



Mr. Scott Perkins  
Chair, Hydrographic Services Review Panel  
Surveying and Mapping, LLC  
9393 West 110<sup>th</sup> Street, 51 Corporate Woods  
Overland Park, KS 66210

FEB 24 2015

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Thank you for your letter following the Hydrographic Services Review Panel's (HSRP) meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. HSRP's recommendations about the usefulness of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) hydrographic services for purposes beyond navigation are thoughtful and align well with NOAA's current strategic direction. HSRP has clearly risen to the challenge of providing strategic advice, and I encourage you to continue to do so. We look forward to continued discussions about these and other recommendations at subsequent meetings of the HSRP.

I will note that I was pleased to see HSRP's recommendation linking the need for shallow water coastal bathymetry with inundation modeling and coastal resilience, a priority for both NOAA and the Administration. NOAA is interested in HSRP's views on how we should prioritize among traditional navigation and emerging resilience-oriented needs, and what criteria NOAA could consider when determining surveying priorities.

HSRP's findings on the importance of interagency coordination and use of agreements are also much appreciated. NOAA is investigating the legal and fiscal constraints and ways to simplify and expedite these processes.

Investing in infrastructure has been an ongoing priority of this Administration. Your recommendation serves to confirm the importance of building and maintaining the Nation's transportation infrastructure.

HSRP's concerns and recommendations regarding Arctic surveying are well founded. I am interested in HSRP's views on the priority of U.S. Arctic charting and balancing those needs with other national charting needs, particularly given fiscal constraints.

Please extend my appreciation to all HSRP members for their time and dedication to improving NOAA's navigation services through participation in this Federal Advisory Committee. HSRP's advice and recommendations provide an important perspective to NOAA. I look forward to hearing from you and HSRP in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "KDS", written over a horizontal line.

Kathryn D. Sullivan, Ph.D.  
Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere

