



April 8, 2011

The Honorable Jane Lubchenco, Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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 report from the Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG) that was presented to and accepted by the SAB at the March, 2011 meeting. As you know, prior to its December, 2010 meeting, the DAARWG had not met in nearly two years. The SAB would like to recognize the efforts of the DAARWG Chair, Dr. Ferris Webster and the NOAA representative to the DAARWG, Ms. Helen Wood, for their success in reinvigorating the Working Group and producing a solid report.

The report notes with approval that NOAA is making progress towards defining an architecture and approach, along with policies and procedures to provide integrated data services. It also positively highlights the explicit inclusion of the "generation of environmental information" into the NOAA Vision and Mission.

DAARWG members were impressed by the progress of the NOAA Fisheries Enterprise Data Management (EDM) program and believe that the Fisheries EDM should extend beyond solely meeting the data management requirements internal to NOAA Fisheries. Therefore the report makes and the SAB supports the recommendation that:

"Approaches used in the Fisheries Enterprise Data Management system should be developed with a broader base of use in mind, in order to become fully inter-operative with other data management programs both within and outside of NOAA."

The SAB also recognizes and supports NOAA's objective of establishing an integrated "system of systems" approach to the management and archival of the many dissimilar types of data that NOAA produces. Certainly the current approach of focusing on making sure that the various elements of such a system are being implemented in a fully consistent manner is entirely appropriate. In so doing, the ultimate goal of having true data interoperability within and across NOAA, as well as with other relevant data systems outside NOAA, can be enabled in the future. The Board recognizes that this effort is currently being accomplished on a best efforts basis, and encourages NOAA management to continue to support all the dedicated folks who are doing whatever they can to make as much progress as possible towards achieving the data interoperability objective, albeit with very limited funding.

Please let me know of any question or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RJB', written in a cursive style.

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

Enclosure

cc: Bill Townsend
Thomas Zacharia
Mary Glackin
Paul Sandifer
Cynthia Decker
Ferris Webster
Helen Wood
Lewis Mc Culloch