

# CINAR PROVIDES GREAT VALUE TO NOAA

- **NOAA receives high quality scientific products beyond what NOAA could produce alone**
  - CINAR leverages other grants the investigators receive and unique university resources
- **Continuity beyond what NOAA gets from typical extramural grants**
- **Research that is particularly relevant to NOAA**
  - The close connection between CINAR and NOAA staff ensures the work stays on point
  - NOAA makes better management decisions as a result of this work
- **CINAR is training scientists relevant to NOAA's mission**
  - CINAR students understand more than typical students the tapestry into which their work fits

# EXAMPLES OF CINAR'S VALUE

- **Argo float program**

- Produces NOAA's most reliable data for ocean warming and other physical measurements
- Foundational for validating the models that are at the core of NOAA's ocean management
- Close collaborative relationships with platform/sensor suppliers facilitates introduction of new technologies into the global array

- **Fisheries in a changing climate**

- Strong collaboration between NOAA and CINAR scientists, and with industry
- Leverages expertise and bandwidth not available in NOAA
- National model for "Climate Ready Nation" and "Blue Economy" strategies

- **North Atlantic Right Whale management**

- CINAR provides whale distribution information from buoys and gliders in near real-time
- Drives NOAA's Slow Zones for Right Whales Program, which reduces ship strikes
- Mission critical as the Northern Right Whale declines to extinction (projected by 2035)

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- **There are untapped resources at CINAR institutions**
- **The research is mostly reactive and responding to immediate NOAA needs**
- **Tracking and promotion of diversity can be improved**

# UNTAPPED RESOURCES

- **The percentage of scientists at the partner institutions participating in CINAR is small**
  - There are skill sets available to NOAA they are not making use of
- **Many NOAA program managers are unaware of CINAR and the scientists they have access to**
  - Similarly, many scientists at CINAR institutions have little feel for NOAA needs and how they may participate
- **Connections between the ocean observations and fisheries/ecosystem themes is limited**
  - There aren't many all-hands get togethers, which lessens opportunity for innovation

# RESEARCH IS TOO REACTIVE

- **CINAR is largely a soft-money entity**
  - There are almost no unrestricted funds associated with the agreement
  - CINAR Investigators have individual “licenses to hunt” for programmatic funds
- **As a result, CINAR’s research focuses on low-risk short-term needs**
  - Relationship would be enhanced by longer-term vision
- **Cooperative Institutes should be tapping into new ideas that are being generated at the universities**
  - A higher percentage of the NOAA investment should be allocated to high risk-high reward trend-setting projects
  - CINAR should have a stronger voice in identifying those opportunities

# TRACKING AND PROMOTING DIVERSITY

- **CINAR has several diversity promoting programs**
  - InFish
  - Summer internships
- **However, they are disjointed**
  - They also focus on students, not on how to enhance PI diversity
  - They have a minority serving institution, but don't use it to the extent they could
- **CINAR does not have a process for tracking diversity participation**
  - In fairness, this is difficult because of privacy rules
  - It was also not part of the grant requirements
  - Still there are opportunities to raise the profile

# RECOMMENDATION: BROADEN PARTICIPATION IN CINAR

- **Develop ways to inform faculty at CINAR institutions about the CI, it's mandate, and opportunities for funding**
  - Webinars for partner institutions
  - On-site presentations at each institution
  - inform new faculty about CINAR opportunities during the onboarding process
- **Better inform NOAA program managers about CINAR opportunities**
  - Could be accomplished by holding a "CINAR day" at OAR, NMFS, and NOS offices

# RECOMMENDATION: TRANSITION CINAR CULTURE FROM REACTIVE TO PROACTIVE

- **NOAA: Get CINAR more involved in your research planning**
- **CINAR: Hold workshops in selected emerging topic areas**
  - Use these to create forward-looking multidisciplinary initiatives
  - Integrate your fellowship programs into these initiatives
- **Both: Find unencumbered funds to invigorate the planning process**
  - CINAR: Leverage partner institutions' unrestricted funds and/or modify IDC policies to provide workshop/seed money
  - NOAA: Enhance the level of Task 1 funding to allow for more planning



# RECOMMENDATION: PROMOTE DIVERSITY

- **Take advantage of DEI opportunities**
  - Expand In Fish example to OAR
  - Integrate Cooperative Science Center into CINAR
  - Promote engagement of UMES faculty and students in CINAR projects
- **Establish mechanisms for tracking diversity**
  - Maintain communication with CINAR educational alumni, sustain mentoring and support, and track career paths
  - Add a section in annual reports that tabulate demographics for each CINAR partner institution