

HSRP Feedback on NOAA Navigation Services Strategic Plans

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HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES REVIEW PANEL



noaa

CO-OPS Draft Strategic Plan

Background and Philosophy

- Intended as a high level document
- Purposely does not call out any specific programs or metrics
- Metrics, “the how,” and other details will be described in a companion document - an integrated CO-OPS Implementation Plan.
- Strategic Goals align with HSRP recommendations
- Highlights CO-OPS as uniquely positioned to support all of NOAA’s Mission Goals through an emphasis on being customer-focused:
 - Ecosystems
 - Climate
 - Weather & Water
 - Climate & Transportation
- CO-OPS sought feedback on plan, specifics HSRP would like to see in companion Implementation Plan



CO-OPS Draft Strategic Plan

General Comments

- Overall, the Strategic Plan is pointed in the right direction for the HSRP.
- Page 5 discusses organization and infrastructure – having the right people – and this also aligns with the recommendations of the HSRP.
- The Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan will be used to help support the need for funding. The Implementation Plan will identify working with the different NOAA Goal Teams.
- The Implementation Plan will close the accountability loop by containing specific metrics, stated in quantifiable terms.
- PORTS® expansion will be further addressed in the Implementation Plan.



CO-OPS Draft Strategic Plan

Specific HSRP Comments/Recommendations

- Highlight that CO-OPS sets the National standards, based on sound science, good [and long] records, and accountability. For example, TX relies on these standards for marine boundaries and gas/oil royalties.
 - Add a statement about standards to the first paragraph on the first page when discussing 200-year legacy.
- The Strategic Goals and Strategies have no accountability. Mention in the Strategic Plan that the companion document, the Implementation Plan, will contain specific metrics, stated in quantifiable terms.
- Add “Admiralty Law” to the list of “Partners and Customers.”
- Restructure page 5, “Partners at All Levels,” to align with Strategic Goals.



CO-OPS Draft Strategic Plan

Specific HSRP questions and clarifications:

Q: Under “new frontiers” on page 4, what do you mean by “homeland security”?

A: Integration of PORTS® and AIS: identification
Also Oceanographic information supporting counter-mine warfare in U.S. waters

Action: Weave these answers into section.

Q: Under “Partners and Customers,” what do you mean by “Insurance industry”?

A: The insurance sector deals with collisions and groundings. The data become evidence. The insurance industry also involved in flooding, inundation, sea level rise considerations.



CO-OPS Draft Strategic Plan

Specific HSRP questions and clarifications:

Q: There is no mention of budget in the Strategic Plan. Can the Plan happen without funding? Where does the budget enter into this strategy?

A: The Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan will be used to help support the need for funding. The Implementation Plan will identify working with the different NOAA Goal Teams.

Q: Under “Customer-Focus,” does the navigation community include recreational boaters?

A: Navigation community is intended to cover the recreational boater, as well as map to the Commerce & Transportation NOAA Mission Goal. “Recreational Communities” is identified under “Partners and Customers.”

Action: Change “communities” to “applications” so that the lead-in sentence is “Our products and services support the following applications. . . .”



CO-OPS Draft Strategic Plan

Specific HSRP questions and clarifications:

Q: Shouldn't NWLON and PORTS expansion be highlighted? This is a goal.

A: Specific programs were consciously not spelled out in the Plan.

Action: Under "Integrated System," change fourth bullet to read: "Integrate and expand all of our observing systems (such as the National Water Level Observation Network (NWLON), National Currents Observation Network (NCON), and Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®)) into one system."

Action: This will be further addressed in the Implementation Plan.

Q: Why does "Customer-Focus" on page 4 get a whole page and the other sections/goals on page 5 only get a paragraph?

A: To put an emphasis on customer-focus, highlighting that it is and should be at the center of all that we do. To highlight how CO-OPS supports all of NOAA's Mission Goals, a paragraph was written for each.



NGS Draft Strategic Plan

- The HSRP acknowledges the vital mission of the NGS and its long history of providing the scientific means of creating the National Spatial Reference System, the critical foundation for all geospatial products and services in the United States and its territories.

Recommendations:

- State in the title the period that the plan covers. e.g. 2009-2014
- Under “Modernize the 3-D Geometric Reference System” add a brief definition of the foundation CORS System.
- No specific mention of the VDatum program, which the HSRP recognizes as a much-needed tool for managing the US coasts.
- Under the "Migrate the Coastal Mapping Program toward IOCM," place emphasis on 3D mapping to better understand the implications of sea level rise, tropical storm surge, or tsunami inundation along the nations coastlines.
- Last bullet should read, "Maintain recognized global leadership in the geospatial community." in place of "Become a recognized global leader in ..."



OCS Draft Strategic Plan

General Comments:

- The length of this document could lend one to think it is more of a conceptual document rather than a strategic plan. Usually a strategic plan should be as short and concise as possible. If we agree the document is more of a conceptual plan for the next five years of the OCS, suggest attempting to shorten the document and highlight the target goals and objectives.
- The document aesthetically starts out with good images adding clarity to the specific topic discussed. While reading the document the number of images become fewer and end after page 10. Would it be possible to add images? This may help add clarity to the objectives as they are outlined under the specific Strategic Goals.



OCS Draft Strategic Plan

Specific comments:

- Regarding the hydrographic surveys planned for the 2009 – 2014 period, have target sites/locations been selected? Do these site selections confirm to the NOAA Hydrographic Survey Priorities Plan? Strategic Plan might benefit from reference to NOAA's established definition of priority charting areas/weighting used when choosing the priorities – for clarity.
- Would it be prudent while discussing nautical charting to include some mention of the standards used by NOAA for nautical charting?
- Would this be the document outlining the legal aspects of using nautical charts during litigation? (*case in point the Exxon Valdez grounding on the Bligh Reef and the marine insurance claims*)
- Are new products envisioned during this time frame?
- Will ships be added to the NOAA fleet? Connection of fleet to OCS strategic plan could be stronger.
- It should be noted that the OCS plan and the HSRP recommendations from July 2008 meeting on Integrated Ocean and Coastal mapping for product delivery outline goals very similar in scope.