



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

MAY 25 2007

To the Members of the Hydrographic Services Review Panel

Dear Panel Members:

Thank you for inviting me to attend the recent Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) meeting in Washington, D.C., where I was presented with the HSRP Special Report: "Most Wanted Hydrographic Services Improvements." The HSRP Special Report is the product of three years of your dedicated work and analysis, and is yet another significant contribution the HSRP has made to help improve the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) hydrographic services. It is a well-crafted Report and your efforts in creating it are appreciated. The HSRP Special Report is timely, as this year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the "Survey of the Coast" and the excellent service NOAA's Navigation programs have provided to our safety, economy, environment, and national security.

The HSRP Special Report's release also coincides with my tenure as the Coordinating Board Chair for the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS). As an official action in that capacity, I presented a brief summary of the HSRP Special Report at the April 20, 2007, CMTS Coordinating Board Meeting. Copies of the report were distributed to the fifteen federal departments and agencies in attendance. The Coordinating Board also agreed to provide the Report, and its recommendations, to the CMTS National Strategy Integrated Action Team (IAT) for its consideration. The National Strategy IAT is developing a planned long term strategic approach to improve the U.S. Marine Transportation System, including prioritization of federal agency actions, which will enable the system to successfully respond to projected demands. I am sure the report will be a valuable resource to the IAT as they continue their planning process.

In addition, I am pleased to announce the Department of Commerce and NOAA have officially transmitted the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2007 to Congress. The HSRP was influential in helping NOAA draft this bill, and I hope you will continue to support this effort.

Thank you for your continued service, and for your thoughtful advice and recommendations on how NOAA can best meet the hydrographic services needs of our Nation.

Sincerely,

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for
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THE ADMINISTRATOR

