



# National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Science Council

## NOAA SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

September 10th, 2024

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM ET

Google Meet

### MEETING MINUTES

#### ATTENDEES

##### *Executive*

Sarah Kapnick, Chair  
Miranda Bitting, Exec Sec  
Emily Nocito, Exec Sec

##### *Principal*

John Cortinas, OAR  
Mark Osler, NOS (Alt)  
Clay Porch, NMFS  
Randall TeBeest, OMAO  
Brooke McHansen, NESDIS (Alt)  
Monica Youngman, NWS

##### *Advisory*

Cynthia Decker, Scientific Integrity Officer  
Hendrik Tolman, Council of NOAA Fellows Rep  
Benjamin Hope, NLAC Chair  
Tony LaVoi, Chief Data Officer  
Laura Newcomb, RDEC Chair  
Jeremy Weirich, NOPP-C Chair  
Michael Kruk, TPO Liaison

##### *Other Attendees*

Abigail Arnold, OAR  
Chris Beaverson, OAR  
Amy Biggs, OAR  
Max Brown, NOS  
Megan Deehan, OAR  
Joseph Fillingham, OAR  
Kelly Goodwin, OAR  
Monica Grasso, OFA  
Fiona Horsfall, OAR  
Jim Jenkins, OAR  
Kimani Kimbrough, NOS  
Katherine Longmire, OAR  
Victoria Luu, OAR  
Terence Lynch, OAR  
Victoria Moreno, OAR  
Jessica Morgan, NESDIS  
Hanna Odahara, OAR  
Andrew Peck, OAR  
Julie Price, NESDIS  
Ingrid Ramos-Guasp, NESDIS  
Trevor Riley, OAR  
Susan Roberts, NAS  
Debbie Sinmao, OFA  
Lesley Stokes, NMFS  
Kenneth Vierra, OAR  
Natasha White, OAR  
Melissa Yenko, NMFS  
Elizabeth Eide, NAS

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Notify Exec Sec at [science.council.execsec@noaa.gov](mailto:science.council.execsec@noaa.gov) within two weeks of the following meeting if any changes to the minutes are needed.

### CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We have received the S&T Synergy Task Force's Quarter 4 Report. The report will be sent out to the Council along with some information on the NOAA Omics Strategy.
- Cynthia Decker will be retiring soon and this will be her last Science Council meeting.

### MINUTES

- The August 13th meeting minutes were approved.

### ACTION ITEM REVIEW

- The Exec Sec reviewed current action items.

**BRIEFINGS:** Briefing materials are available in the 2024 Science Council Meetings folder on Google Drive.

Note: Recording stopped ahead of Q&A.

- **NAS OSB and BASC Reports:** Susan Roberts and Elizabeth Eide  
10:35 AM – 11:15 AM (40 min) [04]  
*Informational*

Susan Roberts: OSB is one of the larger boards of this division, with several members rotating off the board and call for nominations is open with appt starting in Jan 2025. OSB provides consensus advice through their studies, which are used to guide policy, research issues, research agendas, develop RFPs, among other uses. For example, the *Global Ocean Plastic Waste* was both NOAA funded and congressionally mandated. A different study, Ocean-based CDR, was funded by a private entity. Other studies have been funded by NMFS, EPA, and other Federal entities. Between 30-50% of OSB's work per year is congressionally mandated work. OSB advises NASEM on studies and workshops that come from Congress, Federal agencies, private groups, etc. and provides a forum to address ocean issues such as infrastructure and technology. OSB also participates in international fora through the US National Committee for SCOR and the US National Committee for Ocean Decade (USNC-OD). Biannual board meetings highlight emerging scientific issues while providing informal interactions with sponsors, briefings and feedback on reports, engagement with the science-policy community, and allows for scoping of future OSB activities. The upcoming October 2024 meeting will focus on the USNC-OD, and follow up on mCDR discussions from the June meeting. It will also include briefings on IEO Workshop held in 2023/early 2024. Some of the reports and workshops in 23/24 including *Oil in the Sea* and *Advancing Research on Understanding Environmental Effects of UV filters from Sunscreens*. Some of the dissemination activities include participation in professional society meetings and the production of new materials such as websites and committee interviews. Additionally, there are three standing committees in OSB, two with BOEM and a Roundtable on Plastics. Currently, some of the studies in development include a study on renewable energy and a study on deep-sea mining.

Elizabeth Eide: Overarchingly, the BASC is broad but focuses mainly through the lens of foundational science and research; trends and advances; dialogue and engagement with the science-policy community and the public. The BASC's areas of work includes climate change as related to adaptation and variability, weather and climate obs, and tech to support weather and climate science, among others. The BASC portfolio includes consensus studies (e.g, *Potential Environmental Effects of Nuclear War*), workshops (e.g., *Advancing Risk Communications with Decision-Makers for Extreme Tropical Cyclones*), and standing activities (e.g., advice to the USGCRP). Some of their recent releases include workshop proceedings (*Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Wildland Fires*) and

by-request reports such as *Developing a Strategy to Evaluate the Nature Climate Assessment*, done for USGCRP and *Modernizing Probable Max Precipitation Estimation*, funded by NOAA. Projects in development include a Road Weather study with FHWA and a Climate Modeling Symposium (which will complement the annual Climate Modeling Summit). Additionally, in Q4 of 2024, there will be a new board chair announcement, a new director announcement, and a continuation of work with the National Academies' Climate Crossroads initiative.

#### Discussion:

The Chair asked if there will be a continuation of meetings virtually to reduce budget for events. Elizabeth Eide responded that, for BASC, they're working to do that across the entire division. She gave the example that BASC has moved biannual meetings to one virtual and one hybrid as to encourage members to come in person but noting that schedules and accessibility may not make that feasible. She noted that, in terms of consensus studies, virtual is harder. Susan agreed and reinforced Elizabeth's statement, noting that for the Equity Fisheries Management meeting, one will be in person and the rest of the meetings will be virtual. The Chair then asked what other federal agencies support this work. Elizabeth noted that the core support for BASC is funded by NOAA, NSF, and NASA, with a myriad of sponsors for other activities. She elaborated that topics vary and often drive the funding. Susan responded that the core funders of OSB are NOAA, ONR, NASA, NSF, and USGS; though some support comes from BOEM and USCG for specific asks. OSB has also received some private funding, such as for the plastics roundtable. The Chair followed up with an inquiry into what percent of their budgets are provided by NOAA. Both Elizabeth and Susan said that they would follow up with more specific numbers. The Chair noted that NOAA's budget for FY25 is potentially lower, and that as NOAA has budgetary pressures, they are going to be looking to reduce costs. There is a need to highlight this issue as planning is underway for the coming years. The chair's final question was related to deep sea mining and whether the deep sea mining study discussion that was launched by DOS was being funded by OSB and/or BASC, or was it being funded internally by NASEM. Susan clarified that these were two different activities - a fast action that came through the DOS, and a consensus study that would be seeking funding from other Agencies. Elizabeth concurred, noting that a meeting would be occurring soon to discuss a consensus study that would be multi-funded. Discussions regarding the DOS request are still occurring in relation to how OSB and/or BASC could support that. For the NASEM to fund this internally, it would need to be on a smaller scale.

OAR thanked both speakers for their presentation, and noted that an increasingly important topic is environmental justice (EJ). OAR asked that, in light of the work OSB has done with workforce and diversity, was EJ an element of that? Susan responded that elements of EJ were present in that study, as well as in the Plastics Roundtable with regard to how the production and waste related to plastics was disproportional in communities. It was also a key element in the Inclusive and Equitable Ocean workshop, which focused on how communities were being treated and engaged with in terms of environmental issues. Elizabeth noted that NASEM just completed an OSTP CEQ study on EJ screening tools that may be of broad interest to the Science Council and NOAA.

Weirich had a question specifically for Sue, noting she touched lightly on the decadal process, which is impactful for other science disciplines. Given this, what was her impression of the work done thus far and would there be a benefit for NOAA to interact more.

Sue responded that there was a strong feeling that it should just be focused on NSF and that when NSF came back the last time, they wanted an interim report and its out. Because the original was an NSF focus, it made the most sense that the follow-up was also focused solely on NSF. With that being said, however, she noted that the report will still be relevant to other agencies.

Decker asked if scientific integrity has come up.

Elizabeth responded that yes, it has. Most recently it has come up in work done for USGS pre-pandemic, as they had congressional inquiries on data management and scientific integrity.

Riley asked that, as consensus studies are considered the gold standard, are there efforts to apply evidence synthesis methodologies as a part of these studies?

Sue responded that it had come up with the EPA sunscreen study, where they looked at the risk assessment and what the study focused on to ensure that the members had that expertise on risk assessment. Elizabeth added that they have done work over the years, especially on public health, that focused on systematic reviews. That type of work is very intensive, high volume, and often needs the support of consultants to assist in the process. While not everything is going to be a systematic review, it may be good to work together on ensuring that everything produced is as good as it can be, especially with the speed that data is available.

- **NOPP-C Update:** Jeremy Weirich  
11:15 AM – 11:35 AM (20 min) [05]  
*Informational*

Jeremy Wienrich then provided an update on the NOPP-C. He reminded the Science Council that the purpose of the NOPP-C was to promote the national goals of ensuring national security, advancing economic development, protecting quality of life, ensuring environmental stewardship, and strengthening science education and communication through improved knowledge of the ocean. The IWG-NOPP is co-chaired by NOAA and ONR and partnership implementation mechanisms include the NOPP Broad Agency Announcements, which is led by ONR. He then got into the details around NOPP projects, noting that they must include multiple Federal agencies and at least two sectors of public, private, and academia. Partners in the project must bring in in-kind funds with some funding provided by NOPP. internal to NOAA, the NOPP-C includes representatives from all LOs. NOAA programs must provide at least a 50% match to NOPP-C dollars for supported projects. FY24 saw \$2.5M enacted; the FY25 Presidential Budget request is \$.990M. For FY24, NOAA NOPP Projects include work on mCDR [OAR OAP and UMaryland]; ocean acoustics [NMFS, NOS, ONR, BOEM, NERACOOS]; Arctic Ocean Workshop [GOMO, ONR, UCAR] and others. NOPP has a program office, which was awarded in FY22, and provides IWG-NOPP coordination, admin support, and engagement. Some challenges that the NOPP faces are budget uncertainty, among others. Currently, they are looking to identify 2-3 'flagship' NOPP Programs, with possible Science Council input via more frequent interactions. He also noted that SOST guidance has been to increase philanthropic support and to advance UNOD activities, but this has not been a priority for NOPP as other things have taken precedence.

The Chair thanked Jeremy for his presentation and continued work with NOPP-C.

Tolman noted the potential for NOPP and that they have a long history of excellence with projects. He gave the example of a project NWS did with NOPP on wave modeling which helped to get better modeling and taught skills still used today.

Jeremy thanked him for the highlight and echoed that the NOPP-C needs to focus on new partnerships and that NOPP is a way to have a forum for Federal agencies and a way in DC to work together. He added that there is bipartisan support because they realize the big impact they can have.

Osler noted that Jeremy had mentioned a tie-in with IOOS and asked for clarification of whether it would be towards maintenance and continuation or rather, towards evolution?

Jeremy responded that he and the advisory council for IOOS have met, and the recommendations are more evolution over maintenance. This is in part because they don't want to have funding leverage basic support as that should fall to agencies. The committee was more focused on where they want to go for the future of IOOS,

though Jeremy did note that there is a need to maintain observations and evolve observations for the future of ocean research.

The Chair commented that, thinking strategically about how the NOPP-C is used, especially in light of the multiplication of funds. She elaborated that in the coming years, there may be a need to be creative in the use of these mechanisms to bring funds together and as a vehicle to bring in private and non-profit funding.

Jeremy noted that the NOPP Program Office has been engaging more at events, such as AGU, but also needs to leverage other players that we haven't yet such as USDA and other DOC bureaus.

Tolman asked for a clarification on whether NOPP Projects still require a non-profit partner, to which Jeremy affirmed. Tolman noted that this is a good vehicle to build broad coalitions and is one of the places to work directly with philanthropic organizations. Jeremy agreed, and added that philanthropy communities are looking at topics in ways NOAA has maybe never have thought about.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next meeting: October 15th at 10:30 am ET

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Exec Sec will send out the S&T Synergy Task Force Q4 report and the NOAA 'Omics Report.
- Elizabeth and Susan will look into Dr. Kapnick's question about the percentage of funding that comes from NOAA for OSB and BASC.