An Assessment of NOAA’s Social Science Capability and Needs
Introduction

• Responding to request for Social Science Needs Assessment
• Social Science and NOAA’s Vision
• Role of social science in NOAA
• Status of social science at NOAA - capacity, needs and gaps
• Filling the gaps
“The capacity of NOAA to meet its mandates and mission is diminished by the under-representation and under utilization of social science.”


*Recommendation 4.2* NOAA should conduct a formal needs assessment to determine its needs for social science staff and research by program, and determine the appropriate mix of internal and external staffing to meet these needs. NOAA SAB, 2009
NOAA Vision: NOAA Serves Society

“Healthy ecosystems, communities, and economies that are resilient in the face of change.”
“...necessary to sustain economic growth”
“...health of human society...”

“An informed society...”

“Society is prepared for and responds to...”

“...communities are environmentally and economically sustainable”

“...understanding of the interaction between human activities and the Earth system...”
“...understanding of the interaction between human activities and the Earth system...”
“supports private enterprise with the information necessary to sustain economic growth”
“... communities are environmentally and economically sustainable”
“...social sciences continue to be underrepresented in NOAA’s research, operations, and decision making.”

Social Science – More Than Research
NOAA Mandates for Social Science

Magnuson Stevens Act
Regulatory Flexibility Act
Endangered Species Act
National Environmental Policy Act
Coastal Zone Management Act
National Marine Sanctuaries Act
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
Oil Pollution Act
Social Science Needs and Capacity
Demand for Social Science at NOAA

- OMB Passback/PCAST
- Billion-dollar weather and climate disasters
- Strategic investments, value of NOAA
- Response to legal mandates

The CPA identifies “Investments in social science data, research, and analysis” as a Mission-Critical gap
Critical Needs

- Managing ecosystem services
- Weather Ready Nation
- Interdisciplinary expertise for Climate Prediction and adaptation
- Fishery management
Critical Needs

1. Fisheries socioeconomic data collection
2. Understanding and communicating the value of NOAA’s products and services
3. Interdisciplinary decision support work for Climate Program Office and National Climate Assessment
4. Risk behavior information
5. Risk communication expertise
6. Non-market value information on resiliency and hazards
7. Economic information for resource damage assessments
8. Valuing ecosystem services
### Summary of Social Science Capacity and Gaps - Staff*

<table>
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<th>FY 11 Capacity</th>
<th>Immediate Risks</th>
<th>Gaps**</th>
<th>Fully Operational</th>
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* These include both Federal and contract staff

**These represent additional staff needed
Relative Capacity

Total NOAA FTEs: 12,321

NOAA Social Science FTEs: 95

- OAR
- NESDIS
- NOS
- NMFS
- NWS
- PPI
- HQ
- OMAO
Recomendations

• One-NOAA Social Science Committee

• Fill the gaps – Tiger Team

• Periodic Needs Assessments
Moving Forward

Tiger Team

✓ Recommendations for filling critical gaps
✓ Reports to Deputy Undersecretary for Operations
✓ Due August 2013
Thank You

Questions ?