



SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

May 23, 2023

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator
Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 6811
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Spinrad:

Subject: Transmittal of the NOAA Science Advisory Board Outline for a Study on a Net Zero Emissions NOAA Fleet by 2050

On behalf of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), I am pleased to transmit to you the outline of Phase I for achieving a Net Zero Emissions (NZE) NOAA Fleet by 2050. The topic was first proposed to the SAB at the SAB Meeting on August 30-31, 2022. The outline was developed by a subcommittee of SAB members.

The SAB proposes five initial recommendations as follows:

1. SAB believes achieving an NZE NOAA Fleet by 2050 is a worthwhile topic to pursue.
2. SAB believes it should be led by NOAA, and not originate with the SAB.
3. The study should not be a science/research study – it should instead focus on applications, engineering, and a strategic plan for NZE NOAA Fleet 2050.
4. SAB believes critical aspects of the study are:
 - Success of implementation requires NOAA/OMAO ownership;
 - Urgency of action – actions taken before 2030 are critical to achieve NZE Fleet by 2050; and
 - Role of a concept of operations and use of associated technology (e.g., AUVs) has a large potential impact and requires input from an overall NOAA strategy and timeline for implementing associated technology.
5. SAB recommends dividing a program into phases to achieve the 2050 NZE goal.

Additionally, the SAB committed to assembling a team to review progress, make recommendations, and assist with the NOAA study as it progresses to enable quick feedback or course changes.

The subcommittee recommends the initial study identify phases of the strategy, looking at three separate time periods, with objectives, actions, and success criteria for each phase:

Phase 1: 2023 to 2030

Phase 2: 2030 to 2040

Phase 3: 2040 to 2050

The SAB greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide this advice to NOAA. We look forward to engagement with NOAA on this critical topic in coming years.

Very Respectfully,



John R. Kreider
SAB Chair

Cc: Sarah Kapnick
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Michael Weiss
RADM Nancy Hann
Randall TeBeest
Anthony Wu
Jesse Ausubel

Cynthia Decker
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Attachment: NOAA Science Advisory Board Outline for a Study on a Net Zero Emissions NOAA Fleet by 2050