

Dear VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Room 6811
14th St & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

October 23, 2008

The diligence and scope of the work of the entire Climate Model Review working group should be highly commended. The esteemed members have deliberated carefully and come forth with an extensive list of specific recommendations to carry forward climate modeling research and applications in NOAA.

The attached document approved by the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) makes multiple recommendations to support the preparation of a comprehensive new strategic plan for the NOAA climate modeling enterprise. Such a new plan would be a worthy exercise to support prioritizing and budgeting of climate research next year and it would serve to inform the climate model enterprise for several upcoming years.

This NOAA Science Advisory Board, Climate Working Group Report summarizes the first-ever Review of the Climate Research and Modeling (CRM) Program of NOAA. The overarching goal of the CRM Program is to develop, understand, and improve the capability to make intra-seasonal, seasonal, decadal, and centennial-scale predictions of climate variability and projections of future climate change on global to regional scales. Current CRM funding is about \$78 M per year. The Program is young and rapidly evolving.

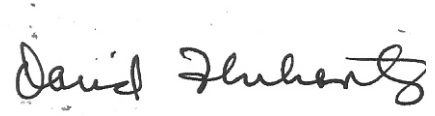
CRM draws on NOAA's seven Research Laboratories, twenty-one Cooperative Institutes, six Regional Climate Centers (RCCs), five Applied Research Centers (ARCs), and five climate-related Grant Programs. Dr. V. Ramaswamy of NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) is the Acting Program Manager for CRM.

In brief, this Report concludes that NOAA's CRM Program is producing important, useful, and interesting research that represents a major contribution to the extremely important and now highly visible world-wide enterprise of climate research. NOAA scientists have made many world-class contributions to the scientific investigation of the Earth's climate and global change. NOAA's superb contributions to recent international assessments are particularly noteworthy. NOAA's provision of information on climate variability and the impacts of climate variability on society are also commended. A key challenge for the future is to improve the overall design and cooperative interactions of the many institutional components involved in the CRM Program.

Strategic Planning is obviously required to meet this challenge. In fact, an over-arching theme of this Report is that ***CRM must develop a comprehensive and in-depth Strategic Plan that defines its vision, mission, goals, and objectives, and lays out clearly the the roles and required interactions of the numerous laboratories, centers, institutes and grant programs engaged in CRM-related activities.***

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board, I submit this key report on Climate Research and Modeling as a contribution to NOAA's efforts to tackle these important problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Fluharty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

David Fluharty, Chair
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