



Revisions - Summary



- A fundamental goal of CINAR's vision and plan is to be directly involved in meeting NOAA's research and management needs through innovative research and policy guidance. The CI is working hard to meet this strategic goal. However, the strength of the consortium and its ability to fully execute and expand upon the vision for CINAR is hindered somewhat by a lack of discretionary funding.



Revisions – Strategic Plan



- A major effort in this regard has been the convening of multiple workshops between CINAR investigators and NOAA scientists and. This type of strategic planning is conducted in parallel with CINAR's ongoing response to individual program needs from NOAA sponsors. Other activities include frequent meetings with the CINAR Director and NMFS senior managers and branch chiefs to identify ways to expand opportunities for CINAR investigators to work with NOAA scientists. On the OAR side, CINAR climate research and ocean observing activities are done in close collaboration with OAR's Climate Observing Division (COD) and Climate Program Office (CPO) as well as with partners at NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) and Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories (AOML) and with the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) under the National Weather Service.



Revised Findings: Strategic Plan



- CINAR is conducting high-quality research and education/outreach projects across all six themes and contributing positively to NOAA's management needs, particularly at OAR and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). In addition, CINAR is providing critical support for NOAA's immediate needs for targeted research at the individual project level while also striving to move forward with its strategic plan.
- Currently CINAR allows academic scientists and NOAA sponsors to work one-on-one to develop proposals that respond to specific management needs. The science output of these activities is outstanding and clearly addresses NOAA's needs in the region. Given current funding levels, however, particularly the lack of discretionary or programmatic funding, CINAR does not have the resources to rapidly achieve the long-term strategic vision that was proposed when the CI was competed.



Revised Findings: Strategic Plan



- There are numerous partnerships between CINAR investigators and OAR and NMFS scientists, many of which were developed before CINAR was established. There are opportunities for CINAR to facilitate new relationships among academic scientists and NOAA and the CI is working to achieve this through its workshop program.
- CINAR has facilitated awareness of the expertise available at the partner institutions and needs of NOAA partners through presentations to the Climate Board at NOAA Headquarters or seminars and webcasts within the NEFSC. Continued attention is needed to broaden recognition among researchers within CINAR and potential NOAA sponsors of the available expertise and potential collaborations across institutions.



Revisions Science Management



- The Review Panel found the science management of CINAR to be sound and in capable hands. As CINAR is a consortium CI, many of its science activities are undertaken following discussions among the Consortium Partners. The PIs confer frequently via conference calls and occasionally in person meetings to discuss administrative and management issues as well the ways that CINAR can move forward toward the vision outlined in the original proposal. The CINAR Director and Administrator have frequent meetings with the NEFSC senior managers and branch chiefs. They have regularly scheduled meetings, as well as those that are responsive to specific issues. The CINAR Administrator and Administrative Professional meet semi-annually with NEFSC Federal Project Officer Kelly Taranto and her assistant Sarah Pike to review each year's proposal submission process and share information. CINAR also utilizes an ad hoc advisory committee of CINAR investigators and NMFS representatives to address issues that do not require the attention of senior management at the center. This has been a highly positive and supportive relationship from both sides.



Revised Findings: Science Management



- The review panel commends the management that CINAR has been able to accomplish under this task. CINAR expressed a desire to take a more active role in prioritizing research activities and in directly funding the most promising and relevant science in the region. However, challenges exist due to the absence of programmatic or discretionary funding.
- Topic-oriented workshops conducted by CINAR are a strong example of the integration and coordination of science among Consortium PIs. Four topic-oriented planning workshops have been conducted by CINAR, and five additional workshops are approved and in the planning stage.