



Response to NOAA's Science Advisory Board's Review of the High Arctic Program in NOAA

A Presentation to the NOAA Science Advisory Board

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Outline



- Purpose
- Importance of NOAA's Arctic Program
- Issue
- Response to 2016 SAB Recommendations
- Capacity to Implement Recommendations
- High Level Concerns



Purpose

- To respond to the the SAB as NOAA works to improve and build its Arctic Program internally as well as continue collaborations with external partners.
 - Preliminary thoughts
 - Preliminary actions



Importance of the Arctic Program to NOAA



- NOAA's Vision
- NOAA's Arctic Vision and Strategy (2011)
 - *NOAA envisions an Arctic where decisions and actions related to conservation, management, and use are based on sound science and support healthy, productive, and resilient communities and ecosystems. The agency seeks a future where the global implications of Arctic change are better understood and predicted.*
- NOAA's Arctic Action Plan / Update 2018
 - Advance Maritime Commerce (Blue Economy)
 - Weather/Water
 - US Economic and National Security
- NOAA's Interagency Work
- NOAA's International Work



Issue: NOAA's Science Advisory Board Recommendations



Overarching Finding: NOAA's Arctic efforts need further improved coordination and enhanced platforms, including fleet replenishments, in order to fulfill its mission and provide international leadership.



NOAA Capacity to Implement Recommendations



Recommendation #1: *NOAA should develop and coordinate, across multiple line offices, a comprehensive, five-year High Arctic Research Program, including both field and modeling efforts.*

Response:

- NOAA instituted a NAO which lays out a plan to create cross Line Office coordination including several HQ Staff offices with Senior Level leaders on an Executive Committee with the full support of the AA's and Staff Office Directors. The NAO also created a cross Line Office Action team comprised of high level staff to support various cross Line Office coordination on various requests and necessary feedback as well as providing a mechanism to coordinate information relevant to NOAA's work in the Arctic Region. The NAO created this cross Line Office Arctic program to coordinate our arctic programs but not funding or directive to conduct a program as recommended by the SAB. Currently the NOAA Arctic Senior Advisor is leading the effort to update NOAA's current Action/Implementation plan and is slated to be completed by the end of the summer 2018.
- NOAA-OAR-Arctic Research Program would be a foundational piece of this effort, but has been zeroed in the current president's budget.



NOAA Capacity to Implement Recommendations



Recommendation #2: *Increased and focused investments are needed in order for NOAA to fulfill its identified responsibilities within national and international observing programs that are the front line of detecting change in the Arctic ecosystem.*

Response:

- OAR Arctic Research Program plays a critical role in current investments as do other lines. Focus (NOAA, interagency, international) is being developed through current investment in US AON, as well as other lines of efforts within NOAA's Arctic Research Program such as...IASOA, DBO, IABP.



NOAA Capacity to Implement Recommendations



Recommendation #3: *NOAA should continue to strengthen its international efforts and science-based leadership through the working groups of the Arctic Council, e.g., Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) and Emergency Prevention, Preparedness & Response Subcommittee (EPPR).*

Response:

- Support for US scientific leadership in international efforts and the CBMP is provided by several Line Offices and successfully coordinated utilizing the NOAA Arctic Executive Committee as well as the NOAA Arctic Action Team.



NOAA Capacity to Implement Recommendations



Recommendation #4: *NOAA should systematically estimate the impact of science partnerships (both in kind efforts and monetary support) through cross Line-Office, US interagency and international partnerships supporting its High Arctic Program.*

Response:

- NOAA has taken several steps in order to systematically estimate the impact of science partnerships across the Line Offices.



NOAA Capacity to Implement Recommendations



Recommendation #5: *NOAA should develop a clearer vision and statement of its strategic role and scientific research activities in the Arctic, both nationally and internationally.*

Response:

NOAA has indicated a desire to update its Vision and Strategy as well as NOAA's Arctic Action Plan and will have a draft version by the end of summer, 2018.



High Level Items to Note



- Administration Focus on the Arctic Region
- Budgetary / Resource Concerns