

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board Chairman's Introduction

Fifth Meeting

April 26, 2016

Washington, DC

OEAB Boundaries

- ✓ Advise the Administrator on **priority areas for survey/discovery**
- Assist OER in development of a 5-year plan
- ✓ Review (annually): **proposal review process**
- Other assistance as the Administrator requests
- ✓ Comply with FACA rules

Administrator Requests

- Focus first on NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER)
 - OER=*Okeanos*+OET+CI+ECS+Competitive Grants
- Consider Administrator's priorities:
 - OE support NOAA Line Office requirements
 - Exploration results must lead to “actionable environmental information” for NOAA clients
 - “New”: Future OE paradigms?

NOAA OE Program Funding

- Approximate Funding:
 - FY13: \$23.7M
 - FY14: \$26.0M
 - FY15: \$28.0M
 - FY16: \$32.0M (PresBud=\$19.0M)
 - FY17: PresBud=\$19M
 - FY18: already in early formulation; hints of improvement

In the Interim

- Follow up discussions with Dr. Spinrad/Mr. McLean/
Dr. Leonardi on 25 March
- Dr. Spinrad floats a new tasking on 28 March
 - Along lines of OEAB discussions
- Rockefeller U. and Monmouth U. started planning for
National Ocean Exploration Forum 2016
 - BAA request submitted
 - Some outside funding raised
 - Steering committee advice on 8 April

In the Interim (continued)

- Drafted Strategic Guidance Memoranda Inputs for FY18 and FY19
- Chair briefed IOOS Advisory Board on 5 April

Communications with NOAA

(after every meeting?)

- Guidance from Chief Scientist in late 2014
- Met with Chief Scientist in January, March
- Letter to Administrator in October 2015
 - \$\$\$ to match Congressional will
 - Areas for survey, especially with the Okeanos Explorer
 - FFO annual review
 - Finish ECS
 - When exploring, collect more data, samples
 - Coordinate science opportunities and science needs

Communications with NOAA

(after every meeting?)

- Met Administrator in March 2016; OE a topic of discussion
- Comments on FY18 and FY19 SGMs: approve today
- NOAA Line Office representatives at this meeting

Morning Actions

- Approve Fourth OEAB minutes
- Discuss, approve comments on FY18 and FY19 SGMs

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**Ocean Exploration
Advisory Board**