

May 1, 2011

Ray Ban, Chair,
NOAA Science Advisory Board
OAR/SAB
1315 East West Highway
Room 11219
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ray Ban:

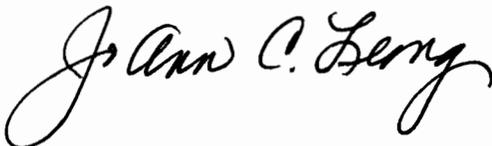
- On behalf of the Ecosystem Science and Management Working Group (ESMWG) of the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB), we the co-chairs are pleased to transmit our report, "Strategic Advice on Designing and Implementing Coastal and Marine Spatial Plans" to you for your consideration of its suitability as advice to the NOAA Administrator. Preliminary results were presented to the NOAA SAB in March 2011. This final report has attempted to respond to suggestions from the SAB.

The ESMWG established a Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning subcommittee to review and assess a representative set of 17 MSP examples from around the world (including plans and national frameworks). Our aim was to offer findings and recommendations from these efforts to assist NOAA (and the NOC) in the development of CMSP regionally and nationally. We developed a survey for these planning efforts and evaluated them based on published literature, interviews with plan leaders, and experiences from our direct involvement in planning efforts. We also examined the broader body of published works on MSP in the evaluation of evidence, findings and recommendations.

Our review, findings and recommendations are focused on seven key categories central to the development of CMSP: (i) objectives, (ii) scope, (iii) authority, (iv) participants, (v) data, (vi) decision support and (vii) performance measures. Across these categories, we identified 23 recommendations for NOAAs consideration.

We look forward to presenting these final findings and recommendations to the NOAA SAB on its May 16, 2011 Conference Call.

Sincerely,



Jo-Ann Leong, Co-Chair
Ecosystem Science and Management Working Group



David Fluharty, Co-Chair