

HSRP Comments on Findings and Recommendations (Received as of 9/22/05)

Issue: NOAA Hydrographic Services Role in the Integrated Ocean Observing System

Comments from Panel Member: Ms. Helen Brohl

Rewrite:

"The HSRP recognizes that the development of an integrated ocean and coastal observing system has both real-time and long-term benefit to the protection and understanding of our coastal resources. One only needs to observe the environmental consequences from a ship grounding or critical importance of real-time storm surge observations to understand that a coastal observing system should be a priority for the nation. Real-time hydrographic observations such as those provided by NOAA's Physical Oceanographic Real Time System directly support safe navigation, while the existing National Water Level Observation Network provided critical water level and tide information to the communities and industries along the Gulf before and after Hurricane Katrina.

The Panel recognizes that NOAA currently supports and operates a number of programs, including those previously mentioned, that provide observing criteria in support of the seven societal goals of an IOCOS which Congress has already outlined and includes:

- *Detecting and forecasting oceanic components of climate variability*
- *Facilitating safe and efficient marine operations*
- *Ensuring national security*
- *Managing resources for sustainable use*
- *Preserving and restoring healthy marine ecosystems*
- *Mitigating natural hazards*
- *Ensuring public health*

The Panel recommends further development and expansion of NOAA's observing programs which provide critical components for an IOCOS. The HSRP recommends that NOAA consider an IOCOS system based on a model of the National Weather Service, a publicly funded service that benefits a wide variety of user groups. By virtue of both in-house expertise and capabilities and non-federal service and research partnerships, the Panel believes that NOAA should be the lead coordinating agency for the development of a national IOOS development plan. However, until such time as this may be made official by executive order or other mechanism, the Panel recommends that NOAA develop a plan, time table, and line item funding recommendations from which the existing NOAA system of observations will be developed and/or enhanced."

Comment from Panel Member: *Admiral Richard West* (on Ms. Brohl's Comments above):

"...I don't agree with changing IOOS to IOCOS; There are a lot of oos' and I think we now have this town understanding what IOOS is and it certainly includes coastal observing [and the RAs' will make sure], adding another acronym now will just provide 'convenient confusion'"

Comment from Panel Member: *Ms. Helen Brohl* (on Admiral West's Comment above):

"With regard to calling IOOS - IOCOS; This just follows the Senate Bill S 361 which now refers

to it as Integrated Ocean and Coastal Observing. Whether we call it that is okay as long as we emphasize the coastal components as being a priority area for all stakeholders."