

December 31, 2019

Neil A. Jacobs, Ph.D.  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for  
Environmental Observation and Prediction  
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811  
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you a report on the Review of the Draft NOAA Ocean and Great Lakes Acidification Research Plan 2020-2029. The SAB approved this report at its December 16-17, 2019 in-person meeting. The review was conducted by the SAB's Climate Working Group (CWG). The purpose of the report was to review NOAA's ocean acidification ten-year plan and provide substantive comments on its scope and detail. The Plan itself builds on the 2010 Plan and aims to support science that produces well-integrated and relevant research results, tools and products for stakeholders.

First, the reviewers congratulate the authors for drafting an excellent research plan, and on a terrific job of pulling this together under difficult funding circumstances. We commend the authors for their hard work, care and creativity. The report makes the following major recommendations:

NOAA-wide Integrated Modeling

**Recommendation 1:** Formally commit to an integrated modeling approach across NOAA line offices.

**Recommendation 2:** Prioritize the linking of regional ecosystem models and biogeochemical frameworks so that OA observations can be utilized to their full potential.

Interactions between Onshore, Nearshore and Offshore Processes

**Recommendation 3:** Increase sampling of nearshore waters in sensitive and economically important areas.

**Recommendation 4:** The co-varying and possibly exacerbating effects of eutrophication and acidification on each other should be studied.

### Data Management and Products

**Recommendation 5:** Highlight centralized access to NOAA's existing data syntheses and products.

**Recommendation 6:** Highlight and or initiate planned communications with stakeholders on the desired data products and syntheses that would be most useful to those communities.

### Metrics of Success

**Recommendation 7:** Include metrics by which NOAA can quantify the success of its OA research and outreach.

**Recommendation 8:** Quantify the economic benefit of NOAA's OA research and products to the Blue Economy.

The SAB suggests you encourage the Ocean Acidification Program to consider addressing and incorporating these comments as it finalizes the Strategic Plan. The SAB and CWG are happy to work with the Program to provide clarification on any comments and recommendations and to help with any future implementation plans. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the process for this.

Sincerely,



Lynn Scarlett

Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board  
and Chief External Affairs Officer, The Nature Conservancy

Attachment: Final Report

CC: Tim Gallaudet  
Craig McLean  
Wayne Higgins  
Cynthia Decker  
Ben DeAngelo  
Neil Christensen  
Libby Jewett  
Emily Osborne  
Joellen Russell

Emily Landeen  
Caren Madsen  
Courtney Edwards