



David McKinnie - NOAA Federal <david.mckinnie@noaa.gov>

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## Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

1 message

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**Rick Spinrad - NOAA Federal** <rick.spinrad@noaa.gov>

Mon, Mar 28, 2016 at 2:31 PM

To: Paul Gaffney <hawk1@monmouth.edu>

Cc: Craig McLean - NOAA Federal <craig.mclean@noaa.gov>, David McKinnie - NOAA Federal <david.mckinnie@noaa.gov>, Alan Leonardi - NOAA Federal <alan.leonardi@noaa.gov>

Sir - I enjoyed the opportunity to chat briefly last week, regarding OEAB activities and plans. Following on that conversation, I'd like you to consider the following request for a strategic dialogue among the OEAB membership in the near future.

Over the last decade or so, NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) helped to develop and operationalize the concept of telepresence-enabled exploration. Telepresence and live streaming are now common, if not yet routine, on UNOLS cruises, expeditions conducted by not-for profit organizations, and others as well as remaining integral to OER's operations. But the community as a whole collects only limited data about the physical environment and processes during a typical expedition or cruise. Advances in technology have important implications for all aspects of current and future exploration paradigms as new instruments, in-situ sampling and analysis, low-cost sensors, 3-D visualization, autonomous technologies, swarming technologies, and others have important implications for what and how we explore.

We've had the benefit of several important strategic dialogues over the last couple of years. The decadal review (2012), Ocean Exploration 2020 (2013), and subsequent National Forums have made it clear that NOAA has an important role to play in developing leading new paradigms and technologies for ocean exploration, in close collaboration with the broader ocean exploration and ocean science communities. NOAA's needs to work with the community to adapt and apply promising approaches to accelerate the pace, scope, and efficiency of ocean exploration in support of multiple organizational missions and scientific goals.

It is in this spirit that I request that the OEAB address the question of what future paradigms for ocean exploration might be and provide advice for how NOAA should position itself to evaluate and implement promising paradigms and approaches in the context of the national ocean exploration program. I urge the OEAB to be expansive in its thinking, and to fully incorporate the concept of adopting technologies and methodologies from a wide spectrum of scientific and technological domains.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts about this important challenge.

Regards,  
RS

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*Dr. Rick Spinrad  
Chief Scientist  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*