



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Science Council

CALL-IN INFORMATION

This meeting will be held remotely. Please view your calendar entry to join this meeting via Google Hangouts and/or to join by phone.

1. BUSINESS (10:30 AM – 10:35 AM)

Minutes [Tab 2]

Action Items [Tab 3] & **Chair Announcements**

2. BRIEFINGS (10:35 AM – 12:25 PM)

- **NOAA Center for Artificial Intelligence** – *Jamese Sims and Rob Redmon, NCAI*
10:35 AM – 11:05 AM (30 min)
Informational [Tab 4]
- **Ecosystem Working Group NAMES Website Support** – *Craig McLean, Chair*
11:05 AM – 11:25 AM (20 min)
Directional [Tab 5]
- **Delinquent Marine Scientific Research Reports** – *Alicia Cheripka, OAR IA & Craig McLean, Chair*
11:25 AM – 11:40 AM (15 min)
Discussion [Tab 6]
- **Data Acquisition Plan (NG-DAP) public "Listening Sessions"** – *Cisco Werner, Vice-Chair*
11:40 AM – 11:45 AM (5 min)
Informational
- **UMC to NMB Transition** – *Cisco Werner, Vice Chair & Craig McLean, Chair*
11:45 AM – 12:25 PM (45 min)
Discussion [Tab 7]

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEM REVIEW (12:25 PM – 12:30 PM)

- **Announcements** – *Executive Secretariat*

ADJOURN

SCHEDULED BRIEFINGS	Title	Presenter	Sponsor	Category
March	NOAA IR Annual Briefing	Jennifer Fagan-Fry	Chair	Informational
March	LOTMC Transitions Reports	Stephan Smith	Chair	Directional

NOAA SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

February 08, 2022

10:30 AM to 12:30 PM EST

Google Meet

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

<i>Executive</i> Craig McLean, Chair Cisco Werner, Vice Chair Isha Renta, Exec Sec Ishrat Jabin, Exec Sec <i>Principal</i> Mitch Goldberg, NESDIS Gary Matlock, OAR Evan Howell, NMFS Steve Thur, NOS Stephen Smith, NWS Randall TeBeest, OMAO <i>Advisory</i> Deirdre Clarkin, NOAA Libraries Advisory Committee Cynthia Decker, Scientific Integrity Committee and NOAA Science Advisory Board Shannon Louie, Cooperative Research Committee James Sims, S&T Synergy Committee Natasha White, Office of Education Monica Grasso, Social Science Committee Kelly Wright, Technology Partnerships Office Hendrik Tolman, Council of NOAA Fellows	<i>Other Attendees</i> Rob Redmon, NESDIS Alicia Cheripka, OAR Allison Bosworth, NMFS Brian Gross, NWS Courtney Dragon, NWS Christopher Lauer, SO Dorothy Koch, OAR Edward Gorecki, NMFS Eric Kihn, NESDIS Jason Link, NMFS Leah Dubots, OAR Brooke McHansen, NESDIS Eric Bayler, NESDIS Frank Indiviglio, SO Gina Digiantonio, OAR Jennifer Fagan-Fry, OAR Jennifer Mahoney, OAR Jennifer Vogt, Katelyn Robinson, OAR Sandra Byers, OAR Sarah Davis, OAR
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Notify Exec Sec at oar.rc.execsec@noaa.gov within two weeks of the following meeting if any changes to the minutes are needed. Minutes from the January 11th NOAA Science Council meeting were approved. The Exec Sec reviewed all current action items (TAB 3).

BRIEFINGS - Briefing materials are available in the Science Council Meetings 2022 folder on Google Drive.

NOAA Center for AI (NCAI) Proposed FY22+ Activities – Rob Redmon, NCAI Lead

Rob Redmon, NCAI Lead, presented a briefing that outlined the National AI Initiative and some proposed activities for FY22+. Some of the proposed activities are to coordinate AI Research and Development and to accelerate AI research into NOAA operations. From their previous AI Data Call, they have found 14 projects that are synergistic across the Line Offices and missions. To meet the needs of the AI S&T strategy, they need a direct strategic plan as well as long term resources to achieve the fundamental AI strategy outcomes.

Discussion

NOS requests to drop component 3c of NCAI's request: the weather and climate timescales. There were some questions as to what type of funding NCAI is requesting: Are they asking for 2 million in cash, is it a proposal, or is it generic support for staff time allocation? NCAI responds that they are requesting a few hundred thousand from each LO for administration/workshops/NCAI footprint and the rest is to go to the projects that are most likely to transition to a higher RL level. They would also like to get inventive about how to fund. The Chair offers to bring AI into the annual budgeting component, such as how they allocated funding to High Performance Computing (HPC). Jameese Sims states that NCAI is currently run by lantern positions and more funding is needed to do the work. It was recommended that for the request for FY24 PCS - SRGM recommends a treatment and initiative for budgeting across all S&T. They will need to work with the Lines to determine where they can leverage investments in AI applications. One option was also to look at spend plans and supplementals.

Ecosystem Working Group NAMES Website Support – Craig McLean, Chair

The Ecosystem Indicator Working Group (EIWG), a standing working group of NOAA's Science Council, has designed, operates and maintains the National Marine Ecosystem Status website (NAMES, <https://ecowatch.noaa.gov/>). The National Marine Ecosystem Status web portal is a single-entry point to access ecosystem indicators and information. Long-term maintenance of the NAMES website requires a modest investment of resources (approximately \$150K in ORF funds) to procure contract services for back-end maintenance, EIWG operations, and NAMES content updates. This support was handled on an ad hoc basis until FY22, when the NOAA Chief Scientist asked for a rotating support from each of the Line Offices.

Discussion

The principal members focused the discussion on which LO would be responsible for hosting and maintaining the website and where the funding would come from. The physical location of the website is established but who will be responsible for updating the website, who are the POCs, and who will keep it operational? A diverse group of people contributed to the website and no single LO is responsible for it. The Chair suggested that an operational plan be developed, with a list of personnel that would be needed. This task was assigned to Evan Howell, NMFS representative, to lead the effort with a team. NMFS is ready to support where needed, but it should be noted that this is a NOAA product and would need all LO office support. NOS makes a note that if this many tax dollars are being invested in the product, then it needs to be ensured that that product is being used to its potential.

Delinquent Marine Scientific Research Reports – Alicia Cheripka, OAR IA

NOAA scientists currently owe 351 preliminary and final reports as well as data sets from agency research cruises, dating back to 2010. The overdue reports and data sets from NOAA account for approximately 60% of the total outstanding reports and data that U.S. scientists owe other coastal states. A breakdown of the missing reports by line office is attached. Some countries have threatened to withhold Marine Scientific Research (MSR) clearances to the U.S. because of the number of delinquent reports and data sets, which has the potential to greatly hinder the science mission abroad.

Discussion

Alicia Cheripka explained the purpose and overview of the MSR report compliance. There have been talks to revisit the coordination system and reform it. The lack of coordination means that it is more difficult to track where things are sitting and which reports have not been turned in. There is also a gap in knowledge and education on these procedures. There will be an email template sent to each LO to send to their scientists so that the MSR reports can be sent out. A preliminary list of such delinquent reports will be sent to the LOs. Gary Matlock, of OAR, suggested that a proposal be sent to the RDEC to use the NRDD to track and collect these reports. The RDEC will receive a similar briefing by the IA, when it is time.

Data Acquisition Plan (NG-DAP) public "Listening Sessions" – Cisco Werner, Vice Chair

Cisco Werner, Vice Chair, presented a series of public listening sessions from the NG-DAP on fisheries, addressing climate change, the type of data that is out there and what can be done with it. The information will lead to a series of workshops. The Vice Chair suggested that this series be shared and attended by the Science Council.

UMC to NMB Transition - Cisco Werner, Vice Chair and Craig McLean, Chair

On September 21, 2021, the NOAA Science Council recommended that the Unified Modeling Committee (UMC) and NOAA Modeling Board (NMB) develop a “transition plan” for the Unified Modeling Committee to become a function of the NOAA Modeling Board, identifying potential gaps left within the NOAA Science Council following the UMC’s departure.

Discussion

The Chair began the discussion with a series of questions: Is there any component that the Science Council should be sustaining in the synergy across lines? What do we need to do to retain a Science Council discussion of modeling? Do we, as a body, need to retain cross LO engagement of science and modeling? What is the fate of the Weather, Water, Climate Board (WWCB)? The Vice Chair responded that he can see there being a home for modeling challenges and developments that are not constrained by earth system science. The science of modeling is unconstrained by outcome. Which then leads to what is the role of the Science Council: academia and research. The WWCB is more mission oriented and therefore it is important to have a conversation about the two bodies and whether they can co-exist. Eric Bayler raised the concern on how the Science Council has or has not used the UMC. If there is a different vision, that needs to be stated. What they’re hearing is not what they wrote down. Eric Bayler suggested that it remains as a single entity, as opposed to two, because the NMB is not strictly confined to operations. James Sims suggested that the UMC is a member of the synergy committee and an NMB member can replace the UMC member to reinstate the relationship.

between the Science Council. Mitch Goldberg states that the Science Councils' role is to provide oversight of NOAA activities. It doesn't matter where the activities are taking place. It would be healthy for the Science Council to review the activities of different boards and councils when it's relevant to research and science as a form of checks and balances. A majority of the LO principals agreed that the conversation needs to be continued. A majority of the LO's (NWS, OAR, NESDIS, NOS) also expressed support for moving the UMC to the NMB but additional clarity would be needed. The Chair concluded the conversation and expressed that the two entities continue to do the work that they are doing in the near term (0-3 months) and in the midterm to continue the conversation with the WWCB on moving the UMC to the NMB. The NOAA Science Council will wait on the WWCB before making any further decisions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next NOAA Science Council meeting is on April 12th at 10:30am - 12:30pm ET via Google Meet.

ACTION ITEMS

Action Number	Title	Assigned To	Due Date
20211109 - 1a	NOAA Science Council co-sponsor a seminar with the Office of Education	NSC & OEd	March 2022
20211109 - 1b	Craig McLean, Steve Smith, and Mitch Goldberg have agreed to write a one-pager thought piece on hiring early career scientists.	Craig McLean, Steve Smith, and Mitch Goldberg	February 2022
20211109 - 2	OAR and OMAO develop a draft UxS transition plan to push the issue of stalled transitions forward	OMAO & OAR	February 2022
20210921 - 01	Summary of Existing Transition Reports	LOTMC	March 2022