marine spatial planning. So, it's been  
19 pretty interesting, different levels of the  
20 government talk in different directions here.

21 MEMBER DIONNE: That was something  
22 that I realized very early on when I started

1 working at the reserve in Maine, is that the  
2 coastal managers have lots and lots of needs,  
3 but they do not want to pay for data  
4 collection. So, it's a real problem.

5 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes, Gary?

6 MEMBER JEFFRESS: This is probably  
7 a good place to remind you of the Exxon Valdez  
8 incident, especially when we're talking about  
9 exploring into the Arctic.

10 One of the fundamentals that came  
11 out of the Exxon Valdez was that both Exxon  
12 and the United States government knew exactly  
13 where the Bligh Reef was, because it was on a  
14 NOAA chart, and that was the benchmark in  
15 which the litigation took off from.

16 There was no argument on either  
17 side that the reef was where it was plotted on  
18 the chart, and it was plotted to a certain  
19 accuracy on the chart, and so everybody was  
20 aware of that.

21 And if the same thing is going to  
22 happen in the Arctic, we really need that same

1 standard of mapping, because it's going to end  
2 up in a court of law. And that's why Texas,  
3 when we put in a tide gauge network, we had to  
4 follow NOAA's standard, because the data was  
5 going to be used for littoral boundary  
6 disputes, and it was going to go into court.

7           So, I think that's the benchmark  
8 we got to take off from. And NOAA is the  
9 scientific agency for the federal government  
10 that sets the standard for nautical charting.

11           CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Point noted,  
12 thank you. Anybody else? Gerd?

13           CAPT. GLANG: Just wanted to think  
14 maybe a little bit differently about the  
15 crowdsourcing of data, sounding data in  
16 particular. As long as you can say something  
17 about that data, what systems were used to  
18 acquire it, how it was collected, then Coast  
19 Survey can make a decision about how to use  
20 that information.

21           You may choose to use it only to  
22 evaluate whether I have a problem and I need

1 to go back and do something, a more intense  
2 survey to NOAA standards. Or, if there is no  
3 data, you may choose, we may choose to put it  
4 on the chart, and we can qualify it in certain  
5 ways. There are ways to show that on the  
6 chart, to identify the quality of the data.

7 So, it's - we don't need to get  
8 too wrapped around the axle on standards, as  
9 long as we know that the data is being  
10 interpreted and applied to the chart, with  
11 consideration of where it came from.

12 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: And that builds  
13 on the need for accurate metadata. Without  
14 that, we really don't know what it is that  
15 we're working with.

16 My office is in the process of  
17 building a database of geodetic control, that  
18 is not able to meet blue book standards, but  
19 we have implemented specifications that, if  
20 they are met, the user community can give us  
21 the coordinates, but we also put a disclaimer  
22 on the database. "These were not created by

1 my office, but are being hosted by our  
2 database. Use at your own discretion."

3 Now, you have to take it up a  
4 whole other level for nautical charting,  
5 because it is a legally binding document.  
6 But, the point is, you need to know what it is  
7 that you're working with, and that's going to  
8 be done using the metadata. And if you've got  
9 very accurate metadata, then I think you can  
10 make intelligent decisions on whether you  
11 should or should not use this information.  
12 Tides and Currents.

13 MEMBER BARBOR: We had a small but  
14 reasonably diverse group, and I think what we  
15 initially came up with very, very quickly, was  
16 - and Rich, you know, provided guidance that,  
17 "Yes, they've taken a look. They probably  
18 need 30 more tide stations here," you know,  
19 "appropriate tide stations." That's not going  
20 to happen. So, how do we back off of that?  
21 And what sort of - is there some way to  
22 prioritize or the like, and come up and attack

1 this with a more methodical and learned way?

2           And in particular, the key is, and  
3 other groups have talked about this, is that  
4 there are different thresholds. Users have  
5 different needs. They can accept different  
6 standards. And in some cases, in terms of  
7 tides, you know, just having a relative water  
8 level or the, you know, constituent harmonics  
9 for a particular area, would be sufficient to  
10 - as Amy would say, "Geez, okay, we're coming  
11 up on a high tide as this wind peaks,  
12 therefore, we'll have a significant storm  
13 surge."

14           The absolute value wasn't  
15 important, the relative value was. Obviously,  
16 for other areas, you need the absolute value  
17 if you're going to try to apply it to a chart.

18           So - but, you've got to establish  
19 that. And that should factor into how you  
20 prioritize what sort of tide stations you're  
21 going to start establishing. And, we clearly  
22 need to look at innovation and technology, and

1 innovative thoughts on how we approach these  
2 problems, because Alaska does present unique  
3 problems. You don't go out there and stick a,  
4 you know, a Sutron tube out there and let it  
5 winter-over, doesn't work.

6 So, with that in mind, we've got  
7 to develop some - perhaps develop new  
8 technologies. There was some discussion about  
9 an acoustic sled that they used on the ice for  
10 winter-over, and got a winter's worth of tide  
11 data, not real time, but again, a good  
12 reference piece of material that you can begin  
13 to develop constituents and the like. And so,  
14 that's innovative sorts of ways of attacking  
15 this rather difficult environment here.

16 And also, take advantage of what  
17 other agencies. We did not - we had - no, we  
18 had no industry other than a survey industry  
19 representative. So, you know, we obviously  
20 look and go, you know, what sort of  
21 capabilities can the oil industries, the  
22 shipping industries, bring to bear?

1           It doesn't have to be robust, oil  
2           hopefully would be robust, but anyhow, they  
3           can contribute something, getting equipment to  
4           an appropriate place where you want to get it  
5           installed, and use those sorts of things to  
6           help that aspect. You know, as one other  
7           group mentioned, just getting there is half  
8           the problem in this area.

9           And then what kind of mechanisms  
10          are there for coordination? Because there are  
11          a lot of stakeholders with, as I said, diverse  
12          needs, but very inter-related needs, and we've  
13          got to have a better understanding of those  
14          people, who is doing what, how can an  
15          expansion of one person's efforts meet another  
16          person's requirements.

17          And we felt that an in-place  
18          mechanism that appears to have a lot of  
19          energy, if not money behind it, is the Alaska  
20          Ocean Observing System, AOOS, and that would  
21          be a good coordinating body.

22          They have apparently various

1 forms. One pointed out was the Alaska Marine  
2 Science Symposium that brings a lot of people  
3 together that - where you can say, "Okay,  
4 these are the sorts of activities that are  
5 going to happen over the next year." Again,  
6 and so, take that list of activities and see  
7 how you can capitalize, leverage, and - to get  
8 the most out in terms of our areas of tides  
9 and currents.

10 And so, AOOB seemed very willing  
11 to take that on board. Again, not speaking  
12 for the boss, but take that on board and see  
13 what they could do with the Alaska Marine  
14 Science Symposium.

15 And one comment that, again, a  
16 low-hanging fruit sort of thing, but it does,  
17 you know, some of our folks in there said,  
18 "Geez, we do not get enough warning on what  
19 OCS is going to do, when and where." And  
20 again, given a little longer lead time, we  
21 might be able to get some more assets to bear  
22 in terms of capitalizing on the water level

1 controls we know is going to come along with  
2 that capability.

3 Okay, because, you know, Rich  
4 mentioned he thought we probably needed 30, we  
5 decided to come up with an A to Z, so at least  
6 26 priority areas. But at any rate, and in  
7 fact, the AOS representative came up with  
8 three, and I said, "Oh, we've got three,"  
9 which sounded very reasonable and manageable.

10 But, those sorts of things need to  
11 be, again, fleshed out, and make sure that -  
12 if that is the best three or the like. Access  
13 to data, which we've kind of already  
14 discussed, is - and Aimee Fish from Weather  
15 Service brought up an excellent point.

16 She had been using some sort of  
17 tide prediction based on a two week  
18 observation back in the 1890s, went to the  
19 website, and it was gone. Well, it, for  
20 whatever reasons, probably reasonable reasons,  
21 to me it sounds like, I'm not sure how good  
22 those data were, but something she had become

1 accustomed to using, was no longer available.

2

3           There are a lot of datasets like  
4 that, that somebody may have some use for.  
5 Now, you have to take it for what it's worth,  
6 but, you know, access to historic non-standard  
7 and sorts of data sets was felt in our group  
8 that, appropriate caveated, should be  
9 available for the user.

10           And I've already talked about the  
11 OPUS example where, again, it's an  
12 appropriately attributed, use it at your own  
13 risk. And you can tell the difference between  
14 the, you know, bench-marked areas, and those  
15 that aren't quite as rigorous.

16           And then another important issue,  
17 I think, is again, when you're out there  
18 surveying, a very strong belief that, you  
19 know, whether you're actually delivering your  
20 product as an ellipsoidal reference survey, it  
21 should be done with ellipsoidal references,  
22 and that's what's going to drive a lot of the

1 water level understanding in the future.

2 We had a number of innovative  
3 issues, I think. There are buoys out there.  
4 AOS is putting buoys out there. If you put  
5 on an appropriately precise GPS, you can get  
6 water levels off that buoy now, and that's an  
7 additional data source, you know, in the open  
8 ocean.

9 GPS on the ferries, you know, can  
10 give you water level. ADCP on the ferries can  
11 give you currents. And those sorts of flows  
12 of information would greatly enhance the body  
13 of knowledge for the area. Thank you.

14 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Questions?  
15 Jeff?

16 MEMBER CAROTHERS: Yes, Jeff  
17 Carothers. What is the - I mean it sounds  
18 like what they need up there is predicted  
19 tides really, is the main thing. Rich, what's  
20 the observation period, minimum observation  
21 period, to develop the harmonic constituents  
22 for an area?

1 MR. EDWING: 30 days.

2 MEMBER CAROTHERS: 30 days.

3 MR. EDWING: On a lunar cycle.

4 MEMBER CAROTHERS: Okay.

5 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: So, really,  
6 we're talking about a 30 day project, is what  
7 we're talking about.

8 MEMBER BARBOR: Yes, and -

9 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Go ahead.

10 MEMBER BARBOR: And again, those  
11 are the sorts of - you know, if you're doing  
12 survey up there, and there's a lot of survey  
13 going on, either contractor or white ship,  
14 it's got water level controls. And so, that  
15 sort of stuff needs to get propagated, and  
16 somehow incorporated into the body of  
17 knowledge.

18 MEMBER CAROTHERS: The other thing  
19 I had, I don't - I'm not an expert in this  
20 field, but the InSAR data, I don't know if  
21 they can monitor water level and measure it  
22 from satellites. I'm not sure if that's

1 possible or not, I mean, as an option.

2 MEMBER BARBOR: No. And I think  
3 David brought up SAR, you know, for water  
4 level determination too.

5 MEMBER JAY: When does the new  
6 InSAR satellite start flying?

7 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: When SpaceX can  
8 launch it.

9 (Laughter)

10 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Frank?

11 MEMBER KUDRNA: I sat in on this  
12 group, and there was a general theme that  
13 budgets are going to be tight, and we couldn't  
14 ask for things that cost massive amounts of  
15 money to NOAA.

16 So, the theme that we worked on  
17 was how do you piggyback some existing  
18 activities that are taking place to get more  
19 observations of data? How do you partner with  
20 other folks that have the same need? Because  
21 many of the things that we're talking about,  
22 NOAA is not the only party in the game. There

1 are others that could be cost-shared or  
2 partnered with, or combined, in terms of  
3 products.

4 And, you know, we had a discussion  
5 of the oil leases that take place. Even  
6 though that's a federal oil lease, they have  
7 land-side facilities that they have to  
8 construct, that the states have the ability to  
9 negotiate terms and conditions that could have  
10 observation platforms established through  
11 identification of priorities, and establishing  
12 the kinds of needs that could be incorporated  
13 as those fields are developed.

14 So, our theme was not to create a  
15 huge shopping list for NOAA, but to try and  
16 talk about priorities, and those things that  
17 could be partnered.

18 MEMBER BARBOR: And I think, you  
19 know, what - we had Amy Holman in our group,  
20 and I think the key role that NOAA plays in  
21 this, is being a very vocal and active  
22 contributor to these sorts of Alaska Marine

1 Science Symposiums. You know, she's on the  
2 Board of Directors of AOS.

3 So, that is where you leverage  
4 that sort of thing. And then, you know, bring  
5 it back to the home office and say, "If we can  
6 get this here, you know, we will have  
7 leveraged, you know, an asset, and collect the  
8 data."

9 MEMBER MILLER: One thing that I  
10 noticed throughout the entire symposium and so  
11 forth, is I think the navigation manager  
12 concept is working very effectively here. It  
13 works well in the Pacific too. That just that  
14 position, which - I don't know - how long ago  
15 was it established? Nav managers?

16 MEMBER BARBOR: Maybe a decade.

17 MEMBER MILLER: Yes. But, I think  
18 it very much facilitates this type of  
19 collaboration and so forth. So, it sounds  
20 like you're doing a good job, Matt.

21 MEMBER BARBOR: Yes, take a bow.

22 (Laughter)

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, so, we've  
2 got the recommendations that have actually  
3 taken place here. I want to do one thing  
4 first, then we're going to come back to this,  
5 and try to consolidate what we've talked about  
6 into, at most, maybe four recommendations, and  
7 really whittle this down.

8 We want to work together as a  
9 group, and come up with what we think could be  
10 a good, concise way of presenting to NOAA  
11 administration what we want to do. And  
12 possibly taking Larry's approach of looking at  
13 everything as a whole, and trying to develop  
14 a course of action, might not be a bad idea.

15 Before we do that, Frank had  
16 mentioned yesterday, something about a survey,  
17 that the Science Advisory Board needs  
18 participation from FACA with. So, if we could  
19 put that up on the screen. And Frank, did you  
20 want to go up and address it at the podium, or  
21 are you just going to sit at your spot?

22 MEMBER KUDRNA: I can do it here.

1 That would be fine. Just to - can you make  
2 that a little larger? Here's the background  
3 of it. NOAA's Science Advisory Board was  
4 asked by the NOAA administrator to look at the  
5 entire research enterprise of NOAA. And she  
6 charged the Science Advisory Committee with  
7 that.

8 A working group made of half  
9 Science Advisory Board members, and half  
10 outside members, was established. And she  
11 gave us a very short time frame for a report  
12 back by November on this subject. And it's  
13 chaired by Peter Kareiva, the chief scientist  
14 and vice president of Nature Conservancy, and  
15 Roberta Balstad of Columbia University.

16 And as part of that working group,  
17 they've gone back to, and asked the other  
18 FACAs that have research-related functions,  
19 and the other working committees of NOAA, to  
20 provide input. And this was a formal request  
21 from Peter, as the chairman of the committee,  
22 to HSRP FACA.

1                   And it describes, the goal is to  
2                   identify opportunities to enhance NOAA's  
3                   research portfolio, and ensure it's focused on  
4                   meeting NOAA's RND needs for today and the  
5                   future, with particular attention to NOAA's  
6                   strategic priorities, and they are healthy  
7                   oceans, a weather-ready nation, resilient  
8                   coastal communities and economies. And then  
9                   it goes on to describe the task force.

10                   The chairman is looking for two or  
11                   three key points, drawing on the experience,  
12                   insights of our working committee, that  
13                   address the following questions or a subset of  
14                   them. And it says, "Don't feel obligated to  
15                   address them all."

16                   What are some of the best examples  
17                   you can think of for NOAA research making huge  
18                   positive impacts on the nation? What are  
19                   important research opportunities that are  
20                   being missed by NOAA, and why? Have you  
21                   uncovered issues with the management and  
22                   organization of NOAA's research enterprise

1 that could be improved?

2 And this is being looked at very  
3 hard by the committee. You know, research is  
4 spread among probably 11 different places in  
5 NOAA, and they're asking us, should that  
6 structure be changed or modified within NOAA?  
7 Are there other issues you feel strongly that  
8 the task force must explore or address?

9 On the new R&D portfolio, are  
10 there R&D issues currently receiving  
11 substantial funding that might receive less  
12 investment, so that other endeavors could be  
13 better resourced? And that's really an  
14 interesting comment, because we've never seen  
15 a direction back from NOAA asking what they  
16 should stop doing, and how they should  
17 prioritize in terms of activities.

18 So, we have an opportunity to  
19 respond to this. They're asking for it to be  
20 no more than two pages. The time frame is by  
21 July 10th, so that the next meeting of this  
22 group where they'll start formulating items

1 will take place.

2           And let me add one other thing to  
3 give you an idea of the importance of this.  
4 The House of Representatives, the Commerce,  
5 Justice, Science and Related Agency  
6 Appropriation Bill 2013, and the accompanying  
7 report included the following language:  
8 "Science Advisory Board. The committee  
9 understands that NOAA's Science Advisory Board  
10 is evaluating NOAA's research enterprise, and  
11 the effectiveness of its management structure  
12 to meet its science requirements.

13           Preliminary recommendations will  
14 be available later this year. The committee  
15 requests that the NOAA Science Advisory Board  
16 brief the committee no later than 30 days  
17 after providing this recommendation to NOAA."  
18 This is the appropriation committee in the  
19 House.

20           And additionally, the Senate, in  
21 the Department of Commerce, Justice, Science  
22 and Related Agency Bill 2013 accompanying

1 report said, "Research and development, R&D  
2 tracking outcomes. The committee directs NOAA  
3 to continue to track the division of R&D funds  
4 between intermural and extramural NOAA, assure  
5 consistency and clarity in the collection and  
6 reporting of data, clearly state expected  
7 research outcomes, and available funding to  
8 provide transparency into the competitive  
9 grant process, and increase extramural  
10 research funding in future requests, to build  
11 broad community support, and leverage external  
12 funding for mission-oriented related  
13 research."

14 So, the point I'm making is, we've  
15 been asked by the administrator of NOAA, and  
16 it's been recognized by both Appropriations  
17 Committees of Congress, to look into this  
18 subject. So, it's an opportunity for our FACA  
19 to provide input into the process.

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, thank  
21 you. I think this would be good - would it be  
22 possible to print this out?

1 MS. WATSON: We can email.

2 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Actually - or  
3 we could email it out to the panel. Why don't  
4 we just do that? We'll email it out to the  
5 panel. The discussion is kind of taking  
6 place, and I think it would be good if we as  
7 a group had a task force, subcommittee, call  
8 it what you want, of about three members, at  
9 most four members, that could look at this,  
10 work with it, and we have personnel that could  
11 help out with some expertise in what's going  
12 on with research and things within each of the  
13 tri offices. Do we not?

14 CAPT. LOWELL: Yes, basically any  
15 way the FACA wishes to approach this. I think  
16 that these are pretty big questions. I don't  
17 think they can be resolved today. That's my  
18 opinion, you all can decide whether you want  
19 to resolve it or not.

20 But, if you put together a small  
21 working group, I do believe all three of the  
22 offices would be available to provide input,

1 in some sort of inventory, the research that  
2 is currently going on, whatever it is you feel  
3 you need to be able to answer these questions  
4 or not. As, I think Frank pointed out, you  
5 don't have to address every question. But, we  
6 stand by to assist as needed.

7 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay. So, that  
8 being said, it would be good if, when we get  
9 this, we could sit and think about it. But,  
10 David, you had a question or a statement?

11 MEMBER JAY: Yes, just a point of  
12 clarification. Does this include all NOAA  
13 research, like Sea Grant, all programs, or is  
14 it just certain classes of programs?

15 MEMBER KUDRNA: The study itself  
16 is looking at all research within NOAA.

17 CAPT. LOWELL: But, the question  
18 of this fact has been asked. Is the research  
19 being done by the nav services? I do believe  
20 that would be my interpretation of that.

21 MEMBER KUDRNA: I would - it  
22 doesn't specifically state that. I would

1 expect it's specific to your charge. But, if  
2 you have broader comments, I don't think those  
3 are precluded at all either.

4 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: I would like to  
5 take the approach of it being the HSRP, and  
6 looking at things within where we're  
7 addressing as a panel here, which would be the  
8 tri offices and nav services, and that type of  
9 thing. Joyce?

10 MEMBER MILLER: Yes, I'm a bit -  
11 again, looking at just this, but then there's  
12 R&D, and then there's, you know, other  
13 activities that aren't so - that are  
14 management related within NOAA. You know,  
15 they're asking where would you take money away  
16 on that last question. You know, where, you  
17 know, is this only R&D activity? I mean,  
18 sometimes there's just a totally hazy line  
19 about what's R&D versus what's really  
20 management, you know. Does -

21 MEMBER KUDRNA: And I - if I might  
22 respond to that -

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Please.

2 MEMBER KUDRNA: And I don't  
3 portend to know exactly what the administrator  
4 had in mind when she asked the question, but  
5 when we discussed this among our committee,  
6 what we expect is most of the time when  
7 committees are asked for recommendations, they  
8 give a shopping list of added stuff you should  
9 spend money on. You know, it's big and huge,  
10 and, "You need to do all of these."

11 This question is quite different,  
12 and they're asking, are there things we should  
13 stop doing now, that have gone the distance,  
14 that are less important than things we should  
15 expand activities for. Should we put less  
16 resources into something, and more resources  
17 into something else?

18 And one of the things we as a  
19 committee have been debating, is NOAA doesn't  
20 know very well how to stop doing something.  
21 And I'm not saying it's in this particular  
22 area, anywhere within NOAA. And in tough

1 resource times, anyone needs to know what to  
2 stop doing and what to invest more resources  
3 into. So, that's part of the question that's  
4 being asked.

5 MEMBER MILLER: But, what I'm  
6 asking is, does that include management  
7 activities, or - what comes to mind  
8 immediately is something like ocean  
9 exploration, which is not really a research  
10 activity. It's an exploration activity. Or,  
11 something like sanctuaries, which is a  
12 management activity, you know.

13 MEMBER JAY: That's not what they  
14 mean though. I don't think that's being  
15 requested here.

16 MEMBER KUDRNA: It - the charge  
17 itself focused on research, and -

18 MEMBER MILLER: What I'm saying,  
19 the line between research and managers is -

20 MEMBER KUDRNA: It's not always  
21 clear.

22 MEMBER MILLER: It's not always

1 clear.

2 MEMBER KUDRNA: You're correct.

3 MEMBER JAY: If I may, I would  
4 think it would include the extramural funding  
5 associated with the marine sanctuary program,  
6 but it wouldn't include, at least in my  
7 interpretation, wouldn't include the actual  
8 management of the sanctuaries.

9 MEMBER MILLER: Yes, but that's  
10 often very hard to wrinkle out too, so.

11 MEMBER JAY: Well, yes, that's  
12 true.

13 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay. Well,  
14 what I would like to see is, you know, a small  
15 group, three, four tops, to look at this, come  
16 up with some answers, and send those to the  
17 panel as a whole, that we can work with.

18 CAPT. LOWELL: Everything would  
19 have to come back to the panel.

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Right, right.

21 CAPT. LOWELL: It was very clear.

22 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Right.

1                   CAPT. LOWELL:  However you  
2                   structure it, whether you go here, or a small  
3                   working group, it has to come back to the  
4                   broader panel before it goes on.

5                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER:  Exactly.  Gerd?

6                   CAPT. GLANG:  Could those three  
7                   members of that small working group, would  
8                   they be allowed to interact - this is probably  
9                   more for the DFO - interact with the SAB to  
10                  tease out a little bit more?  Because I think  
11                  the charge here, the questions are fairly  
12                  broad ranging.  I don't think this panel has  
13                  the insight into NOAA's R&D portfolio.  It  
14                  would be much better for this panel to provide  
15                  comment on the kinds of research, and then  
16                  bracket that even narrower by what they've  
17                  heard here today, for instance.  Do you think  
18                  - I'm just thinking out loud.

19                  CHAIR WELLSLAGER:  Just a second.  
20                  You can say something.

21                  CAPT. LOWELL:  I was going to  
22                  mention, on the introduction paragraph of this

1 request, it wasn't necessarily built around  
2 in-depth knowledge of everything. It was  
3 simply a body of knowledge available to the  
4 panel, and insights. So, it wasn't - I don't  
5 really think they're asking for an in-depth  
6 study here.

7 I think they're looking at, how  
8 can we pull a little bit of minimal  
9 information together, and then based on the  
10 body of knowledge that the panel may have has  
11 come up, to try to answer these questions.  
12 And you don't have to answer them all, but  
13 it's the FACA, or it's your panel, and you can  
14 answer it the way you want.

15 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Admiral?

16 MEMBER BARBOR: Being tempered by  
17 what John just said, I mean, yes, obviously I  
18 know the Navy system well, and I know I could  
19 hit a button, and out would print all the line  
20 item R&D programs that, you know - I didn't  
21 manage R&D, so I didn't have any, but I could  
22 at least see what the oceanographer had. I

1       assume, you know, do you split yours out R&D  
2       and operation maintenance, or, you know - no,  
3       and I - well, and I kind of thought that might  
4       be true.

5                    CAPT. LOWELL: I think the issue  
6       with NOAA is these things are so tightly tied  
7       together, and intermixed. As Joyce was  
8       saying, you know, where is that line of pure  
9       R&D versus taking some technology and  
10      operationalizing it, versus actually utilizing  
11      it in a production capacity?

12                   You know, those lines are moving  
13      around a lot. I think the budget lines are  
14      intermixed. Some is out of base, some is out  
15      of pure research funds, some are grants, some  
16      are laboratories that are self-funded. So,  
17      there's many different ways. So, there is no,  
18      you know, easy button here. I don't think so.

19                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: You know,  
20      Frank, to follow up on what Gerd had  
21      mentioned, when it - is there someone at the  
22      Science Advisory Board that one, two, three,

1 collectively, the whole panel on a conference  
2 call, could contact and discuss this with?

3 MEMBER KUDRNA: I would suggest  
4 Peter Kareiva, who has prepared the letter.  
5 And he's really an open guy. He's on vacation  
6 for a couple weeks, but he'll be back shortly.  
7 And he would be the appropriate guy to talk  
8 to.

9 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay. Were -  
10 Kathy, were you going to send this out, or  
11 Frank, could you sent this out to the panel?

12 MEMBER KUDRNA: Yes, Kathy is, I  
13 think, yes.

14 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Could you make,  
15 to her, his contact information available on  
16 that same email, or is it on there?

17 CAPT. LOWELL: I think it's on the  
18 bottom of this.

19 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, okay.  
20 Yes, David?

21 MEMBER JAY: I think what's being  
22 focused on by this group, is the sort of thing

1 that researchers see, meaning, there's a Sea  
2 Grant solicitation in Oregon due this week, or  
3 there's one of these things in the federal  
4 registry you look at and go, "What on earth  
5 did they want?" You know, but it's clearly a  
6 research solicitation for extra - at least  
7 partially extramural funding from NOAA. I  
8 think that's the kind of thing that they're  
9 primarily targeting.

10 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Well, and  
11 again, I think what we need to do, is once we  
12 get the group to talk to the board, and really  
13 drill down a little bit more, and see where it  
14 is that we want to go with this, and take it  
15 up. Would anybody like to step up to the  
16 plate and offer their services in helping work  
17 with this? David, thank you.

18 MEMBER MILLER: Actually, I'd like  
19 to ask a question.

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Sure.

21 MEMBER MILLER: I'm gone for the  
22 next month. What's the time frame on this?

1 I assume it's -

2 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yesterday.

3 MEMBER KUDRNA: 10th of July.

4 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: July 10th.

5 MEMBER MILLER: Yes, I'd offer,  
6 but I can't.

7 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Michele, you  
8 said you would? Okay. Anybody else? No?  
9 Okay, great. Once, twice, well, I think we've  
10 got three very thoughtful people. I think we  
11 have some good expertise here.

12 So, why don't we do this? If you  
13 all would please arrange a time where you can  
14 discuss these things, and get in touch with  
15 the gentlemen at Science Advisory Board, and  
16 we'll make this work. I think that would be  
17 great. And we need to try to set up a time  
18 line.

19 CAPT. LOWELL: Yes, set up a Chair  
20 of this little working group, and make sure  
21 Kathy is involved in all discussions, so that  
22 we have a way to track what's going on.

1 MS. WATSON: Right, and Matt,  
2 could I say one - once the small response  
3 group for this SAB request gets their stuff  
4 together, it needs to be fleshed out with the  
5 full panel.

6 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Right.

7 MS. WATSON: Because anything  
8 that's a sub-committee, or a task, or a  
9 working group of the HSRP, has to always  
10 report back to the full panel.

11 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Right, right.

12 MS. WATSON: Okay.

13 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Exactly.

14 MEMBER DIONNE: Through Kathy, or  
15 through a general email list?

16 MS. WATSON: Well, it will be from  
17 the Chair to the full panel, asking for panel  
18 comments.

19 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: The Chair of  
20 this group will send that to me. I, in turn,  
21 will send it out to the panel.

22 MS. WATSON: Correct.

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Very good. So,  
2 would any one of you three like to be the lead  
3 with this? All right, Ken, thank you. Yes,  
4 okay, very good. So, we'll get this email  
5 out, and I will contact the three of you all,  
6 and we'll just try to get the ball rolling  
7 next week, early next week, and see what we  
8 can do with this, okay? Great, thank you.  
9 All right, now - yes?

10 MEMBER CAROTHERS: Just real  
11 quick. Since it's got to be in by July 10th,  
12 do we need to set a deadline for the working  
13 committee, so that we have time to address it,  
14 a time to review it?

15 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Actually, yes,  
16 I think we should. I don't have a calendar in  
17 front of me right now. June 26th would be two  
18 weeks before, yes. I would like to see if the  
19 panel could get something to me by - would the  
20 13th of June be too late? And if I have it on  
21 the 13th, it will be out to the panel by the  
22 14th. And I would like to have something back

1 from everybody maybe by Friday the 22nd.

2 We can compile everything that  
3 comes back as comments, and I can send it back  
4 out for everybody, and have something to Frank  
5 by the week of the 25th. Well, no, let's -  
6 July 10th, there we go.

7 CAPT. LOWELL: We have to have it  
8 back to the name at the bottom of the letter,  
9 you know, a day or two before the comments are  
10 due. That should be fine.

11 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: So, Ken, you're  
12 going to get it to me by the 13th, and then  
13 I'll have it out to the group by the 14th, and  
14 if everybody in the group could get their  
15 replies back to me by - what would you think  
16 would be a manageable time turn around, a  
17 week? So, that's going to be the 21st. I can  
18 compile the information, and have it back out  
19 to people - say again.

20 CAPT. LOWELL: Yes, bring in the  
21 comments, and go back out for final review -

22 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Right.

1                   CAPT. LOWELL: - by everybody.

2                   And once that's met, then you can -

3                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Do that. So,  
4                   I'll have final review for the panel by the -  
5                   I'll have it back out to the panel by the  
6                   25th, so the panel can review it and have it  
7                   back to me by the 29th.

8                   CAPT. LOWELL: Of June.

9                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Of June, right.  
10                  Okay, so, let me write that down.

11                  MEMBER MILLER: Matt?

12                  CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes?

13                  MEMBER MILLER: I probably won't  
14                  be able - I don't know if I'm going to have  
15                  any email on where I'm going to be. So, the  
16                  first review I probably will not reply on.

17                  CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay.

18                  MEMBER FIELDS: Matt, just for  
19                  information, I know I won't be able to get you  
20                  anything back for that first review. But, I  
21                  will take a look at the final of it.

22                  CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, great,

1 great. Okay, thank you very much. Getting  
2 back to business at hand, we need to discuss  
3 a little bit more in-depth now the  
4 recommendations, and whittle things down, or  
5 hone things together, or assimilate what we  
6 had there into three, at most four  
7 recommendations. And, if we could pull some  
8 of these back up, and --

9 MS. WATSON: Geospatial, tides and  
10 currents.

11 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes, you know  
12 what? I'm wondering if it wouldn't be easier  
13 if we had the flip chart right there,  
14 something that we could talk and write on the  
15 board.

16 MS. WATSON: All right, got it.  
17 Does anyone want to volunteer? Panel members?

18 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes, Joyce?

19 MEMBER MILLER: I thought that  
20 summary on the third one, the one that had the  
21 26 - and then at the end of it -

22 MS. WATSON: Arctic Emerging?

1                   MEMBER MILLER: I thought that  
2 might be a good place to start.

3                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay. Would  
4 you like to start?

5                   MEMBER MILLER: Well, I mean, I  
6 felt like that summarized much of what our  
7 panel did. We didn't go into the oil spill  
8 prevention response research.

9                   But, the first part of that,  
10 surveys and related data collection done in  
11 efficient and innovative ways, and then  
12 discovering data - or entering data are  
13 discoverable and accessible. I think the only  
14 thing I think it misses, is the issue of fit  
15 for use, or standards, that other groups  
16 discussed.

17                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Lawson?

18                   MEMBER BRIGHAM: No, there are  
19 more words to this, and Larry and I kind of  
20 cooked them up during our discussion, or Larry  
21 did. It's a new frontier strategy on how to  
22 handle the surveys. It's not just the

1 standards thing that's the issue, it's a  
2 different strategy for the nation, for this  
3 remote area, that it has to be woven into this  
4 theme. Wasn't that your thought, Larry?

5 MR. MAYER: I think it's just -  
6 it's a way to frame this that separates it  
7 from our efforts all the time, to be as close  
8 to perfect as we can. We should drive  
9 hydrography and standards for the most part.

10 But, it's a recognition that this  
11 is really a special circumstance, and we have  
12 to somewhat step back. And so, I think if you  
13 frame this in something that is not  
14 constrained by the normal hydrographic  
15 process, and we called it something different,  
16 that you invoke - and again, it may not just  
17 be Alaska and the Arctic, it may the western  
18 Pacific, or other places where data is  
19 absolutely sparse, and something is better  
20 than nothing.

21 So, I think if you just kind of  
22 frame it in that context, it provides an

1 opening, yet doesn't go into the areas that  
2 Gary and Juliana were very concerned about,  
3 which I think are very appropriate to be  
4 concerned about. So, it's not a compromise of  
5 hydrography in any sense, it's just saying  
6 that sometimes we have to do something a  
7 little different.

8 MS. BLACKWELL: This is Juliana.  
9 It dawned on me as we're having this  
10 discussion about these different applications  
11 of the data, and the need, and being able to  
12 collect what's out there.

13 When we walked onboard the  
14 Midnight Sun or Star, I don't remember - and  
15 we saw on the bridge, the, you know, it was -  
16 participated in the volunteer observations for  
17 the Weather Service, and had received, you  
18 know, year after year, the plaque, you know,  
19 recognizing the observations that the  
20 personnel on that ship had collected and  
21 contributed, that enhanced the weather  
22 predictions through the Weather Service.

1                   And the fact that this volunteer  
2 observing system for the Weather Service has  
3 existed for decades - yes, thank you - I think  
4 this is kind of along the same lines of what  
5 we're talking about here for hydrographic  
6 purposes, is that, you know, as you all are  
7 saying, it's not necessarily what we would do  
8 if we were making our own chart based on our  
9 standards and requirements, but if the data  
10 can be collected by other entities, and  
11 provided, it is valuable for many  
12 applications.

13                   And so, I guess, it just - you  
14 know, I don't know if I'm thinking about it  
15 the same way you all are, but thinking about  
16 the Weather Service volunteer observation  
17 program, and tying that into what we're  
18 talking about here, is there something to  
19 learn from what that program - how that was  
20 developed, and how that's utilized, that could  
21 apply to the hydrographic and mapping data  
22 that we're talking about here today.

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Ken?

2 MEMBER BARBOR: I agree, and I can  
3 envision a, you know, an opening statement  
4 that says as NOAA responds in its, you know,  
5 manner to acquire the necessary hydrographic  
6 data in this area, a, you know, a new strategy  
7 must also be, you know, followed, that, you  
8 know, a new frontier strategy that gets  
9 appropriate data for appropriate uses, and  
10 then elucidate some of the recommendations of  
11 that - those sorts of data.

12 MEMBER CAROTHERS: I agree. I  
13 think the term frontier should be in there.  
14 That's kind of -

15 MEMBER BARBOR: It's fitting.

16 MEMBER CAROTHERS: It's just a  
17 phase, and I've seen it on every t-shirt down  
18 the street I can think of.

19 (Laughter)

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: It's the last  
21 frontier.

22 (Laughter)

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: All right.

2 Well, that being said, you know, one of the  
3 things that we did, at least on two of the  
4 panel discussions agree about, was a need for  
5 shoreline - accurate shoreline mapping, which  
6 NGS is currently doing. And I think that if  
7 we could manage that into one of the  
8 recommendations, that might be good.

9 Again, Alaska said - or Joel said,  
10 I think, something to the effect that it's  
11 been since the '20s I guess, since they've had  
12 any other mapping done for shoreline, or  
13 that's what he's got for baseline data.

14 CAPT. LOWELL: It depends on the  
15 part of the country I'm sure, so.

16 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes, okay.  
17 Getting something like that out would be  
18 beneficial. I guess it would be good if we  
19 could - Kathy, could you scroll a little, I  
20 guess to the top of whatever that one is that  
21 we're looking at?

22 MS. WATSON: Yes, this is the -

1 well, let's see here, the discussions?

2 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Well, actually  
3 I thought there were - a list, one, two,  
4 three, four, or something on the  
5 recommendations.

6 MS. WATSON: There are, I'm sorry.  
7 Here we go.

8 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Yes, they're a  
9 list of emerging issues. That's what the  
10 theme was.

11 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay.

12 MEMBER BRIGHAM: So, it's not  
13 necessarily recommendations, it's emerging  
14 trends or issues from the stakeholders. Of  
15 course there were panelists there too, so  
16 everybody threw in the pot.

17 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, but  
18 seeing these emerging issues - it's kind of  
19 hard to look at all of this right now, and try  
20 to come up with what you want to throw in too  
21 as a recommendation.

22 MEMBER MILLER: Actually,

1       crowdsourcing seems to have come up in almost  
2       every one of them.  Whether that's something  
3       that is well understood, what we mean by that,  
4       I'm not positive.

5                    CAPT. LOWELL:  Let me go back to  
6       some of the things I mentioned at the  
7       beginning.  A recommendation doesn't have to  
8       have the solution.  Crowdsourcing could be a  
9       solution.  So, the question then becomes, is  
10      what is the recommendation?

11                   I think framing it in this whole  
12      frontier, I think you've set a condition  
13      that's relatively unique to the region we've  
14      been in, very appropriate.  That particular  
15      issue or condition can exist in other parts of  
16      the world, makes it more of a national  
17      problem.

18                   I think these are really key  
19      things that everybody is focusing in on.  So,  
20      then it becomes, what else had bubbled up to  
21      the surface that isn't necessarily a solution,  
22      but is, can we define the condition - refine

1 the condition to a point where we can have a  
2 recommendation that the offices start looking  
3 in new directions? And crowdsourcing could be  
4 an output of that effort.

5 So, I would recommend you kind of  
6 think in those lines. I'm not sure I'm making  
7 a lot of sense here, but -

8 MR. MAYER: If you don't want to  
9 go into any of the detail, then the  
10 recommendation could be to develop a strategy.  
11 So, then the office sets the task of  
12 developing what the appropriate response is to  
13 that call for a frontier strategy.

14 CAPT. LOWELL: And things like -  
15 the things that bubbled up on my notes are  
16 communication coordination, that's a big  
17 overarching issue that came up, certainly in  
18 our group, a better understanding of the user  
19 requirements.

20 Where, again, we always focus on a  
21 standard, you know, a product for everybody.  
22 You know, maybe that's not the appropriate

1 approach. So, is there something else in  
2 there? What is the requirement, or what is  
3 the issue that's being pulled to the surface  
4 here? And kind of structure that under the  
5 frontier environment, or a condition that so  
6 far has really come up in the discussions.

7 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Michele?

8 MEMBER DIONNE: I think if you  
9 want to, you could get some input from the  
10 Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, about this  
11 issue about defining America's coastline.  
12 Because they're looking for it, and they - at  
13 least our association was quite surprised to  
14 know that it didn't exist. So, you know they  
15 called the Coastal Services Center for a map  
16 of the US coastline, and was told that there  
17 wasn't one.

18 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, thank  
19 you.

20 MEMBER MILLER: Should one of the  
21 - I mean in ensuring data are discoverable and  
22 accessible, is - I mean, that's something that

1 doesn't have to - I mean, that's not  
2 necessarily part of the frontier data  
3 collection strategy. I mean, that could be a  
4 separate recommendation, or -

5 MEMBER BARBOR: I think it is part  
6 of the frontier, because the data we are  
7 looking at, is going to be non-standard, not  
8 to specs, and therefore, the initial reaction  
9 of NOS would be to say, "No, that doesn't meet  
10 our standards, therefore it's not part of our  
11 dataset." But, it is an important dataset.

12 MEMBER MILLER: I agree with you,  
13 yes.

14 MEMBER BARBOR: So, it has to be  
15 discoverable and accessible, even though your  
16 inclination would be to -

17 MEMBER MILLER: And the  
18 recommendation might be for NOAA to support  
19 that type of data infrastructure or something  
20 like that.

21 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Michele?

22 MEMBER DIONNE: It seems, you

1 know, the Hydrographic Services Center must  
2 run into this problem when people call for  
3 updates of charts that are 50 years old or  
4 more. I mean, they can't possibly be very  
5 authoritative in 2012. So, I mean, coming up  
6 with a way to rank the - I don't know - the  
7 accuracy and the precision of whatever data is  
8 served up, seems like it could be useful in  
9 more than one way.

10 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Hmm. This  
11 document that you've got, Kathy, will - I  
12 would like to get a copy of this. You can  
13 email that to me when we're finished.

14 MS. WATSON: Yes, okay.

15 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Probably when  
16 you get back to the office.

17 MS. WATSON: Yes. You want a copy  
18 of all the stakeholder breakouts, right?

19 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes.

20 MS. WATSON: Okay.

21 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: As a matter of  
22 fact, I've got a thumb drive. I can give it

1 to you, just transfer it all onto that, if you  
2 could do that today.

3 MS. WATSON: That's fine, I can do  
4 that.

5 MS. BLACKWELL: I recommend  
6 sending it to everyone.

7 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay. So, I  
8 think what we're looking at here is an  
9 approach that, based on what we have in this  
10 state, and the remoteness of this state, and  
11 since there is a such a deficiency in data,  
12 while we don't want to relax the standards, we  
13 do need to address the fact that we want to  
14 try to collect data, and get data, and need to  
15 have it accurately depicted with metadata, so  
16 that we know what we're actually trying to  
17 work with. Yes, I'm going to have to chew on  
18 this one. Yes, Gary?

19 MEMBER JEFFRESS: It seems to me  
20 that most of the stuff that we've discussed is  
21 already in our five most wanted document. You  
22 know, the need to put more resources into

1 nautical charting, that's in the five most  
2 wanted. Shoreline mapping is in the five most  
3 wanted, which was a big thing in our group.

4  
5 Maybe we should just focus on  
6 what's already in the five most wanted  
7 document, and highlight how all the  
8 presentations in Alaska identify various  
9 components out of that document in the Alaskan  
10 scene. It just reinforces what we've already  
11 been saying for the last 12 years is it?

12 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes. David?

13 MEMBER JAY: What seems to be  
14 different though, I think, is the emphasis on  
15 crowdsourcing. That seems like an important  
16 and new departure. But, I'm not disagreeing  
17 with the rest. I think that's a good point.

18 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Lawson? Oh,  
19 I'm sorry.

20 MEMBER MILLER: But, I like the  
21 idea of the frontier. I mean, it would be a  
22 specific point to this meeting. And as Dr.

1 Sullivan requested yesterday, you know, it's  
2 thinking a bit more out of the box than just  
3 more hydrographic surveying, more shoreline  
4 mapping.

5 I mean, it's saying that we need  
6 to reconsider what kind of standards need to  
7 be used in order to collect the data that is  
8 so desperately needed in Alaska. It is a  
9 unique environment, or an almost unique  
10 environment.

11 So, I wouldn't just go with the  
12 previous. I think, I would like to start out  
13 with, NOAA and other agencies need to develop  
14 a frontier, you know, data strategy that, you  
15 know, that meets the needs of these places  
16 where data almost don't exist.

17 MEMBER DIONNE: I can hear the  
18 Star Trek theme song.

19 MEMBER MILLER: Right.

20 (Laughter)

21 MR. MAYER: You may be able to do  
22 both, you know. I think Gary is right that

1 these are the fundamental things you need, and  
2 I can envision you start out, and say, you  
3 know, the panel has been saying for years  
4 these are the highest priorities. Well, now  
5 we look at this in the context of this  
6 frontier area, and it's not so easy to do  
7 that.

8 It's not so easy anywhere, but  
9 it's particularly difficult to do it here, and  
10 it offers unique problems. And so, we  
11 recommend the development of a frontier  
12 strategy as a way to start addressing those  
13 critical issues that are ubiquitous.

14 MEMBER JEFFRESS: Going back to  
15 the Exxon Valdez concept of, you know, we knew  
16 where the Bligh Reef was because it was on a  
17 nautical chart, and because it was all done to  
18 high standards. What if we compared the  
19 crowdsourcing to existing standards that we  
20 know as accurate? You know, has that ever  
21 been done? I bet there's a bit of research  
22 that probably needs to be done. It's like

1       there's a section of high-quality data that  
2       NOAA has observed, what is the crowdsourcing  
3       data? How does that fit over time?

4                   And then - because if we're going  
5       to rely on the crowdsourcing data, and there's  
6       an accident, then it opens up a can of worms.  
7       "Well, is NOAA at fault for not actually  
8       surveying that to their high standards, and  
9       they're relying on crowdsourcing data." You  
10      know, it's - there's no easy solution.

11                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Go ahead,  
12      Joyce.

13                   MEMBER MILLER: Isn't that the  
14      question of whether you decide or choose -  
15      well, not choose, but make a conscious  
16      decision of, this will go on the chart, or -  
17      I mean, that - the charts are the liability  
18      issue.

19                   I mean, if you take NOAA data from  
20      NGDC, you're taking what was put in, you have  
21      some rudimentary metadata, and then there it  
22      is. I mean, I think it's how you choose. And

1 also, as Gerd was saying, you look over it  
2 carefully, and you decide whether to put it on  
3 a chart of not.

4 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Just a slight  
5 geographic reference here. I don't think we  
6 should say all of Alaska. I don't think we  
7 can say that, because the Gulf of Alaska in  
8 the southeast, is charted to reasonably  
9 international standards. It's when Matt said  
10 the area called "all the rest", but that's not  
11 - that's the United States Maritime Arctic.

12 And so, we have to be careful as  
13 we tackle Alaska, because I think anything  
14 south of the Aleutian chain and Gulf of  
15 Alaska, is reasonably well charted, and to -  
16 I mean, I don't know. It's the frontier area,  
17 which is not all of Alaska. It's just a very  
18 narrow - and our discussion was really the  
19 Arctic.

20 It wasn't about all the cruise  
21 ships in southeast Alaska. It wasn't about  
22 that part of the world or the transport of the

1 ferries and all of that. Now, whether those  
2 stakeholders believe there isn't enough data  
3 is another question, you know.

4 I don't know about Holland America  
5 and all the rest of them. They probably feel  
6 maybe there isn't enough. But, I think  
7 there's - I don't know, Matt, maybe could  
8 comment about this geographic split here in  
9 Alaska.

10 LT. FORNEY: So, I think the  
11 easiest way to put this - by the way, Matt  
12 Forney - is to state that when you compare  
13 southeast Alaska to the rest of Alaska, it's  
14 charted very, very well.

15 When you compare southeast Alaska  
16 to the rest of the United States, the surveys  
17 that are not up to date 100 percent multibeam,  
18 are definitely older surveys than what are  
19 present in the rest of the United States that  
20 are currently being updated. So, when it  
21 comes to cruise industry and marine pilots,  
22 that is who drove the survey recommendations

1 in southeast Alaska.

2 MEMBER DIONNE: Just a  
3 clarification, is the southeast portion of  
4 Alaska, does that include all of the villages  
5 that are being serviced by the shipping folks  
6 that were here, Crowley and Vitus? Which part  
7 of the line did it fall on?

8 LT. FORNEY: So, Crowley and  
9 Vitus, they generally service western Alaska,  
10 which is the -

11 MEMBER DIONNE: That's the part  
12 that's poorly mapped?

13 LT. FORNEY: Yes.

14 MEMBER DIONNE: As they expressed,  
15 okay.

16 LT. FORNEY: The smaller villages  
17 that are in southeast Alaska, yes, there is  
18 still work that needs to be done there. I  
19 don't want to, you know, put off the  
20 impression that southeast Alaska is 100  
21 percent, and it's the best place in the United  
22 States, because it is definitely not the best

1 charted place in the United States.

2 CAPT. LOWELL: Just to elucidate a  
3 little bit more, obviously Coast Survey has  
4 been investing heavily in southeast Alaska for  
5 a decade now. We have had multiple large  
6 assets out there, lots of contract data.

7 There's - I haven't seen it  
8 recently, but of high-resolution multibeam  
9 data in southeast Alaska, there's a large  
10 percentage of those areas done.

11 We have not invested resources on  
12 anything close to that scale up in the other  
13 Alaska portion, with one exception, which is  
14 really the Unimak Pass, and slowly expanding  
15 out for, you know, where all that heavy  
16 tonnage is going.

17 MEMBER DIONNE: So, it's pretty  
18 much following the lines that oil would move,  
19 is that the idea, or?

20 CAPT. LOWELL: Passenger ships.

21 MEMBER DIONNE: Passenger ships,  
22 okay.

1                   CAPT. LOWELL: Yes, the cruise  
2 industry was really driving that, and the  
3 pilots in the Alaskan Marine Highway, those  
4 are all heavily trafficked areas.

5                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay. I think  
6 we've done enough of this. I'll think about  
7 this for a while, because I've got something  
8 to chew on. And I will definitely get  
9 everything out that Kathy gives to me when I  
10 get back to the office on Tuesday. Monday's  
11 a federal holiday.

12                   Do we want to take maybe a 15  
13 minute break, and then come back and talk about  
14 the next steps, next meeting, the DFO  
15 transition and such? I think we will. Let's  
16 take 15 minutes. Let's meet back here at  
17 3:00, okay?

18                   (Whereupon, the above-entitled  
19 matter went off the record at 2:41  
20 p.m. and resumed at 3:12 p.m.)

21                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: I've got a  
22 headache. Break time is over with. It's time

1 to get back to work, okay?

2 (Laughter)

3 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Thank you for  
4 getting back as quickly as you did. Okay, to  
5 wrap things up on the recommendations, I'm  
6 going to wind up putting some thoughts on  
7 paper, and getting them to Scott. He and I  
8 are going to formulate I think what's going to  
9 be the thing, and then once we're happy with  
10 what we've got, we'll send it out.

11 In addition to that, there's going  
12 to need to be some output from the what - the  
13 HSRP working groups. And I'm chewing on this,  
14 and I think it would be good if I could  
15 request the chair of each of those groups to  
16 send to me two-three highlight points that  
17 they think need - or two or three points that  
18 they think were significant in what they've  
19 been able to accomplished to date, that can be  
20 included in the letter to Dr. Lubchenco, so  
21 that we can see where progress has been made,  
22 and where we continue to work on these things.

1           Because, you know, it was an idea.  
2           It's been a good idea. It's not done yet,  
3           it's in the formative stages. So, we want to  
4           report out to her what we've done, but let her  
5           know that we're working on some other stuff.

6           The next meeting, I would like to  
7           entertain the idea of having our next meeting  
8           in New Hampshire. We have Larry and Andy's  
9           facility that, while they might not be able to  
10          host our meeting there, they've got a lot of  
11          very interesting and incredibly cool stuff.

12          They'll have just been coming back  
13          from the Arctic, so we might actually be able  
14          to see some things that you all have been able  
15          to do up there. There is a nav service  
16          manager there. We would talk with him, try to  
17          get some plans about specific things that have  
18          been taking place in the New Hampshire, or in  
19          the New England area, and deal with things of  
20          local interest, but then again, on a broader  
21          term. Would that be a site that you all think  
22          is worthwhile going to?

1                   There had been some talk initially  
2                   about the possibility of trying to do  
3                   something in Silver Spring in the fall. And  
4                   with the election coming up, if we have a  
5                   reelected president, there might be some staff  
6                   change. If we have a new president, there  
7                   will be staff change. And I think it would be  
8                   just a waste of our time and money to meet  
9                   there, and ask people from the Hill to come  
10                  down and address the panel.

11                  Instead, that would probably be a  
12                  good place, or the D.C. metro area, to have  
13                  our spring meetings. Congress will be getting  
14                  started. We could probably have people from  
15                  the Hill before their travel docket gets too  
16                  full, to come and work with us. So, I would  
17                  like to propose doing that.

18                  MEMBER DIONNE: Do you want a  
19                  second?

20                  CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Well, I was  
21                  just waiting to see - Gerd was putting  
22                  something up there, and it just kind of took

1 my attention.

2 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Are you open for  
3 other suggestions, or if this -

4 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: I am, sure.

5 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Well, I mean, I  
6 think - Gerd's going to put up where we've  
7 been. We've been there in 2005 to New  
8 Hampshire, and we haven't been to the south I  
9 don't think.

10 But, we haven't been to places  
11 like New Orleans and Mobile Bay, and I don't  
12 know. I'm not a southerner, but I look out  
13 for the interests of the southern part of the  
14 United States.

15 I don't know, I'm just wondering.  
16 We had talked about New Orleans before going  
17 to Norfolk, because Norfolk was the Washington  
18 connection. From my view, it didn't work very  
19 well with the Washington connections, because  
20 the Washington connections, other than the  
21 Chief of Staff, didn't come to the meeting.

22 So, I wonder about going to a true

1 maritime, large place like New Orleans, and  
2 hearing from all the pilots and the thousand  
3 issues they have, merging issues. I don't  
4 know, just a thought.

5 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes, and that's  
6 a very good thought. Michele?

7 MEMBER DIONNE: Well, I was just  
8 going to ask what did you see - what all did  
9 you see when you were in New England? When  
10 you were in New England five years ago. Are  
11 you talking about Rhode Island? Is that what  
12 you're talking about?

13 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Larry can tell  
14 you. Were we up there five - a couple of  
15 years ago, right?

16 CAPT. GLANG: So, Mr. Chair, if I  
17 could just do a quick geographic overview of  
18 where the panel has been in its history?

19 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Sure.

20 CAPT. GLANG: So, I think the  
21 first meeting, as near as I can tell from the  
22 website, was 2004. And we've met twice in

1 Washington D.C. We've had a series of  
2 conference calls at least from Silver Spring.  
3 We had a meeting in Baltimore in 2009. Let me  
4 just keep going here. We met in Rhode Island  
5 a couple of years ago. We met in New  
6 Hampshire in 2005.

7 MEMBER DIONNE: How many different  
8 areas - I understood at one point, maybe  
9 during the orientation, that you're supposed  
10 to hit the different - certain different  
11 regions of the country. How many of those are  
12 there?

13 MS. WATSON: Michele, let me - of  
14 course Captain Lowell can explain it. At the  
15 previous panel, when they first were  
16 established in 2002, they set the goal to  
17 visit all the regions. And last May, Hawaii  
18 was the last region to visit. And then, of  
19 course, in the report out letter to the NOAA  
20 under-secretary, they reported that they had  
21 visited all of the regions, and heard from all  
22 the stakeholders.

1 MEMBER DIONNE: Thank you.

2 CAPT. GLANG: So, just continuing  
3 with the east coast, I think there was one  
4 meeting in Miami, and we hit Tampa. We hit  
5 Houston back in 2006.

6 CAPT. LOWELL: There was one in  
7 New York.

8 CAPT. GLANG: There is one in New  
9 York buried under there, 2004.

10 MEMBER DIONNE: So, no California,  
11 Oregon still? Oh, here we go.

12 CAPT. GLANG: San Diego was 2005.  
13 San Francisco, 2008. And then of course  
14 Portland, Oregon in 2010. Seattle we did -  
15 did we do Seattle? Where did Seattle go? A  
16 little slow - somewhere in there.

17 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: I want to say  
18 it was 2007, 2008 maybe.

19 CAPT. GLANG: There it goes. Is  
20 that Seattle? No, that's Portland. Honolulu,  
21 Hawaii was last year this time. I got a slow  
22 connection. That's the problem with these

1 real-time GIS displays.

2 (Laughter)

3 CAPT. GLANG: And we've actually  
4 met here in Anchorage twice, 2006 was the last  
5 time. What I wanted to show also, was the  
6 little blue squares represent - I'm not sure  
7 what database these were parsed from, but they  
8 represent port or dock facilities. And so,  
9 you kind of get a flavor. Some of these are  
10 upriver, so they're fairly small. They're not  
11 represented in size by - they don't represent  
12 anything, but -

13 CAPT. LOWELL: Can you get rid of  
14 that black band there?

15 CAPT. GLANG: We had Duluth, you  
16 are correct. Where did New York go? That was  
17 New Hampshire. We had New York in - oh,  
18 Portland. I thought we had done Seattle, but  
19 maybe it's not showing up.

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: We have done  
21 Seattle.

22 CAPT. GLANG: Well, maybe it's not

1 in my file. Well, we can just leave it like  
2 this, so Matt can talk to it, and -

3 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Could we bring  
4 it more - I mean, CONUS into the center of the  
5 screen?

6 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Last time it -  
7 when we discussed where to go previous to  
8 Norfolk, it was my recollection that we had  
9 never been to New Orleans or Long Beach/L.A.,  
10 through the large ports in the country.

11 I would just add, if we did go to  
12 New Hampshire, and we went to UNH, and the  
13 laboratory, saw all of that, we certainly  
14 could do stakeholder day in Portsmouth, and  
15 hear from the local maritime community there.  
16 So, we could combine maybe.

17 MEMBER DIONNE: And the Boston  
18 Harbor.

19 MR. MAYER: And Portland.

20 MEMBER DIONNE: Portland, Maine,  
21 yes.

22 MR. MAYER: And Gloucester.

1                   MEMBER MILLER: But, I mean, there  
2 was a very recent meeting in Providence. It  
3 was only two or three years ago.

4                   MR. MAYER: Right.

5                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Michele?

6                   MEMBER DIONNE: One opportunity we  
7 would have in New Hampshire, of course,  
8 Larry's office is only 15 miles from my house,  
9 so, that's - I have a bias here. But, you get  
10 to talk to the fishing industry  
11 representatives, which I don't know that we've  
12 done much of that.

13                   MEMBER JAY: We could do that in  
14 New Orleans too.

15                   MEMBER DIONNE: Absolutely.

16                   MEMBER JAY: And in the aftermath  
17 of the Deepwater Horizon.

18                   MEMBER DIONNE: Best shrimp. But,  
19 the shrimp aren't fish, come on.

20                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: No, we got the  
21 "swamp people" in New Orleans. We could have  
22 a really good time watching that.

1                   CAPT. GLANG:  So, some of the  
2                   other suggestions that I've heard from within  
3                   Coast Survey, from our nav managers, I asked  
4                   them for their opinions, included Charleston,  
5                   Savannah, Mobile, and New Orleans.

6                   New Orleans is an enormous port  
7                   complex.  There's essentially five ports that  
8                   comprise the Port of New Orleans.  It's - I  
9                   think it's the largest port by tonnage.  There  
10                  are at least four, I've lost count, pilot  
11                  associations that are inland waterway users.  
12                  I happen to think it's a really good nexus for  
13                  the work the panel does.

14                  MEMBER JEFFRESS:  Matt?

15                  CHAIR WELLSLAGER:  Yes, sir?

16                  MEMBER JEFFRESS:  We could also  
17                  get an update on that BP oil spill, and its  
18                  aftermath.

19                  MEMBER DIONNE:  Yes.

20                  CHAIR WELLSLAGER:  Yes, that's  
21                  very true.

22                  MEMBER DIONNE:  Yes, we pushed for

1 that for the last - that was when we were  
2 pushing that at the last meeting, so I'd pick  
3 New Orleans.

4 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: And odds are  
5 we're going to have a hurricane blow through  
6 the Gulf, so, you know. Well, that's - I  
7 mean, you're right, Lawson, there had been  
8 actually quite a bit of discussion about going  
9 to New Orleans. And I definitely think that  
10 needs to be on the list of places to go.

11 So, I'll open it up to the panel,  
12 and I'm not at all against the idea. I think  
13 the point being made, that we had a site. We  
14 had a visit to Providence two years ago. It's  
15 possibly an area that going back to it would  
16 be interesting. We have access to a lot of  
17 variety there.

18 But, there's also access to a  
19 considerable amount of issues that we've been  
20 addressing, including datums, including tides  
21 and rivers, including fisheries, and other  
22 uses of nav data, in the New Orleans area as

1 well. So - Joyce?

2 MEMBER MILLER: I'd just like to  
3 point out that NAVO's not many miles up the  
4 road, you know, a huge facility that  
5 essentially does hydrography as well.

6 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Up the road  
7 from where?

8 MEMBER MILLER: New Orleans.

9 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: New Orleans.

10 MEMBER MILLER: Yes, basically.

11 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Right. Okay,  
12 well, would you like to nominate New Orleans  
13 as being a site we could vote on it, or - yes?

14 CAPT. GLANG: If I could suggest  
15 to the Chair that we maybe come up with a  
16 primary, and an alternate. Because the other  
17 overlay we have right now is budget. We have  
18 to do a bit of socializing back at NOAA to see  
19 whether we could even be approved to have a  
20 group travel in the near term. Notionally,  
21 we're looking at early winter, late fall,  
22 somewhere in there. So, there is a little bit

1 of socializing we have to do back at  
2 headquarters to see if this is even realistic.

3 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay.

4 CAPT. GLANG: Because we have this  
5 overlay of the travel restrictions.

6 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Well -

7 CAPT. GLANG: So, I'm suggesting  
8 maybe a primary and an alternate, or one, two,  
9 three, or something like that.

10 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: We could do  
11 that, or we could - let's do that. I like  
12 that idea. We can come up with a primary and  
13 a secondary site selection for this trip. So,  
14 I'll open it up.

15 For New Orleans, is this going to  
16 be a site that we should consider going to as  
17 our next meeting place? All those in favor,  
18 raise your hand. I think consensus has that.  
19 Then I would like to suggest the possibility  
20 of Portsmouth as a secondary site if that  
21 doesn't work, or - well, wait a minute.

22 CAPT. LOWELL: If the reason for

1 an alternate site is for budget  
2 considerations, there will be no real budget  
3 reduction by going up to another site. So,  
4 there's not a major - let me be very clear  
5 with everybody - there's not a major cost  
6 savings by bringing the HSRP to Washington  
7 D.C. I think we have five NOAA employees  
8 here, so there are five - I presume everyone  
9 else is going to have to travel. Is anybody  
10 else in the D.C. area?

11 (Off-mic comment)

12 CAPT. LOWELL: Well, exposure.

13 (Off-mic comment)

14 CAPT. LOWELL: Yes, yes, it's  
15 both, it's both. The guidance on group travel  
16 is still being formulated, but I do believe  
17 the FACAs are going to be held aside as  
18 exceptions to that. Well, yes, we ran into a  
19 little bit of trouble. But - so, I guess what  
20 I'm saying is as an alternate site, it should  
21 almost always be the Silver Spring area.

22 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay. So, the

1 decision's then going to be made that Silver  
2 Spring will be our back up. And if we can  
3 move down to New Orleans in the fall of this  
4 year, I would like to propose the Silver  
5 Spring meeting be the spring meeting next  
6 year, and work from that. So, would people -  
7 Jeff?

8 MEMBER CAROTHERS: I just had a  
9 question about Silver Spring. Do we have any  
10 stakeholder - I mean, obviously we have  
11 government stakeholders. Is there any other  
12 stakeholders in the Silver Spring area? I  
13 mean, this was probably one of the best  
14 meetings we've had with stakeholders, so  
15 that's a part of it.

16 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Well, okay, let  
17 me rephrase that. Instead of Silver Spring,  
18 we could go to Annapolis, or Baltimore, or,  
19 you know, some of the surrounding areas. I'm  
20 just - I'm using that as a geographic location  
21 right now. But, Annapolis would probably  
22 work, and that wouldn't be a problem there.

1 We've got BoatUS that we might actually have  
2 them help facilitate something there. So,  
3 that could be a possibility.

4 Those in favor of going to the  
5 D.C. Metro area for our alternate site, and/or  
6 spring meeting in the spring of 2013, can I  
7 see a show of hands for that? And discussion,  
8 please, I'm sorry.

9 MEMBER KUDRNA: I would suggest,  
10 instead of showing it as an alternate, show a  
11 two meeting schedule.

12 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Say again.

13 MEMBER KUDRNA: Show a two meeting  
14 schedule, being New Orleans, and the second  
15 meeting, spring meeting, being the D.C. area.

16 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay.

17 MEMBER KUDRNA: And then if it's  
18 rejected because of budget, we'll just flip.  
19 But, the argument is, it would be much better  
20 to be in D.C. in the spring than in the fall,  
21 because you'll have a new Congress in place,  
22 and it'd be a more effective meeting.

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay. So, the  
2 suggestion was to have a two meeting schedule,  
3 the first of those being in New Orleans in the  
4 fall, with the spring meeting being in the  
5 D.C. area. And if that were to fall apart,  
6 the meeting in the fall would be in the Silver  
7 Spring area as an alternate.

8 MEMBER KUDRNA: Yes.

9 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Could I have a  
10 second on that?

11 MEMBER CAROTHERS: You may.

12 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Very good.  
13 Those in favor of that, a show of hands?  
14 Those against it? All right then, we will do  
15 that. New Orleans will be the next site  
16 provided we get people to work with it.

17 Now, we tried something different  
18 this time. We went about with an agenda. We  
19 had site visits, which wasn't new. But, we  
20 had stakeholders, and then we had stakeholder  
21 breakout sessions, where we were able to get  
22 down and talk to the users individually, and

1 formulate a list of needs and praises.

2 I thought this was good. Does  
3 anybody have any feelings that they would like  
4 to voice about how the agenda worked, and  
5 possible modifications? Larry?

6 MR. MAYER: Yes, I'd like to make  
7 a suggestion, should you have breakout  
8 sessions again, and I would suggest that the  
9 committee be issued this nice vests outside -

10 (Laughter)

11 MR. MAYER: - with different  
12 colors, so you know which group we're in.

13 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Color  
14 coordination, all right. How about if I get  
15 a beanie hat with a propeller? We could just  
16 have different color propellers. We could do  
17 that.

18 MEMBER FIELDS: I liked it. I  
19 thought it was very good.

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: You did?

21 MEMBER FIELDS: Yes, the one on  
22 one with them, we thought that was very good.

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: It was  
2 beneficial, and I think the users, instead of  
3 sitting back on the outside looking in, having  
4 a chance to say, you know, this is something,  
5 in an individual setting, a bit more intimate  
6 setting, worked out well. So, yes, I was  
7 pretty hip to that thing. It was awesome.

8 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Yes, I think  
9 certainly very positive. The challenge is how  
10 you package the information. And you can use,  
11 actually, specific themes or a sentence, or  
12 something in the letter. "The stakeholders  
13 from this panel said, or from this group said  
14 this."

15 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes.

16 MEMBER BRIGHAM: But, the  
17 packaging of the whole of the information is  
18 a little tricky. I think we should cherry-  
19 pick which we are comfortable with, and HSRP  
20 like you tried to do a few minutes ago -

21 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Right.

22 MEMBER BRIGHAM: - and pick out a

1        few that we might report to the administrator.  
2        We'll always have the historical record of all  
3        the stuff we did, and we should write it up  
4        and have it, what we did here.  And it's a  
5        trial run, so the next time if we go to New  
6        Orleans, we'll be a little more attuned to how  
7        to do it, and what we want out of it.  So, I  
8        think it was very positive.

9                    CHAIR WELLSLAGER:  Yes, the first  
10       step is always the hardest one to make, and  
11       that's going to be definitely true with this  
12       situation.  Joyce, do you have something you  
13       want to say?

14                   MEMBER MILLER:  I was just going  
15       to say I thought it worked well.  I made the  
16       suggestion before that some introduction of  
17       what's being done in the area, at an early  
18       time in the meeting, would be useful for us.

19                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER:  Okay, okay.

20                   MEMBER FIELDS:  As a new person on  
21       a panel, it would have been nice to have a  
22       little bit more of an introduction.  We kind

1 of started off really cold. I don't know  
2 about the other people who were new on the  
3 panel, but I had not talked to anybody, so I  
4 wasn't really totally kind of clued in as to  
5 some of the previous things that you had done,  
6 that the panel had done.

7           You keep talking about the five  
8 most wanted, or the ten most wanted, or  
9 whatever. I will go back now and search  
10 through the panel stuff, and see if I can't  
11 find that, but it would have been nice to have  
12 some of that historical information, whether  
13 it came to us in email or however, before I  
14 got here, or at least at the beginning of it.

15           CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Well, the only  
16 problem - I officially didn't know who all the  
17 new panel members were -

18           MEMBER FIELDS: Okay.

19           CHAIR WELLSLAGER: - because you  
20 had not been sworn in yet. And I, because of  
21 that, really didn't have any knowledge of who  
22 to send anything to. And I think you've got

1 a very good point. And had I known, that's  
2 something that -

3 MEMBER FIELDS: Well, maybe -

4 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: - I probably  
5 wouldn't have done, but I should have.

6 MEMBER FIELDS: Yes, maybe it's  
7 something that you could have put together, or  
8 maybe Kathy could have sent to us. I don't  
9 know what the legalities are just yet, of your  
10 contacting the new people on the board. But  
11 certainly, Kathy could have given us  
12 something. And she was very helpful, don't  
13 get me wrong. She was very helpful in trying  
14 to answer the questions that I had in  
15 preparation to come to the meeting.

16 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Right.

17 MEMBER FIELDS: Because I did talk  
18 to her a couple of different times. But, it  
19 just would have been, I thought, a little bit  
20 more -

21 CAPT. LOWELL: Yes, we'll take  
22 that down as an improvement item, without a

1       doubt.  And perhaps we - I don't know whether  
2       it's actually included in our welcome aboard  
3       letter at this point, but all of the  
4       information about the HSRP is on the website.

5               We didn't really go over FACA law  
6       and what it means, but a lot of that is  
7       applied as a transparency initiative, so that  
8       all the discussions, which is why I have a  
9       court reporter here, are required to be  
10      logged, and required to be made available to  
11      a broader audience.

12             Nothing is really secret here.  
13      You know, the Sunshine Law Act applies.  All  
14      of the outputs are available on the HSRP  
15      website, and we can provide that to all, you  
16      know, the URL to everybody, and we need to  
17      probably do a better job on the welcome aboard  
18      letter, letting you know that these  
19      information resources are available, and they  
20      should be reviewed.

21             MEMBER FIELDS:  In all fairness to  
22      Kathy, she did give me that.  When I asked her

1 about it, she suggested that I could go to the  
2 website and take a look, but there's a lot of  
3 stuff there. I wasn't quite sure where to  
4 start.

5 CAPT. LOWELL: Yes, there's a lot.

6 MEMBER FIELDS: And so, my point  
7 is, as you're putting together the agenda for  
8 the new people, you could have maybe given us  
9 some idea of what to expect for the meeting.  
10 That would have been useful. Maybe nobody  
11 else feels that way, but I do.

12 CAPT. LOWELL: Well, hopefully  
13 when we do this, you know, we bring on new  
14 members about five at a time is the way we  
15 typically operate, and maybe there's a half a  
16 day maybe before the first meeting where we  
17 can go over some history or something.

18 I don't know how we could play  
19 that out, but we'll take a notice on how to  
20 onboard people a little bit - in a little bit  
21 more formalized, information-rich way.

22 MEMBER DIONNE: I usually go to

1 the website just to look for specific things,  
2 but - so, I'm assuming there is not like an  
3 orientation button. But, you could patch this  
4 stuff up and just add it to the website.

5 One thing I was - getting back to  
6 the discussion about the stakeholders, if we  
7 are - once we find where we're going for the  
8 next meeting, there may be specific types of  
9 stakeholders we want to invite, based on the  
10 discussion we've had at this meeting.

11 I was thinking about the ferry  
12 system in New Orleans, which is rather  
13 amazing, and if we wanted them to start  
14 collecting data for us, it might be a good  
15 idea to bring one of those people on - some of  
16 those folks on board for the next meeting.

17 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay. Lawson?

18 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Yes, a more  
19 procedural thing, we did use stakeholder  
20 discussions, and we have these lists of  
21 points. And I'm sure I'll get a request here  
22 from people I know in Alaska, to have that

1 list. So, do we clean up the list and put it  
2 on the website? But, the problem with that is  
3 we don't have consensus among the panelists.

4 So, we do these activities  
5 transparent out in the open here, and that's  
6 available information, and it's, you know,  
7 it's brainstorming. It's points. It's not  
8 any policy statements or anything. So, is  
9 that available to the public? I think it is  
10 actually.

11 CAPT. LOWELL: Actually, the  
12 output of work groups do not fall under FACA  
13 law.

14 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Not the working  
15 groups, we just did open stakeholder public  
16 discussions. Not necessarily closed workshop,  
17 working group panelist things, but -

18 CAPT. LOWELL: It's in the public  
19 forum, so -

20 MEMBER BRIGHAM: The last  
21 activity, I wonder what that -

22 CAPT. LOWELL: I think we will

1 probably create a summary. Obviously, the  
2 court reporter was not in all four meetings,  
3 so this is going to be a bit of a challenge.  
4 Maybe we should talk to one of our FACA  
5 advisors as to how we should make that  
6 information available.

7 But, the fact that the breakout  
8 sessions might allow us some latitude to make  
9 it very much a, you know, a brainstorming free  
10 flow of information, and then the report-outs  
11 is really what becomes to be on the record.

12 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Yes, I was just  
13 thinking of, we could clean up the lists,  
14 since it was a public discussion, it's not  
15 attribution, so you don't identify who said  
16 what, I don't know. Because we did it in an  
17 open forum, in a public forum, people might  
18 ask if they could have access to it, and it  
19 would be good to say yes, this transparency,  
20 I don't know. It requires some clean up of  
21 each of the teams. Maybe we could do it.

22 MS. WATSON: Chair? Lawson?

1 After every meeting, we post all the  
2 presentations. We will also post this  
3 information from the stakeholder breakouts,  
4 because it is public information. But, we  
5 just need maybe a couple of weeks to flesh it  
6 out, make it clean. And any user can go to  
7 the website and they'll be links, they'll  
8 click on it, and it'll pull it up.

9 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, so she  
10 just answered the question there. It will get  
11 cleaned up a little bit. But it will be,  
12 since it's FOIA -

13 MEMBER BRIGHAM: So, it doesn't  
14 necessarily need consensus of the panelists,  
15 because not all HSRP members were, you know,  
16 a couple in each one. So, it doesn't need  
17 actually a - only what we need is which ones  
18 we picked to put in the letter, right? So,  
19 it's just the little nuances of procedure.

20 But, the answer is yes, it's  
21 public information, and people will use it.  
22 You know, there's a great list of stuff that

1 we had, and the other - okay, that answers it  
2 I think, Kathy.

3 MS. WATSON: If the panel decides  
4 to list for each breakout, the items, like the  
5 Arctic 26, we can put that on there. And  
6 then, if the Arctic breakout wants to do a  
7 little paragraph summary or whatever, we can -  
8 however you want to post that information, we  
9 can post it on the website.

10 MEMBER DIONNE: It sounds like  
11 each workgroup had a slightly different  
12 context for whatever breakout session they  
13 were working under. So, you know, that would  
14 be good to add to the front end of the -  
15 whatever the output that gets posted.

16 But, along with Lawson, I think  
17 these people within these groups are going to  
18 make good use of this information, because  
19 it's coming from a fairly high-level source.

20 MEMBER KUDRNA: Two comments.  
21 One, I think as long as it's labeled as a  
22 product of that forum, and that recognizes

1       that the actual letter that comes from our  
2       HSRP might not include all of those things, or  
3       might edit it, I think that's perfectly  
4       appropriate.

5                   But, the other thing I was going  
6       to request is, now that we're all legal, to  
7       get listening and contact information for the  
8       other panel members, and the key NOAA  
9       staffers, so that if we needed to contact  
10      someone, or email, or be in contact, that  
11      would be very useful.

12                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Go ahead.

13                   MS. WATSON: Frank, to respond to  
14      that, we are working to redo the HSRP website.  
15      After I get back, we've got some people that  
16      are helping us there in Coast Survey. We're  
17      going to make it more user-friendly. We're  
18      going to also have like a SharePoint, where  
19      all of you as the panel members, can click on,  
20      and you can communicate with each other, you  
21      know, via kind of like a blog or that kind of  
22      format.

1                   MEMBER KUDRNA: As Bill knows, if  
2                   you're from Chicago, and you're in the Witness  
3                   Protection Program, it's kind of hard to find  
4                   you.

5                   (Laughter)

6                   MEMBER KUDRNA: But, we'll make  
7                   some arrangement.

8                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: We know where  
9                   he is.

10                  MEMBER MILLER: Kathy, an updated  
11                  email list soon would be very useful, just -

12                  MS. WATSON: Well, it is updated.  
13                  When you type - when I type in HSRP and new  
14                  panel members, it has all of you on there.

15                  MEMBER MILLER: Oh, okay. All  
16                  right, good.

17                  MS. WATSON: But, I will send you  
18                  all a full contact list.

19                  CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Thank you. All  
20                  right, we've talked about it, but the working  
21                  groups, some people went off, they're still  
22                  around, I would like very much, and appreciate

1 very much, if the new members would consider  
2 helping out with either the legislative policy  
3 initiatives, the strategic mission, central  
4 effectiveness, or emerging Arctic priorities.

5 Because these have started, and  
6 we're not done. We've still got issues to  
7 discuss, and things needs help. People are  
8 good. Ideas are good. And I request that  
9 each of you select one of these, and contact  
10 me please, you'll have my email address, as to  
11 which one you'd like to be on.

12 I will forward that to the Chair,  
13 and then when working group meetings are held,  
14 which are usually done by conference calls.  
15 You'll be included in that, and you'll be able  
16 to follow up with the policy on that.

17 (Off-mic comment)

18 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Three.

19 (Off-mic comment)

20 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes, yes.

21 CAPT. LOWELL: Then there's that  
22 fourth little, mini working group. I don't

1 know what they call it, the one that's  
2 actually putting together a response for the  
3 SAB. So, there's three standing working  
4 groups, and then one very short-term work  
5 group.

6 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Right. Lawson?

7 MEMBER BRIGHAM: When we started  
8 out, we discussed the working groups. The  
9 language of the one on the Arctic was a  
10 working group on Arctic infrastructure. And  
11 somehow, in the mystery of our discussions,  
12 it's turned out to be emerging priorities.

13 Arctic emerging priorities is  
14 pretty broad. Infrastructure is a little  
15 narrower. An infrastructure in the language  
16 of the Arctic people is from charts, to ports,  
17 to even charts, and even pilot house education  
18 is infrastructure.

19 But, I don't know, maybe keeping  
20 it broad is the way to go. But, it might be  
21 harder to narrow it down to NOAA specific  
22 hydrographic services kind of issues, whereas

1       infrastructure - I don't know. It's all.  
2       We'll play with the terminology and get back  
3       to you.

4                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay.

5                   MEMBER BRIGHAM: It's - maybe it's  
6       just nuance in the thing, I don't know.

7                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Keeping the  
8       scope narrow instead of broader might be good.  
9       And if it needs to be infrastructure, I don't  
10      have a problem with that.

11                  MEMBER BRIGHAM: Well, you saw in  
12      our discussion of emerging issues had 27. In  
13      a couple of hours, we could have probably had  
14      100 if we just kept going. So -

15                   (Laughter)

16                  CHAIR WELLSLAGER: It sounds like  
17      a chain reaction.

18                  MEMBER BRIGHAM: But, our working  
19      group needs to kind of focus in on what are  
20      the practical, more narrower we call it,  
21      infrastructure issues, I think. One more  
22      question, I'm sorry, Matt.

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay.

2 MEMBER BRIGHAM: So, these will be  
3 standing committees for a while anyway. We're  
4 not decommissioning any. We're going to just  
5 continue on our way.

6 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes. You know,  
7 a lot of what we've done today, and well for  
8 that matter, this week, has been focused  
9 primarily on Alaska and Alaskan issues. If  
10 anybody has any thoughts or concerns or things  
11 that they would like to discuss about non-  
12 Alaska priorities or topics, and you'd like to  
13 bring that up right now, this would be a good  
14 time. Joyce?

15 MEMBER MILLER: It was mentioned  
16 briefly in some of the Alaska discussions, but  
17 looking at the House mark, and the reinsertion  
18 of the NRTs back into the budget by that, I  
19 was - when I saw that the NRTs were being  
20 zeroed out, I was concerned. And I don't know  
21 if other members of the panel think it's of  
22 concern, but I think it limits Coast Survey's

1 flexibility.

2           And certainly what we've seen from  
3 other meetings, where the NRTs have been  
4 active, it's an incredibly good PR - I hate  
5 that term. But, it has been a very effective  
6 way to show how much Coast Survey can bring in  
7 a disaster and so forth. And Coast Survey  
8 should use all assets, such as contractors and  
9 so forth.

10           But, I just think the NRTs give  
11 them a lot of flexibility. Now, whether they  
12 need six or four or whatever, you know. But,  
13 I just would make the suggestion that in our  
14 letter to Dr. Lubchenco, that we might mention  
15 that.

16           I mean, if there's consensus in  
17 the group that that's a cause for concern for  
18 the NRTs, and that we are for the navigation  
19 services, and that we might recommend that it  
20 be put back in the budget if it were zeroed  
21 out this year, or if it is, you know,  
22 whatever.

1                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Capt. Lowell,  
2                   as the DFO, is that something, as a  
3                   recommendation, that we could make to Dr. L?  
4                   Does she have any capabilities of getting  
5                   something like that added back into the budget  
6                   if it's zeroed out?

7                   CAPT. LOWELL: Well, I think Dr.  
8                   Sullivan explained the landscape fairly well  
9                   the other day. You know, we're at a point  
10                  where the Pres Bud went forward with specific  
11                  language to eliminate the NRTs. They also  
12                  took away all the funding for the NRTs.

13                  So, fundamentally what we were  
14                  faced with, is a reduction in capacity, the  
15                  ability to collect data, the ability to  
16                  respond to things. That doesn't mean it  
17                  doesn't go away, we still have a fleet, we  
18                  still have a contract budget. But, we have a  
19                  reduction in capacity.

20                  We now have two marks that have  
21                  come back, one from the Senate, one from the  
22                  House. Both have disagreed with the

1 President's budget elimination of the NRTs.  
2 Each one approached it slightly different.  
3 Off the top of my head, I don't believe the  
4 Senate put money back in, so they - obviously  
5 it creates a bit of a challenge for us -

6 (Laughter)

7 CAPT. LOWELL: - to allow us to  
8 keep them, but then not give us any funds for  
9 them. But, then the House marks specifically  
10 put back \$1.4 million, and the actual budget  
11 removal was \$2.3 million. I'm kind of going  
12 off the top of my head here. So, don't quote  
13 me on the exact numbers, but it kind of sets  
14 the stage.

15 So, the next thing that has to  
16 happen, is that they'll kind of combine the  
17 marks, and we'll get a final budget. We don't  
18 know exactly what that's going to look like.  
19 But, based on, you know, those differences, my  
20 guess is there will be language that says,  
21 "Keep the ability to use NRTs in the toolbox  
22 of Coast Survey."

1                   It's a little unclear as to  
2                   exactly how much funds might be in the  
3                   conference mark, but that - I mean, we're  
4                   still out there at this point. We don't know  
5                   exactly what's going to happen, but a letter  
6                   from this FACA panel to the administrator on,  
7                   you know, how the President's budget was  
8                   crafted, is completely - I mean that's what  
9                   the FACA is for. So, you're providing advice  
10                  to her.

11                  MEMBER HANSON: Matt?

12                  CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes, Bill?

13                  MEMBER HANSON: If I could just  
14                  follow up just so we can understand a little  
15                  bit clearer. The assumption is that your  
16                  office did request the NRT be funded. And  
17                  then the second question would be, did NOAA  
18                  leadership include that in their budget  
19                  request? And at what point was it zeroed out?  
20                  Was it zeroed out by OMB, or was it zeroed out  
21                  before that?

22                  CAPT. LOWELL: I'm in the position

1 where all I can tell you is the President's  
2 budget contained the language of the removal  
3 of the NRTs, and did not include the funding.  
4 And as such, you know, that's - we're members  
5 of the executive branch, and we stand behind  
6 the President's budget.

7 VICE CHAIR PERKINS: My  
8 understanding was it was GAO that took it out.

9 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: GAO?

10 VICE CHAIR PERKINS: Yes. The  
11 issue came to my table because there's a  
12 different association. And questions were  
13 asked, whether a different association that  
14 I'm involved with was responsible for removing  
15 it. Then when we looked into it, the other  
16 association, the information we saw, it  
17 appeared that it was removed by GAO.

18 MEMBER DIONNE: So, GAO is the  
19 last word on the President's budget?

20 VICE CHAIR PERKINS: Well, the  
21 Congress has the last word. But, you know -

22 MEMBER DIONNE: Okay, yes. But,

1 what they've submitted to Congress? GAO?

2 CAPT. LOWELL: A quick  
3 clarification. I think Bill hit the nail on  
4 the head here. There is back and forth  
5 between the program and NOAA, then NOAA and  
6 Department of Commerce, then Department of  
7 Commerce and OMB, and then it becomes a  
8 President's budget request.

9 GAO may or may not have engaged in  
10 that process. You know, they have  
11 considerable latitude in the games that they  
12 wish to play in, and - but, I don't have any  
13 specific information about that.

14 VICE CHAIR PERKINS: The challenge  
15 now would be to work at - well, it's in  
16 conference committee. Because if it's in the  
17 House mark, as we've seen, and it's not in the  
18 Senate mark, the only opportunity for  
19 restoration is in the conference committee.

20 CAPT. LOWELL: That's the way the  
21 government operates.

22 MEMBER MILLER: And, Scott -

1                   VICE CHAIR PERKINS: I guess what  
2 I'm getting at, is putting it in the letter to  
3 the Director isn't going to solve the problem.

4                   MEMBER MILLER: Well - but, it  
5 could be for next year. If it doesn't get  
6 resolved this year, it might be something that  
7 could be different next year. That's - you  
8 know, whether - I don't know whether, you  
9 know, the administrator supported it or not,  
10 you know. We don't know where. But, it - I  
11 don't know if it will have any effect or not.

12                  MEMBER HANSON: To Joyce's point  
13 though, is to do this year by year based on a  
14 conference committee agreement, is not helpful  
15 to manage a program. And it would be very  
16 helpful for you guys to know that year after  
17 year, you don't have that to rely on. It's  
18 going to be part of your program.

19                               And that's something we need to  
20 make the case for NRT outside these four walls  
21 here, that we think it's important, and not  
22 just in a letter to the administrator, but to

1 the folks we deal with on a day to day basis.

2 CAPT. LOWELL: And just so that  
3 everybody is clear, is, you know, all of the  
4 executive agencies take note of what is in  
5 those marks, both the House, the Senate, and  
6 the conference. And we weight that into how  
7 we originally put our - even our own office  
8 budget together, is we look at what is the  
9 intent of the monies that are provided. And  
10 so, it's never ignored.

11 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes, I'm sorry,  
12 Frank, go ahead.

13 MEMBER KUDRNA: First of all, if  
14 we think it's important, it should be in the  
15 letter, and it should go back to the  
16 administrator. And as Bill suggested, we  
17 should also personally, or through our  
18 organizations, support that. We're not a FACA  
19 member privately.

20 But, the budget scenario may be  
21 worse than Captain Lowell described. I mean,  
22 you have two marks in the House and Senate,

1 and something will come out of the conference  
2 committee, but there still is this issue of  
3 the Congressional agreement to 1.3 trillion  
4 dollars worth of cuts, and that falls into  
5 something they call sequestration.

6 And the likelihood, or what I hear  
7 in the likelihood is that there will be a  
8 continuing resolution for a while, and then  
9 they're going to have to deal with those cuts.  
10 And the new budget starts in October, so if  
11 they don't get around to this until February  
12 of next year, you'll be spending at the old  
13 rate for five months, and then having to deal  
14 with those cuts that could be pretty  
15 devastating to a whole series of programs of  
16 NOAA.

17 CAPT. LOWELL: Well, the good news  
18 is they never gave us the full amount we had  
19 last year to spend on in a continuing  
20 resolution.

21 (Laughter)

22 CAPT. LOWELL: So, obviously,

1 we're always told to spend on some percentage  
2 less, simply because we don't know what the  
3 budget is. So, I just want to make sure that  
4 was clear, and that we wait it out on pins and  
5 needles as to the final resolution.

6 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Lawson?

7 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Would you  
8 entertain an Alaska-specific point for the  
9 letter? You asked for other issues, but I -

10 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Oh, sure.

11 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Yes, could we put  
12 something in this letter voicing some concern  
13 or related to the Port of Anchorage, and the  
14 navigation depths, and what we heard? Out of  
15 the whole meeting, I thought that was - living  
16 here, and having been down to the port, but  
17 standing there and looking at shoaled water,  
18 and talking to captains, and hearing about the  
19 challenges, and then hearing the kind of soft  
20 federal response from our friends in the Corps  
21 of Engineers, that it didn't seem to be a  
22 pressing issue, that they might get around to

1 surveying. And then someday in the future we  
2 might do something about it. I don't know.

3 As members of the panel, I say  
4 this is a serious issue, security, economic  
5 issues. And I don't know how you - what the  
6 administrator does with that information. Is  
7 it useful? I don't know. Maybe ask Captain  
8 Lowell whether - should we slip something like  
9 that in there? Is it useful, helpful, or a  
10 pain, or?

11 CAPT. LOWELL: I would always  
12 caution the panel to not dive down into the  
13 weeds too much, because the administrator of  
14 NOAA would probably not want to weigh in to a  
15 specific small, you know, issue between the  
16 Army Corps and in this case the Port of  
17 Anchorage. I think she would be very  
18 uncomfortable in doing that.

19 However, if you raise it up to  
20 something like we can discuss around here,  
21 better federal coordination, put it into  
22 something that she can act on without, you

1 know, causing any kind of internal issues,  
2 would be probably more useful. In other  
3 words, I would avoid diving down into the  
4 weeds and asking her to do something that's  
5 probably outside of her -

6 MEMBER BRIGHAM: Yes, I guess I  
7 should start with the report that we got some  
8 stakeholder input direct from the mariners  
9 that said there's a serious, or very  
10 potentially problem here. And then, I weighed  
11 in with some view of the DoD and security  
12 issue, and said, "Hey, we bring large, you  
13 know, support vessels in here, and MSE ships."

14 And so, I don't know. I just -  
15 maybe we could keep it at a higher level. I  
16 don't know. I think it's part of our remit  
17 here. But, I don't know. It's up to the  
18 group really.

19 MEMBER JAY: I think in the past  
20 we have made some pretty specific  
21 recommendations about individual partners. I  
22 wasn't on the committee, but in New England,

1 you know, there was quite a response to the  
2 problem, and was it Penobscot Bay? I can't  
3 remember, I wasn't here.

4 But, in this case, it sounds like  
5 the problem is the Corps of Engineers, and  
6 we're reporting to NOAA. And so, even if we  
7 were going to report on this particular  
8 situation, what is the action item? I mean,  
9 better coordination, that sounds, you know,  
10 like something that a, you know, that the NOAA  
11 administrator can act on. But, getting the  
12 port dredged is not, if I understand this  
13 correctly.

14 MEMBER DIONNE: We might want to  
15 backcheck on some of that information too,  
16 because the - I forget her name, I'm not sure  
17 I caught it - the woman who was here from Army  
18 Corps told me that the harbor has maintenance  
19 dredging every spring. So, I don't know if  
20 that's just within the harbor and not the  
21 approach, but we might want to just check on  
22 that too.

1 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: I missed that.  
2 She said the harbor was going to be dredged in  
3 the spring?

4 MEMBER DIONNE: Maintenance -  
5 every spring they do a maintenance dredge.

6 CAPT. LOWELL: We're talking about  
7 three specific areas.

8 MEMBER DIONNE: So, that doesn't  
9 cover the - in the approach, is what we were  
10 talking about. Okay.

11 MEMBER MILLER: Well, the other  
12 thing that I was concerned too, but the 30  
13 foot tide range, and that they can get - it  
14 narrows their range of when they can get their  
15 ships in and out for sure. However, there's  
16 only, I think they said four ships per week,  
17 in and out of here, in terms of the big  
18 container vessels, which are probably the ones  
19 that are of concern.

20 So, they got windows they can get  
21 in and out. I guess, if it were a real  
22 serious danger to navigation, I'd be very

1 concerned. But, I'm not quite sure how  
2 serious it is. I mean, that would be one  
3 question I would ask.

4 MEMBER BARBOR: I think in either  
5 an aside, or maybe in her public comments, we  
6 in some sense agreed that a potential  
7 recommendation might be the encouragement of  
8 coordination with the new Chief of Engineers,  
9 who I guess is newly appointed. And that may  
10 prove to be a, you know, a way to deal with  
11 this.

12 MEMBER HANSON: And you also have  
13 a new number two guy, Mike Walsh, who's just  
14 been there for a few months as well. So,  
15 there's been some recent changes at the top  
16 that would be very good to weigh in at.

17 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: So, Lawson, I  
18 think what we could do instead of specifically  
19 stating something like that, coordinate and  
20 make a recommendation to include or work with  
21 the - is it the Chief Engineer - with the  
22 Corps of Engineer on specific projects that

1 may need consideration. Or what, Joyce?

2 MEMBER MILLER: Coordination. And  
3 just say that it was brought up as a  
4 stakeholder issue in Anchorage, something like  
5 that.

6 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay. What's  
7 the panel's feel on the NRTs? Should we  
8 include something about that in the letter?

9 MEMBER BARBOR: If there is a  
10 consensus that it is a concern of the panel,  
11 I think a view with concern is a valid point.  
12 And it doesn't say reinstate or whatever, but  
13 it's viewed with concern.

14 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: All right, we  
15 can do something then.

16 MEMBER HANSON: It's one of the  
17 things we've identified that NOAA does well.  
18 I think it's important for us to advocate for  
19 that every chance we get, and make sure it  
20 stays in the budget request from NOAA.

21 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Okay, one other  
22 thing. This is Captain Lowell's final meeting

1 as the DFO. There will be a transition.

2 (Laughter)

3 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: I'd like to  
4 thank him for a job very well done. It's been  
5 three years, right?

6 CAPT. LOWELL: That's right, a lot  
7 of meetings.

8 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes, felt like  
9 10?

10 CAPT. LOWELL: Not that many.  
11 There have been a lot of these meetings.

12 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: There are  
13 things taking place right now in the Senate  
14 for confirmation. And once confirmation is  
15 complete, the transition of the DFO will then  
16 occur. In the meantime, I think there's a  
17 deputy that you have, or is - I'm not really  
18 sure how the transition actually works.

19 CAPT. LOWELL: I'm not sure we  
20 understand exactly how the transition works.  
21 But, what I can tell you about the position,  
22 number one, Kathy just had up the charter of

1 the FACA, the HSRP, and what's in the charter  
2 is the Director of Coast Survey shall serve as  
3 a designated federal official. So, that's  
4 kind of in the charter of the commission.

5 In the case of the Director of  
6 Coast Survey, something really wonderful has  
7 happened, is the secretary of commerce maybe  
8 six months ago, don't quote me on the time  
9 line here, actually recognized this position  
10 as one of importance and -

11 MS. WATSON: Here it is, right  
12 here.

13 CAPT. LOWELL: - importance and  
14 responsibility. And what that allowed them to  
15 do, was raise the grade of the individual in  
16 the position. So, my replacement is not going  
17 to be a captain, it's going to be what was  
18 referred to as a flag officer or a one-star  
19 admiral.

20 So, that is actually showing  
21 several things that I hope the panel member  
22 takes note of, is that NOAA and Department of

1 Commerce have recognized the importance of the  
2 broader nav services, to not only NOAA, but to  
3 the economic well being of the nation. So,  
4 that's a really good thing.

5 Now, of course, all things  
6 government, there's an administrative  
7 overhead. And on the bad side, is selecting  
8 a flag officer requires significantly more  
9 administrative overhead.

10 And that's put us in a position  
11 where I'm retiring, and although Captain Glang  
12 has actually gone through a flag officer  
13 review board, and has been selected, and all  
14 the paperwork has gone up through Commerce, to  
15 the White House, and it's been announced, it's  
16 on the Federal Register, and it's on a docket  
17 for Senate review, that's the status of  
18 Captain Glang.

19 So, now we have a position where  
20 the director is gone, the new director cannot  
21 assume the roles of the position until Senate  
22 confirmation, and shouldn't look like they're

1 acting in that role because the Senate doesn't  
2 like that. And they have not concurred.

3 So, we have a little bit of a gap  
4 here, and we don't know what that gap is going  
5 to look like. We don't know how long it is.  
6 Is it this week or next week? It's supposedly  
7 on the calendar for the end of this month, and  
8 I don't know the date. For some reason 25th  
9 comes to mind.

10 But, if they don't act at that  
11 point, then we're getting closer to the  
12 election, and you know, these kind of  
13 administrative activities that the Senate is  
14 supposed to do, kind of drop in importance.  
15 So, we don't know exactly how that's going to  
16 play out.

17 So, why did I explain all this?  
18 Number one, is to let everybody know that  
19 Commerce has recognized the importance of the  
20 nav services. Number two, is we do have a  
21 little bit of a gap. Katie Ries, who's my  
22 deputy over at Coast Survey, should step up to

1 be acting director of the office of Coast  
2 Survey until such time as the Senate acts on  
3 the paperwork that's on their docket at this  
4 point.

5 How things could fall out over the  
6 next couple of weeks or months, it's really up  
7 in the air at this point. But regardless, if  
8 there is no official director of Coast Survey  
9 - well, actually, I guess we'll have to get  
10 Kathy trained up to be the DFO, designated  
11 federal official.

12 And I know - we've actually  
13 utilized some of the other office directors,  
14 or we attempted to utilize the other office  
15 directors as DFOs in the past. We were  
16 corrected by the lawyers, that because they're  
17 non-voting panel members, so the director of  
18 CO-OPS, and the director of NGS, are  
19 officially panel members, they are precluded  
20 from the ability to serve as DFO.

21 So, there isn't - I actually  
22 leaned on Juliana once, only to be told that

1 that was something we couldn't do anymore.  
2 So, we're trying to figure that out. I think  
3 eventually, if all goes right, Gerd, who has  
4 actually gone through the DFO training, when  
5 he is selected, when he assumes the position,  
6 he will be the DFO.

7 But, if there is no DFO, or the  
8 next meeting occurs and there is no full time  
9 director of Coast Survey, there might be an  
10 ability to put in an acting DFO, somebody who  
11 has gone through the training, and serves that  
12 purpose.

13 So, we're a little bit on the  
14 loose side here. We don't know exactly how  
15 it's going to play out. So, I just wanted to  
16 let everybody know. But, Gerd's about as well  
17 trained as we can get him, so.

18 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Thank you.  
19 That's it. No, that's perfect. All right.  
20 Is there any other business that we should  
21 address at this time?

22 MS. WATSON: Chair? Oh, I'm

1       sorry. Just logistics, because we said the  
2       fall meeting. And what I would do, is after  
3       I get back, is I'll look at kind of like the  
4       calendar.

5                   And usually for budgetary or  
6       acquisition purposes, late October, early  
7       November is the best time for FY `13. So,  
8       I'll actually go in there and look at like  
9       maybe propose - I'm presuming a two day  
10      meeting in Norfolk, correct?

11                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: New Orleans.

12                   MS. WATSON: New Orleans. Excuse  
13      me, New Orleans, that's usually what we do?  
14      Okay. So, I'll propose like one week, and try  
15      to get the majority. If not, a second, okay?

16                   CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Just a second.  
17      Ken?

18                   MEMBER BARBOR: Following on your  
19      initial statement there, I would recommend we  
20      put in our letter a recognition of Captain  
21      Lowell's service as DFO, and also the  
22      acknowledgment that Commerce and NOAA have

1 elevated their rank of director of Coast  
2 Survey.

3 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Lawson?

4 MEMBER BRIGHAM: I just wanted to  
5 thank Matt Forney for pulling together all of  
6 the stakeholders, Kathy helping. But local,  
7 Matt did a great job. He did a great job of  
8 pulling the right stakeholders. We got a lot  
9 of them to come. So, great job. Thank you.

10 (Applause)

11 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Last piece of  
12 business before we close the meeting, oh, I'm  
13 sorry, Michele?

14 MEMBER DIONNE: Yes, I just wanted  
15 to thank you, Matt, for taking on the mantle  
16 of Chair for this group.

17 (Laughter)

18 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Thank you.

19 MEMBER DIONNE: It was a great  
20 meeting.

21 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Thank you very  
22 much.

1 (Applause)

2 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Public  
3 comments. Does anybody here have something  
4 they would like to address to the panel? I'm  
5 sorry, I couldn't see you, yes? Have a mic.

6 MS. RIDGWAY: I know you've all  
7 had a very long, and hopefully productive  
8 meeting. And thanks again for coming to  
9 Alaska. I'm really, really glad to see you  
10 here.

11 I introduced myself earlier, I'm  
12 Michelle Ridgway. In addition to some of the  
13 other things I've spoken to so many members  
14 about, I also serve on the Federal Advisory  
15 Committee for marine protected areas on the  
16 Coastal Marine Spatial Planning Subcommittee.  
17 I know many members of that subcommittee are  
18 very grateful for the work you're doing to try  
19 to advance hydrographic survey, and release of  
20 services through your work.

21 I also serve on the State of  
22 Alaska's Cruise Ship Science & Technology

1 Panel. We're wrestling with a lot of issues  
2 related to navigation of Arctic ships, and  
3 again, many people are very tuned in to what  
4 you're doing, and very grateful for your  
5 establishing of priorities for navigational  
6 mapping.

7 On a very personal level, I'm a  
8 marine biologist. I'm a lifelong Alaskan. I  
9 pilot ships. I sail. I pilot submarines. I  
10 pilot ROVs all over the state. And the work  
11 that you're doing is extremely valuable to  
12 establish priorities for improving, not only  
13 safety at sea, but also our understanding of  
14 the sea floor around here.

15 As an ecologist, I mentioned  
16 earlier that we use habitat data to establish  
17 our rockfish quotas. In a lot of Alaska, that  
18 data is now coming from multibeam sitters that  
19 are on many of the vessels that you have some  
20 means to make recommendations for their  
21 deployment schedules.

22 And more specifically, recently

1 we've been wrestling with a very, very  
2 difficult issue in the state. We have a dire  
3 situation with regards to our king crab  
4 populations across the Bering Sea. We have a  
5 very low population of king crab. We've been  
6 trying to understand why they're not  
7 recovering.

8           And we recently did a pilot study  
9 with NOAA while they were conducting a  
10 navigational survey using standard protocols,  
11 we asked the question, can the data from that  
12 multibeam and backscatter actually help us  
13 understand specifically where essential fish  
14 habitat is for the baby king crab that don't  
15 seem to be recruiting to maturity?

16           So, we ran the pilot tests up near  
17 the Pribilof Islands on a contracted ship, the  
18 sister ship of the Fairweather, and found out  
19 that by using that backscatter component of  
20 the multibeam survey, we were able to bang on  
21 identify this special habitat, which is called  
22 shell hash. It's crushed up seashells.

1                   But, that multibeam could very  
2 clearly distinguish it from other habitats  
3 that are not valuable to these juvenile crab,  
4 and help us further our understanding of  
5 what's going on with the ecology of that  
6 species. So, there are many applications of  
7 the work that you do.

8                   I do have a couple of suggestions,  
9 even though you've discussed your  
10 recommendations. One, Forney recommended  
11 earlier that - or suggested, that under this  
12 Article 3, there's some agreement with the  
13 industry to use more of the Shell's future  
14 data.

15                   There's a lot of data housed  
16 currently at Department of Interior, BOEM.  
17 They have a lot of data that was collected for  
18 arctic bathymetry that exists there now. And  
19 I would strongly encourage you to continue to  
20 recommend, that as a means of gaining more  
21 coverage efficiently, which is the name of the  
22 game, be creative, be cost effective, to try

1 to access that multibeam data that has been  
2 already collected by the industry in the US  
3 Arctic. You've seen the gaps, they're  
4 massive. Let's try to fill those gaps as  
5 efficiently as possible.

6 And my final suggestion is toward  
7 the same end. National Science Foundation and  
8 other entities, but primarily NSF, has been  
9 fortunately funding a tremendous amount of  
10 research in the US Arctic, the Bering Sea, and  
11 the Gulf of Alaska.

12 We have the Healy. We have the  
13 Tommy Thompson and other ships, that  
14 fortunately are now equipped with multibeam  
15 acquiring apparatus. They got great  
16 transducers, great equipment. And I know this  
17 is not within the purview of the  
18 recommendations for the panel, but maybe as  
19 you recommend to NOAA and IOCM, that they  
20 continue to reach out and encourage NSF, to  
21 encourage everyone that's funded with public  
22 money, to continue to acquire multibeam data

1 in such a fashion that it could be used and  
2 incorporated into the surveys.

3 Even go so far potentially to  
4 strategically request that they fill in gaps  
5 in some of the highest priority areas for  
6 navigation and safety. Thanks again for  
7 coming up to Alaska. It was very nice to meet  
8 all of you.

9 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Anybody else?  
10 Jon, you don't have anything to say?

11 (Laughter)

12 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Thank you - oh,  
13 Michele?

14 MEMBER DIONNE: So, based on that  
15 comment, is there something that we're going  
16 to - would that be a specific item that we  
17 could add to our - okay. John's - thinking  
18 it's too detailed?

19 CAPT. LOWELL: Well -

20 MEMBER DIONNE: I mean, just at  
21 the agency level, some sort of -

22 CAPT. LOWELL: I was going to

1 throw out IOCM and an update for this panel,  
2 especially because of the large number of new  
3 members, would be very appropriate for the  
4 next meeting. I think it's key to get  
5 everybody up to speed on where we're at on  
6 IOCM.

7 We do have a new leader in place.  
8 We're starting to put in place new policies  
9 and procedures. We are working closely with  
10 NSF to - when they do collect data, that it's  
11 preserved in a way, and delivered to the  
12 archive in a way that other people can use it.

13  
14 Now, how effective it is, and how  
15 we're measuring that, I'm not exactly sure.  
16 But, I think it would be very useful for this  
17 panel to get an update on IOCM - all the IOCM  
18 activities that are underway at this point.  
19 And now getting back to your specific  
20 question, which was -

21 MEMBER DIONNE: Well, I just  
22 wanted to make sure we captured some of that

1 comment - or I was asking, I guess, whether we  
2 would capture the content of that comment in  
3 our letter to the administrator.

4 CAPT. LOWELL: The question is,  
5 what is she going to do with that information?  
6 And that's more of a comment to the offices.

7 MEMBER DIONNE: She'd probably  
8 talk to the folks at NSF, right? Yes,  
9 whatever the appropriate destination is, it  
10 would be nice to encourage, you know, again,  
11 collaboration, communication with some of the  
12 partner agencies that are - you know, we spent  
13 a lot of time at this meeting talking about  
14 all these different data streams hanging out  
15 in different places, not being standardized,  
16 all that stuff. So, it would be good to  
17 capture a little bit of that.

18 CAPT. LOWELL: Well, you could  
19 certainly put it in a letter, and her response  
20 would say, "We are working closely with NSF,  
21 and we have procedures in place."

22 MEMBER DIONNE: Right. And as far

1 as you know, they're collecting the data in a  
2 way that is acceptable to us?

3 CAPT. LOWELL: Yes. Which is very  
4 important for that IOCM update, because, I  
5 mean, there are new IOCM mapping standards  
6 that are now published and available. There  
7 are new programs, both with NSF and with non-  
8 hydro NOAA ships, to collect multibeam data.  
9 But, there's quite a bit to update the panel  
10 on.

11 MEMBER DIONNE: And there are  
12 people at NSF that automatically get this  
13 information, right?

14 CAPT. LOWELL: Automatically get  
15 this information?

16 MEMBER DIONNE: Yes, on an email  
17 or, you know, the new standards you were just  
18 saying, do the people at NSF that are involved  
19 with the equipment that were installed on  
20 these new boats, would automatically be in  
21 that loop?

22 CAPT. LOWELL: Yes, there is an

1 active National Science Foundation. It's  
2 called Rolling Deck to Repository program,  
3 where they're supposed to be collecting  
4 multibeam data basically in any area of  
5 opportunity.

6 MEMBER DIONNE: According to the  
7 standards that just came out?

8 CAPT. LOWELL: According to the  
9 standards, right.

10 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Joyce?

11 MEMBER MILLER: That was - I mean,  
12 this was some of the requests and discussion  
13 in the panel. I think what the previous  
14 speaker requested was - is probably  
15 encompassed to some extent in our - in the  
16 data collection panel. Yes, so.

17 CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Yes, sir?

18 MR. DASLER: You talked me into  
19 it. Oh, good, it's still on. Yes, I would  
20 just say in regards to IOCM, I mean, that was  
21 one thing we pushed on the panel before, was  
22 NOAA really, kind of take that first step in

1 going forward in collecting data that's  
2 valuable to fisheries. And I'd really like to  
3 congratulate NOAA on now setting the standard  
4 to collect also backscatter information.

5 So, that's really not needed for  
6 charting, and it's an added effort. It's more  
7 data that needs to be collected and archived,  
8 but that's being done now with the contractors  
9 and NOAA are offering backscatter information  
10 that's being used.

11 And so, taking that first step, I  
12 think is very valuable in getting others all  
13 on board to meet the best standards for the  
14 best available data, and could be used for the  
15 most public benefit. And I think that's  
16 really been great in moving that forward, and  
17 I'd like to congratulate you on that.

18 And also, for everybody coming up  
19 to Alaska, and looking at what's going on up  
20 here, and the needs, and moving this forward  
21 in the next few years with NOAA. I think  
22 that's great. Thank you.

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CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Thanks, Jon.

Well, I would like to thank all of you all as panel members, for making this a very memorable first meeting to chair. It was interesting, at times a little daunting. And I cut my teeth with it, so this was good.

And I would like to also thank the public for attending this, because without your input, none of this would have been happening. This is very important and very helpful, so thank you.

And Kathy, thank you very much for helping get everything together. You've done a wonderful job.

(Applause)

CHAIR WELLSLAGER: Anything else?

Meeting adjourned.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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In the matter of: Hydrographic Services Review Panel

Before: NOAA

Date: 05-24-12

Place: Anchorage, AK

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