

I urge that you consider forming a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by merging NOAA and the Department of Interior. (This concept was almost implemented in the early days of the Nixon Administration.)

Ocean, atmosphere, and land issues are linked. What is dumped on the land to some extent ends up in the ocean. What is burned on the land ends up in the atmosphere.

Oceanic, atmospheric and land science needs to be better integrated, as demonstrated by proposals for "earth system science".

This linkage and integration could be achieved in a DNR. The science could be separated from regulatory functions by including an Under Secretary for Science and an Under Secretary for Resource Management in the structure with separate budgetary authorities.

If one were starting from scratch to establish an earth science research program, the idea of separating ocean research from geological research would be laughable. If your commission were advising another country on how to organize earth science research, would you seriously consider separating ocean and atmosphere activities from land ones?

The DNR need not include everything; for example, it need not include agriculture or naval research. It would have a viable nucleus with NOAA and DOI. Coordinating entities could help activities not included.

This is my personal view, not that of my employer.

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