

May 15, 2017

Mr. Benjamin P. 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
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Friedman:

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you a report from the SAB on Indigenous and Local Ecological Knowledge (ILEK) and NOAA. The SAB approved this report at its April 24-25, 2017 meeting.

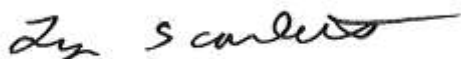
The purpose of the report was to examine the consultation processes employed by NOAA to access, assess, and integrate ILEK into the full knowledge base on which natural resources management policies are based. The report includes conclusions and suggestions made after an extensive review of the current literature, a survey conducted with NOAA personnel, and testimony offered by ILEK experts and holders. These suggestions may help NOAA engage and access ILEK in their resource management plans.

The report includes a number of findings and recommendations including creation of stable funding for ILEK projects that provides initiation and follow-on assessments; development of an internship at NOAA in ILEK with local, indigenous students; creation of proactive strategic team with NOAA with ILEK experts in NOAA and ILEK holders; and further development of protocols for co-management of resources with indigenous and local communities.

The report also includes recommendations for a Best Practices handbook, tools and training for integration of ILEK and a web-based site for information.

The SAB encourages NOAA to provide feedback, as you deem appropriate, at the first opportunity. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,



Lynn Scarlett
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board
Managing Director for Public Policy, The Nature Conservancy

Attachment

cc: Craig McLean
Cisco Werner
John Armor
Gary Matlock
David Fluharty
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