

DATE

Neil A. Jacobs, Ph.D.

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction
Performing the duties of Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
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 from the SAB entitled *A Review of NOAA's Aquaculture Science Portfolio*. The SAB approved this report at its June 18, 2019 teleconference meeting but made additional revisions at its July 10-11, 2019 meeting.

The purpose of this activity was to review the NOAA Draft Strategic Aquaculture Science Plan (SASP) and the research priorities identified by the NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) so that the SAB could propose tactics to optimize return on investment by ensuring the science is done with the appropriate tools.

Twelve recommendations were made on actions that could be taken by NOAA. They ranged from measures that would help strengthen the research enterprise in NOAA with respect to the various mechanisms available to support aquaculture science to administrative actions regarding the need for adequate human resources and funding. In particular, the report highlighted the need for testbeds and demonstration facilities, especially for innovative projects that are challenged to get permits because regulators have questions about potential impacts or negative interactions.

The SAB encourages NOAA to provide feedback, as you deem appropriate, at the first opportunity. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lynn Scarlett
Chair, NOAA Science Advisory Board
Vice President for Policy & Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy

Attachment:
A Review of NOAA's Aquaculture Science Portfolio

CC: Tim Gallaudet
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