



Hydrographic Services Review Panel

NOAA provides a variety of navigation services necessary to ensure the safety and efficiency of marine transportation and commerce, naval operations and recreational activities. These services include nautical charts, hydrographic surveys, shoreline maps, positioning capabilities, marine weather forecasts, and real-time water level data. The U.S. Marine Transportation System, the primary customer of NOAA navigation services, is a cornerstone of the U.S. economy responsible for 95 percent of all goods, by volume, entering and leaving the United States.

In October 2003, Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans established the Hydrographic Services Review Panel as directed by the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2002, Public Law 107-372. Accordingly, Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, appointed the 15-member panel.

The panel's duties include providing advice and recommendations to the NOAA Administrator on hydrographic surveying; nautical charting; water level and current measurements; geodetic measurements; shoreline mapping; and, technologies relating to operations, research and development, and dissemination of data. The panel assists in addressing NOAA's strategic plan to improve the nation's marine transportation system and NOAA's efforts to support commerce with world-class products and services that will help ensure safe, efficient and environmentally sound marine transportation.

The Hydrographic Services Review Panel, which functions in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, is composed of a diverse field of experts in hydrographic surveying, vessel pilotage, port administration, tides and currents, coastal zone management, geodesy, recreational boating, marine transportation, and education. The director of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey serves as the panel's designated federal official. The co-directors of the NOAA/University of New Hampshire Joint Hydrographic Center, and the directors of NOAA's National Geodetic Survey and the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, serve as nonvoting members.

The 15 voting members of the Hydrographic Services Review Panel are:

- Helen Brohl; Great Lakes Shipping Association
- Jonathan Dasler; David Evans and Associates, Inc.
- Elaine Dickinson; Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatU.S.)
- William Gray; Gray Maritime Company
- Captain Sherri Hickman; Houston Pilots Association
- Dr. Lewis Lapine; South Carolina Geodetic Survey
- Rear Admiral Richard Larrabee, USCG (ret.); The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- Adam McBride; Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District
- Captain Andrew McGovern; Sandy Hook Pilots Association
- Captain Minas Myrtidis; Norwegian Cruise Line
- John Oswald; John Oswald and Associates, LLC
- J. Scott Rainey; American Pilots' Association
- Tom Skinner; Durand and Anastas Environmental Strategies, Inc.
- Rear Admiral Richard West, USN (ret.); Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE)
- Larry Whiting; Terra Surveys, LLC

The Hydrographic Services Review Panel is interested in updating its oversight House and Senate committees on panel activities to date, as well as obtaining Congressional perspectives on NOAA's navigation services programs, including:

- NOAA's past performance and current capacity to meet the Nation's needs for navigation services, i.e., hydrographic surveying, mapping and charting, and real-time tides and currents, including Physical Oceanographic Real-Time Systems (PORTS®);
- the Administration's Ocean Action Plan recommendations pertaining to NOAA's navigation services, including an Integrated Ocean Observing System and coordinated federal mapping activities;
- the U.S. Marine Transportation System and NOAA's responsibilities for providing it support;
- public and private roles in providing hydrographic and other mapping and navigation services and products;
- anticipated legislative agenda for NOAA's navigation services; and
- additional Congressional interest areas within the purview of the panel.