



*William Hanson, Chair
Joyce Miller, Vice Chair*

June 5, 2017

Mr. Benjamin Friedman
Deputy Under Secretary for Operations
Performing the duties of Under Secretary
Of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
And NOAA Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
US Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Friedman:

On behalf of the NOAA Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP), we submit recommendations from our Spring 2017 meeting, Seattle, WA, April 18-20, 2017.

We congratulate you on your role as acting NOAA Administrator. NOAA is an important agency that plays a critical role including in the mapping and charting world in which HSRP members live and work. We understand how difficult transition from one administration to another can be and appreciate your willingness to help chart the course for NOAA.

This meeting allowed us to learn about the needs and expectations of a unique set of NOAA stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest. NOS's products and services are vital to the infrastructure of this region and the entire nation. Local speakers such as Joshua Berger, Washington Governor Inslee's Maritime Industry Sector Lead, stressed the importance of NOAA tidal, geodetic, and charting data as well as the needs for additional data and simplified, unified data access.

We also welcomed the participation of Dr. Russell Callender, Assistant Administrator of NOS, RDML Shep Smith, Director, Office of Coast Survey, Ms. Juliana Blackwell, Director, National Geodetic Survey, Mr. Richard Edwing, Director, Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services, and Mr. Glenn Boledovich, Director, NOS Policy Coordination and Analysis Division. Certainly the HSRP functions best as an advisory committee when NOAA and NOS leadership are actively engaged in the discussion. Their participation provided depth and insight into challenges such as major changes to datums coming in 2022, the need for regional current projects, and news on externally sourced hydrographic survey data and how NOS will fold that into charts in the future. Dr. Callender and Mr. Boledovich noted that the importance of the NOS survey and charting mission was highlighted and clarified in language in the Presidents budget that stated "surveys and charting" as "core functions" to be maintained. RDML Smith challenged the HSRP to provide direct input on NOS future efforts by

requesting our comments on four draft documents: The National Charting Plan; External Source Data Policy; Coast Survey Role in Global Ocean Mapping; and the Autonomous Vehicles Roadmap.

The HSRP produced a series of issue papers with recommendations to NOAA about important current topics and asks you share these broadly within NOAA and with your many stakeholders. We received input from RDML Smith on the on-going discussions with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding surveying and charting in harbors and channels. Of particular interest to the panel are the difference of hydrographic survey missions where NOS must survey for object detection that is needed for charts to allow for safe navigation but not needed for the USACE mission hydrographic surveys for channel conditions. Capt. Rick Brennan updated us on the status of precision navigation projects in various ports. His input was critical to the panel's understanding of current developments and to finalize three proposed issue papers with a number of recommendations to NOAA.

- Surveying and Charting in U.S. Channels, Harbors and Anchorages
- Improving Data Access for U.S. Nautical Charts
- NOAA's Navigation Services and Recreational Boaters

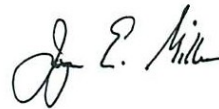
We emphasize three critical points from the papers and the discussions and additional recommendations are provided in the attached issue papers.

- NOS tides, oceanographic, geodetic, and charting data are critical to the nation's marine transportation system infrastructure. NOAA should maintain and, if possible, expand the data it provides and continue to improve and upgrade how it provides centralized and easy data access for all types of data, but in particular to bathymetric and charting data.
- NOAA should work with other agencies and partners, especially with the USACE, to establish procedures to ensure that U.S. harbors, channels and anchorages are surveyed and charted to IHO Order 1A standards, including object detection for safe navigation.
- NOAA should engage partners and stakeholders in technology development and transfer, and continue to develop a long term strategy to continue to upgrade nautical charts such as the "Plan for the Chart of the Future".

Sincerely,



William Hanson
Chair, HSRP



Joyce E. Miller
Vice-Chair, HSRP

Attachments:

Surveying and Charting in U.S. Channels, Harbors and Anchorages
Improving Data Access for U.S. Nautical Charts
NOAA's Navigation Services and Recreational Boaters