



March 18, 2012

The Honorable Jane Lubchenco
Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Lubchenco:

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you the white paper report from the Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG). The purpose of this paper is to communicate DAARWG's perspective and recommendations on the urgent need to establish a NOAA-wide Environmental Data Management Framework (EDMF). Such a framework will efficiently satisfy the increasing and critical demand for NOAA's diverse environmental data sets and model outputs.

While current NOAA data management initiatives are laudable, there is need for improvement. Based on the National Earth Observations (NEO) strategy, DARRWG recommends that NOAA launch a parallel effort to establish an EDMF that incorporates both access and archive elements of data management. DAARWG increasingly believes that those two elements cannot be addressed in isolation. Any comprehensive and sustainable solution for those two elements can and should be developed only as an integral part of an overall EDMF. This strategy will serve to integrate disparate environmental data management initiatives into an enterprise-wide environmental data management system meeting NOAA's critical mission requirements as well as those of its constituents and users, over the long term. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RJB".

Raymond J. Ban
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board
Consultant, Weather Industry & Government Partnerships

Attachment

cc: Ferris Webster
Kathryn Sullivan
Mary Kicza
Jack Hayes
Deirdre Jones
Jeff de la Beaujardiere
Lewis McCulloch
Adam Steckel
Cynthia Decker
Sanya Compton