

National Ocean and Coastal Mapping Strategic Action Plan HSRP Comments

In all the HSRP believes that the action plan is in line with HSRP recommendations of a more coordinated effort between mapping agencies. In this economic climate it makes sense to pool resources on a unified mapping front.

Under Short Term Objectives

Activity 1: Establish an outreach team that will:

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Develop a vehicle for dissemination of planned mapping areas to other agencies and coastal communities well in advance of operations (1-year or more) to provide opportunity to address other data needs and expand survey limits.

Under 3. Demonstrate and Build Upon Success

Activity 2: Implement integrated ocean and coastal mapping projects.

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Implement a coordinated mapping effort within NOAA as a demonstration of integrated mapping.

It is the opinion of the HSRP that NOAA could improve internal coordination of mapping efforts. OCS should start collecting backscatter and data valuable to fisheries research. Fisheries studies should log bathymetric data to charting standards. Where practicable, this may best be achieved by cross pollination on missions (fisheries staff on charting surveys and hydrographers on fisheries studies).

A few concerns were raised regarding that apparent lack of any teeth in the Action Plan. Implementation and efficacy would be hampered without legislative authority, line budget or accountability at a high level.

Under what authority does the Interagency Working Group exist?

How is it funded and is there authority to use this funding as seed money for coordination of Federal mapping projects?

Who champions it within and across the various agencies and does that person have authority in the agency to carry decisions across all groups?

A charter was forwarded for the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal mapping (IWG-OCM) whose function is to facilitate coordination of Federal or Federally-supported mapping activities.

It was noted that the charter for the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal mapping (IWG-OCM) whose function is to facilitate coordination of Federal or

Federally-supported mapping activities will expire on March 31, 2009 if not renewed by the Co-Chairs.

Is this anticipated to be a problem?

Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST)

Co-Chairs

Dan Walker, OSTP

Margaret Leinen, NSF

Richard Spinrad, NOAA

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It was mentioned that S. 39 Ocean and Coastal Exploration and NOAA Act (OCEAN ACT) and H.R. 2400 Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act establish a NOAA ocean and coastal mapping program and authorizes funding to implement the Act.

Can the HSRP get an update on the concerns raised above and the status on these acts?