



AUG 24 2011

Mr. Edmund Welch  
Chair  
Hydrographic Services Review Panel  
103 Oronoco Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Welch:

Thank you for your letter providing an update following the most recent Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, May 4-6, 2011. I regret that I was unable to attend the meeting, but I am glad to hear that Mr. Kennedy's participation provided the HSRP with a demonstration of our commitment to the service provided by the members of the panel. Although I have not been able to attend a meeting yet, I greatly appreciate the feedback and insight you provide. Please be assured that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) continues to benefit from the HSRP's important work; please pass on my thanks to everyone involved.

I found your summary of Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz's keynote presentation to the panel very helpful. The future of navigation services depends on the support of state officials who are knowledgeable about the science and economic value of these services. I appreciate his suggestion that these services be considered key components of the Nation's public infrastructure. I welcome the panel's thoughts on how we might continue this important discussion.

The HSRP's plan to structure its work over the next several years to dovetail with the objectives of NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan and the strategic action plans of the National Ocean Council will prove very beneficial to our work. The HSRP's expertise and perspectives could be very helpful in the areas where NOAA's hydrographic and navigation services have an important role, namely:

- coastal and marine spatial planning,
- ocean, coastal and Great Lakes observations, mapping, and infrastructure,
- resiliency and adaptation to climate change, and
- evolving national policies in the Arctic, including response to rapidly changing conditions of climate, sea ice, and human uses.

The HSRP's focus on stakeholder panels at its regional meetings continues to demonstrate the importance and value of including key partners and constituencies in important policy discussions. For example, there is a clear need to connect geospatial science with the real-life challenges associated with managing finite water resources to meet state and local governments need to quickly access updated geodetic information. The stakeholder panels in Hawaii

THE ADMINISTRATOR

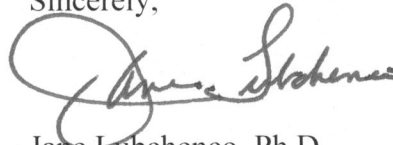


highlighted the benefits of NOAA's navigation-related products and services, but also the ways in which these programs can be improved or expanded to meet stakeholder needs. This is important information to capture as we consider how to continually improve these programs.

Now that the HSRP has visited all regions and listened to key users of NOAA's navigation products, services, and information, I look forward to receiving a plan for your future activities. The HSRP is an invaluable forum for bringing the views of the navigation community into perspective for NOAA, especially in today's challenging fiscal climate. The Federal Government is facing difficult budgetary decisions, and I am confident that your expertise and input will help us continue to strengthen and improve these programs while keeping in mind the need to show the American people that we are providing efficient and effective government services.

Please extend my appreciation to everyone on the panel for their ongoing dedication to supporting and strengthening NOAA's navigation services. I look forward to continuing to work with the panel, and I hope to be able to meet with all of you at a future HSRP meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Lubchenco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D.  
Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere