

November 9, 2010

To: NOAA Science Advisory Board

From: Donna Wieting
Coastal Goal Lead

Subject: Response to SAB recommendations on NOAA's Coastal Strategy Initiative

Thank you for your thoughtful comments on NOAA's approach in the coastal zone. As the Acting Director for NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management and the lead for NOAA's Coastal Communities and Economies Goal within NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan (NGSP), I appreciate and welcome your interest in this subject.

In your letter you support NOAA's effort to develop a comprehensive coastal strategy that incorporates ecosystem and social science and supports policy and management. As you can see from the attached presentation and the attached final NGSP, NOAA has developed a strategic plan that not only highlights the importance of our coasts throughout the plan, but calls out resilient coastal communities and economies as one of NOAA's primary long-term goals.

In the NGSP, and particularly in the Resilient Coastal Communities and Economies goal (page 25 of attached NGSP), NOAA has presented a comprehensive coastal strategy that incorporates ecosystem and social sciences and supports policy and management. NOAA has also put forward an objective within the Coastal Goal that lays out a framework for comprehensive ocean and coastal planning and management which will serve to inform decisions about policy issues, meet the needs of end users, such as coastal managers and local decision makers, and comprises a planning and assessment process.

The current coastal focus in the NGSP could not have happened without the strong relationships built by the coastal strategy participants and stakeholder input during the development of the NGSP.

I look forward to continuing to working with the SAB as we finalize the development of the NGSP and the Coastal Communities and Economies objectives, and turn our attention to implementing the activities and policies to help us achieve these objectives over the near and long term.