



External Review of the Cooperative Institute for Marine Resource Studies (CIMRS)

A Presentation to the
NOAA Science Advisory Board

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Review Panel Chair

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Outline



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- CIMRS Themes
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 - Science Management
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Science Review Panel

David Lodge, Ph.D., Chair

University of Notre Dame

Craig L. Moyer, Ph.D.

Western Washington University

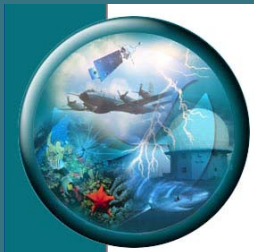
Julia K. Parrish, Ph.D.

University of Washington

Randy Pepler, Ph.D.

Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies (CIMMS)

University of Oklahoma



CIMRS and NOAA Collaborators



- Established in 1982 at Oregon State University (OSU)
- CIMRS scientists are located both at the OSU campus in Corvallis, Oregon and at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon
- CIMRS partnership brings university scientists together with scientists from NOAA's:
 - Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NMFSC)
 - Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC) and
 - Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL)



CIMRS Research Themes



- Marine Bioacoustics
- Seafloor Processes
- Marine Ecosystems and Habitat
- Protection and Restoration of Marine Resources



Strategic Plan: Findings and Recommendations



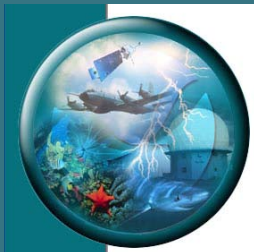
- Strong record of accomplishment on its four research themes, but marine bioacoustics is the only research group that clearly functions as a team and that has a sustained record of leveraging NOAA investments into major external funding.
 - No formal strategic plan document exists.
1. CIMRS should produce a more formal strategic plan.
 2. The Director should embrace his role as the primary representative and spokesperson for CIMRS.
 - A. *Recommendation for NOAA:* Leadership of NOAA partner agencies should provide guidance and consultation to CIMRS at the earliest stages of discussion and long-range planning.



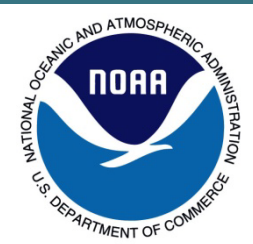
Science Review: Findings



- Extensive collaborations among CIMRS faculty and NOAA investigators from PMEL due to the collocation.
- “CIMRS makes things easier” by funding pilot projects, bridging gaps in student funding, and facilitating networking among public and private groups.
- With few exceptions, social science is rarely integrated into research themes.
- Except for Marine Bioacoustics, none of the other research programs/projects seemed to be part of a larger team, although multiple projects were grouped under themes.
- Plan is inadequate to both address emerging edges of research and support existing programs or sunset those that are no longer vital.
- CIMRS augments the human capacity and research programs of the NOAA laboratories; researchers can be hired much more easily by CIMRS than by NOAA.



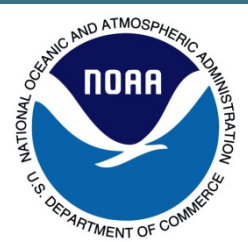
Science Review: Recommendations



3. Plan potential for commercialization of intellectual property.
4. CIMRS should foster research depth in strong, unique research themes.



Education/Outreach: Findings and Recommendations



- Integration of dedicated outreach and engagement programs seemed nascent.
- Postdoctoral researchers and dedicated graduate students were absent, a missed opportunity for leverage by NOAA.
- No program exists to increase diversity and inclusion of under-represented groups.

5. A stronger, more visible partnership should be created between CIMRS and Oregon Sea Grant.

6. Create stronger undergraduate student, graduate student, and postdoctoral participation in CIMRS.

7. Plan to engage traditionally underrepresented groups in CIMRS.



Science Management: Findings and Recommendations



- CIMRS Director Michael Banks helps individual faculty and agency researchers realize grant funding through CIMRS.
- If CIMRS disappeared, there would be a significant impact to university-NOAA linkages at HMSC where one of every four staff on site is a CIMRS employee.
- Management of CIMRS science is better than could be expected given the low Task I funding (increased last year from \$50K to \$71K annually).

8. Increased attention needed to strategic management, implementation, and marketing/communications

9. Foster more cohesion and collaboration within research themes.

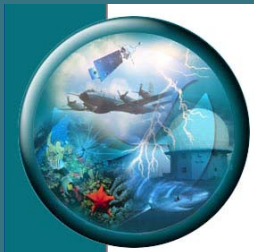
B. *Recommendation for NOAA:* Increase Task 1 funding to at least the level originally identified in the request for proposals, so that OSU can become more of a genuine partner and not merely a contractor.



Other Recommendation



C. Recommendation for NOAA: Finalize new instructions to review panels to allow more nuanced and detailed evaluations of the various components of CIs.



Overall Rating



OUTSTANDING



Questions?