The NOAA Research Agenda: A Portfolio Logic

A Presentation to the NOAA Science Advisory Board

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A Research Agenda is:

- A logic model for guiding research to meet NOAA’s mission needs and priorities
- A basis for establishing and optimizing research investments (programs, personnel, infrastructure etc.)
- A vehicle for assessing portfolio performance

…today and in the future
Increasing and institutionalizing the effectiveness of NOAA research.

Collaboration

Investment

Transition

Existing Weather Model

New HRRR Weather Model
A Research Agenda should be:

Useful

Understandable to a broad array of stakeholders

Foundational

Integrated into strategic plans and implementation plans

Defensible
NOAA’s R&D Portfolio

NOAA R&D Obligations in FY14 (in millions USD)

- National Ocean Service: 105.1
- National Marine Fisheries Service: 73.1
- Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research: 67
- National Weather Service: 33
- Other NOAA: 387.8
What is the Research Agenda?

*Image from University of Hawaii Department of Theatre and Dance

**Image staged; any semblance to real bureaucrat is unintentional and coincidental
The core elements are:

• Operational/guiding principles
• Portfolio of mission needs
• Capabilities
• Roles and responsibilities
• Accountability
Operational/Guiding Principles

Mission Driven
Management, Planning, and Accountability
Innovation
Credibility

Balanced in Research Spectrum
Partnership-Based Capability
Portfolio of mission needs

- Research as a tool for meeting NOAA’s mission(s) as a science-based services agency
- Develop a portfolio of mission needs such that research priorities are:
  - Transparent; traceable; adaptable; evaluated based on mission needs; corporate; and integrated with other priority-setting processes
Capabilities

- Citizen Scientists
- Sea Grant
- NOAA labs and science centers
- Industry partners
- SBIR
- Cooperative Institutes
- Other grantees
- Cooperative Science Centers
- RISAs
- OSSEs
- Cooperative Ecosystem Science Units
Roles and Responsibilities

- Program Managers
- Line Office Transition Managers
- Lab directors
- Office directors
- Principal investigators
- Cross-NOAA team leads
- Portfolio manager?
Accountability

To ensure:

• Research is aligned with guiding principles of NOAA’s research agenda
• Performance (using performance measures and other data) is monitored and objectively evaluated
• Decision points (“gates”) are defined
• Decisions throughout: Continue – Accelerate – Redirect – Shelve
How the Research Agenda will be used

Budget development

Execution

Investment priorities

We are using developing concepts for the Research Agenda to guide Research Council input into prioritizing FY17 budget requests.
Next steps (?)

• External engagement
• Drafting by staff in the Office of the Chief Scientist
• Input from the SAB
What we want from the SAB

• Are we on the right path?
• Feedback on structure, focus and utility
• How should the Research Agenda be developed, used and promulgated?