UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

MAR 25 2008

Dr. David Fluharty, Chair NOAA SAB
Wakefield Professor of Ocean and Fishery Sciences
College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences
School of Marine Affairs
University of Washington
3707 Brooklyn Avenue, NE
Seattle, Washington 98105

Dear Dr. Fluharty:

Thank you for the valued recommendations from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Science Advisory Board (SAB) relating to improving NOAA's data archives and access. NOAA agrees with the recommendations that are outlined in your December 18, 2007, letter. We have already begun a process to execute the required actions in response to your recommendations. Our actions are highlighted below.

SAB Recommendation 1: NOAA develops a retention policy for multiple versions of datasets. A useful first step would be a workshop involving users and NOAA data people.

NOAA agrees with the recommendation. Planning has begun for a NOAA workshop that will address a comprehensive policy for NOAA archives, including multiple versions of datasets. The policy will draw heavily from a National Research Council report, which was released in November 2007, titled *Environmental Data Management at NOAA*. It is expected this new policy will update and replace an existing NOAA Administrative Order (NAO 212-15) titled *Management of Environmental and Geospatial Data*. The following steps have and will be taken to address this recommendation:

- A NOAA writing team, under the auspices of our NOAA Observing Systems Council and its Data Management Committee, collaborating with the Chief Information Officer, has been assembled to develop a draft policy. The draft policy will be completed in April 2008.
- A NOAA workshop will be held simultaneously on June 10, 2008, in Asheville, NC, and Silver Spring, MD. Attendees will include NOAA data managers, senior NOAA officials, and members of the Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG). The workshop's goal will be to familiarize key personnel with the policy and ensure it enables the desired outcome.
- A NOAA users' webcast will be held in the fall to introduce the policy to those outside of NOAA who contribute to or use our data. This workshop will be advertised in major society news journals, such as AGU, AMS, and AAG.

THE ADMINISTRATOR

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SAB Recommendation 2: NOAA should define its archive requirements, in order to clarify the roles and responsibilities of CLASS, data centers, centers of data, and involved legacy systems. This process would be aided by creating a NOAA archive architecture group.

NOAA agrees with the recommendation. In response to the recommendation, a Comprehensive Large Array-data Stewardship System (CLASS) operations meeting was held on January 29-30, 2008. At this meeting, a CLASS Operations and Planning Board (COPB) was created and consists of the three NOAA data center directors (voting), the NOAA Satellite and Information Service Chief Information Officer (non-voting), and the CLASS Project Manager (non-voting). COPB will be accountable for the roles and responsibilities of all operational aspects of CLASS as well as all other operational activities associated with CLASS.

In response to the request for a NOAA archive architecture group, NOAA plans to involve its existing architecture teams throughout the agency. The action will be led by NOAA's Data Management Committee, which reports to NOAA's Observing Systems Council. One of the first tasks will be to develop a representation in the form of a schematic of NOAA's existing architecture for data archive and corresponding schematics showing evolution toward the target architecture for NOAA. This target architecture will be consistent with the broader interagency United States Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) architecture.

I very much appreciate the efforts made by SAB in formulating its recommendations on data archive and access. As stated in your letter, these recommendations, and future ones, are critical to NOAA as new systems come online and new technologies develop.

Sincerely,

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA,
AND INFORMATION SERVICE

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Oceans and Atmosphere

FROM: Mary E. Kicza
Assistant Administrator for
Satellite and Information Services

SUBJECT: Response to NOAA's Science Advisory Board Recommendations on Data Archive and Access

Name(s) of Person(s) Requesting Action/Correspondent:

- Dr. David Fluharty, Chair for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) Science Advisory Board (SAB)

Subject/Issues Raised by Person(s) Requesting Action(s)/Correspondent:

- Response to NOAA's SAB Recommendations on Data Archive and Access

Major Points in the Response:

- NOAA agrees with the SAB recommendations and has begun a process to execute the required actions in response to the recommendations.

Potential Controversy:

- None

Other Pertinent Information:

- SAB made recommendations on two archive and access issues.
- The recommendations were developed from the SAB's Data Archive and Access Requirements Working Group (DAARWG) at the SAB meeting in August 2007.
- DAARWG was established by SAB in 2006 and charged with addressing NOAA's data archives, including access to them.

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	NESDIS (Group)
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Folder ID	18604
DOC Control Number	
Signature*	Under Secretary
Clearance Status(ExecSec Only)	
NOAA File List	
Date Due for LO	
Created By	Gaines, Mindy 03/20/2008
Modified By	Gaines, Mindy 03/20/2008
Date on Document	03/10/2008
Date Received	03/11/2008
Date Due	03/31/2008
Date Closed	

Attachments

Details	Download	Description	Type	Access Right	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Letter from VADM to Dr. Fluharty	Word Document	NOAA/NESDIS	Gaines, Mindy	[illegible]
		Clearance	Adobe PDF	NOAA/NESDIS	Gaines, Mindy	[illegible]

Concurrence	USCOS (Group)	Peterson, Sheryl A.	Pending	2400	03/20/2008	03/27/2008	[illegible]	NOAA/NESDIS
Signature	USEC (Group)	Peterson, Sheryl A.	Pending	2500	03/20/2008	03/28/2008	[illegible]	NOAA/NESDIS
Close	NOAA/ES (Group)	Peterson, Sheryl A.	Pending	2600	03/20/2008	N/A		NOAA/ES

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