



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Science Council

NOAA SCIENCE COUNCIL MEETING

October 15th, 2024

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM ET

Google Meet

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Executive

Steve Thur, Chair
Emily Nocito, Exec Sec
Katherine Longmire, Exec Sec (Alt)

Principal

Sean Corson, NOS
Michael Ford, NESDIS
Clay Porch, NMFS
DaNa Carlis, OAR (Alt)
Hendrik Tolman, NWS (Alt)

Advisory

Benjamin Hope, NLAC Chair
Michael Kruk, TPO Liaison
Laura Newcomb, RDEC Chair
Casey Stewart, Science Advisory Board Executive Director
Jeremy Weirich, NOPP-C Chair
John McLaughlin, Office of Education Rep

Other Attendees

Roxie Allison-Holman, OGC
Abigail Arnold, OAR
Chris Beaverson, OAR
Amy Biggs, OAR
Sarah Davis, OAR
Jennifer Fagan-Fry, OAR
Joseph Fillingham, OAR
Kelly Goodwin, OAR
Fiona Horsfall, OAR
Frank Indiviglio, OFA
Jim Jenkins, OAR
Kimani Kimbrough, NOS
Victoria Luu, OAR
Terence Lynch, OAR
Brooke McHansen, NESDIS
Jessica Morgan, NESDIS
Hanna Odahara, OAR
Julie Price, NESDIS
Isha Renta, OAR
Trevor Riley, OAR
Debbie Sinmao, OFA
Natasha White, OAR
Melissa Yencho, NMFS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

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

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The plan to combine the Emerging Technologies Workshop with the Water Observing Technologies Forum is moving forward, but the dates have shifted to June 23-26, 2025 to deconflict with the Juneteenth holiday.
- The first report of the new reconstituted ORAP entitled, "Toward a National Ocean Data Strategy" has been transmitted to the Ocean Policy Committee (OPC). The Report is now available on the ORAP Website.
- The Scientific Integrity Committee's guideline document *Best Practices for Designating Authorship* has been posted on the Scientific Integrity Commons on the SC website.
- The Carbon Dioxide Removal and Solar Radiation Modification fact sheets are now webified on [Climate.gov](https://climate.gov). These are the first 2 efforts to "webify" (vs static PDF)
- Mike Ford has replaced Doug Howard as the NESDIS principal member.

Additionally, Steve Thur will be the Acting Chief Scientist in the absence of Dr. Kapnick. Given he is also the OAR AA, there will be relatively few new initiatives started over the next 3 months and a path forward will be determined after the results of the election.

MINUTES

- The September 10th 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.

- **NLAC Update:** Ben Hope
10:35 – 11:05 AM (30 min) [04]
Informational

Provide a brief synopsis of the NLAC. Ben Hope is the new Library Director, onboarded March 25, 2024. Ben touched on his background. He is making site visits and meeting with Lab and Program leadership.

FY22-FY24 Strategic Plan goals:

- Goal 1: Ensuring awareness of library services so NOAA staff are served fully
- Goal 2: Building digital collections and processes to preserve the past and inform the future - have made significant progress, however, need to conduct print inventories at all NOAA facilities
- Goal 3: Optimizing electronic subscriptions while addressing collection gaps and challenges - groups working on this also completed work towards unified work flows and incorporating SMEs
- Goal 4: Creating a trusted infrastructure for NOAA authors in support of Open Science - Jenn Fagan-Fry and her team have championed much of the work around the IR, personal identifiers, and the policies to put open science into practice at NOAA; NOAA is in a great position

2024 Survey analysis: no surprising results, we have uniformly agreed to go in a different direction with future surveys and focus on the informational needs of staff rather than the traditional questions we've been asking.

- Google and Google Scholar are the primary sources to procure published information, this should change (NOAA staff shouldn't need to use Google) but we need to know what information people are searching for to address their information needs more correctly.
- Green graph on the left: probably a lot better questions that we could ask but the quote "having the AOML library closed and lack of a librarian has been a huge loss" points to a question we did not ask which was, what was the impact of any library closures that have occurred and may have directly impacted our users.

Unification plan: still in development. Looking at perceived costs, personnel numbers and space allocations.

Justification for this project with a sense of urgency:

- Librarians are retiring, libraries are closing (35 libraries at one time, down to 6 libraries open and staffed)
- User experience across NOAA is inconsistent
- To continue to integrate and collaborate
- To take advantage of best practices and lessons learned
- Unrealized efficiencies and opportunities
- Dwindling budgets

Unification plan current state:

- Multiple libraries, many with no staff
- Multiple similar systems, websites, and forms of service request workflows
- Inconsistent user experience
- Outdated budget formulations and subscription contracts
- Lack of information sharing, integrated and complementary workflows, and coordinated and evidence based collection decisions

Desired state:

- One NOAA Library - a concept, not advocating for the closure of libraries
- Unified information architecture - handling service requests
- Improved and consistent user experience
- Shared services and workflows and better data sharing and analysis
- Closer collaboration and information sharing
- Collection development decisions made by SMEs
- Increased preservation of unique content and institutional knowledge
- Structured framework for innovation
- New budget strategy

Specifics:

- Changed "NOAA Central Library" to "NOAA Library" to reinforce one-NOAA approach
- Constituted a User Experience Team which has started working
- Final stages of collecting and analyzing budget information
- Documentation of existing staff, services, resources, and workflows is in progress
- Collection of metrics, statistics, and usage data is in progress
- "Market research" notices have been sent to all subscription vendors, notifying them we are now being considered one library and we expect costs to be lower and resources to be available enterprise-wide.
- Site visits are in progress
- Created a project team for planning and implementation of the unification plan

- Developing the overall unification plan and implementing the actions, however, we need leadership approval to move the full plan forward

Discussion

- NWS: personal interaction with the library system is through the local library, fantastic resource, and want to figure out ways to not lose the personal touch/contacts
 - Ben agreed, part of the unification process would be to take a look at all of the personnel across the entire system and work with LOs, programs, and labs to how those people can be incorporated directly on the core teams and workflows
 - Hendrik: keeping the 1:1
- NMFS: What are your thoughts on support for 508 compliance and preservation of historical documents?
 - Ben: would love to have a publication service that covers the entire life cycle of publishing, broaden 508 remediation; digitization; processing of materials by an external company. Then looking forward, once data is brought up to a certain standard, it can be available for AI
- Q's for SC:
 - What types of LO representation would you recommend for the NLAC?
 - Chair: the NLAC's ToR answers this question; specifies the 3 different groups, however, it sounds like we may not have representation from all LOs so Ben should work with the Exec Sec to circulate NLAC's ToR and ensure those LOs not represented appoint a rep. Also, need to review/update the ToR so Exec Sec work with Thur and Ben to review and update the current ToR (like eliminate all references to the "Research Council") and circulate it through the SC
 - Are there other stakeholders that you would recommend we include as part of the development plan?
 - Chair: there are multiple stakeholders but the 2 stakeholders, consumers of library services and producers of library services, are well-represented. Folks that control resources, specifically the LO CFOs, are important. The last group isn't specifically referenced, other federal scientific agencies' library leadership - what lessons can we learn from others and how can we help them?
 - NOS: Is there a list of lab directors/program leadership to target?
 - Ben will provide Sean (and full SC) with a list of names so Sean can recommend others not yet targeted
 - Do the members of the SC have any reservations about what was presented today?
 - Chair: One of the challenges is that Ben is completely fresh to NOAA; As you mentioned, there have been reasonable efforts in unification, primarily of services, and it would be useful to talk with people who have been at NOAA for a long time and can speak to the challenges to true unification. One of the concerns I have is resourcing - historically a federated approach; Fisheries has raised resourcing issue (personal service provided by individual librarians funded by individual LOs) in the past
 - Is there any advice/feedback for NLAC?
 - NMFS: Would be good to get understanding of the needs within each LO (we don't need the old school services as much anymore but do need ability to digitize and 508 compliance is difficult) - seeing a cost model that incorporates the specific needs of loss of LO would be really helpful
 - Chair: Ask NLAC to provide SC with a short scoping document (less than 1 page) that outlines a timeline for the unification plan; include time for SC to address the resourcing

and support issue NMFS just raised. Eventually the unification plan will have to go through the CFO Council if it's going to involve changing of resource allocations, but the SC will want to discuss the implications for the mission component of the agency. Exec Sec should schedule time for you to update the SC in a few months.

- **UN Ocean Decade Mid-Point Update:** Jess Snowden and Emily Nocito

11:05 – 11:30 AM (25 min) [05]

Directional

Emily presented as Knauss Fellow for UN Ocean Decade. Covered types of Ocean Decade Actions:

- Programme
- Project
- Activity
- Contribution

NOAA's Ocean Decade Actions by LO (activities are not tracked): OAR has 20 endorsed/submitted actions; NOS has 13; NWS + NESDIS have 6; NMFS has 5

Distribution of NOAA Actions by Decade Outcome: 10 Decade Challenges → 7 Decade Outcomes; NOAA primarily focuses on Accessible Ocean and Predicted Ocean but the least on Clean Ocean so could focus a new call for decade actions on this outcome. The new call for Decade Actions was released today.

USG Ocean Decade Actions: Interagency WG (Jess Snowden is the NOAA co-chair); 61 endorsed actions in the US Federal family; 2 new submitted actions for endorsement in the last call (not represented in the graph); also note another action just submitted by an IWG for Ocean Sound (Office of Naval Research is one of the co-chairs).

Looking ahead:

- 8th call for Decade Actions (issued Oct 15): 2/year; to start a Programme, required to fill out an Expression of Interest form
- New changes to the call for decade actions: trying to engage interest around Ocean Decade Challenge 6 (community resilience to ocean and coastal risks), Challenge 10 (to restore society's relationship with the ocean), and looking at the ocean/human health nexus (not related to a specific Challenge); also a number of programs that are accepting new projects, including the Early Career Ocean Professionals program; tasker will go out early next week for a call for decade actions. 2 step review at NOAA: first the Task Force on Ocean Decade then the NOCC who supervises the Task Force. Then the submission is sent to the IOC for final endorsement, which can take 4-6 months.
- 2025 mid-term evaluation survey currently being drafted; covers coordination to knowledge delivery, contributions; will be released February 2025

Discussion

- Chair: Concerning USG Ocean Decade Actions, out of 61 govt endorsed actions, the large majority are NOAA - does NOAA need to have more actions, are we over-represented? Our emphasis should be on broader engagement - not necessarily on new actions but spreading awareness of the current actions; our NOAA science seminar series could be an avenue for subsets to be presented as a group so people can join a subset of ocean decade endorsed actions being led by NOAA around a particular topic
- NESDIS: Agree with Steve; is there anything that we can do to support the dialogue at the higher level -information needed or influence or adjustment of goals from the top-level?
 - Emily will think about how to better engage principals

- OAR: From a weather perspective, how can the weather community be involved in the Ocean Decade?
 - Emily: Absolutely, a huge focus is around data collaboration, dissemination, so definitely there could be a lot of work; also with the most recent call for decade actions that increase community resilience to ocean and coastal risks, one of the specific calls is for programs and projects that are focused on multi-hazard early warning systems and the design of adaptation planning strategies - great place to engage
 - NWS: I love the One NOAA approach; and hurricanes are where the weather and oceans are massively linked; up to which level are the Arctic/Antarctic (or anything ice) a focus?
 - Emily: Arctic sea-ice restoration and ice in general is well-represented within the Ocean Decade, so there is a space for it; represented at academic institutions, not within the US no projects within the US govt
- NMFS: How can we get NOAA folks more involved? Fisheries probably has quite a few activities not reported. Maybe what we need is an elevator speech to engage people.
 - Emily will make a 1-pager on the benefits of joining the Ocean Decade

- **Discussion about Vice Chair Vacancy:** Steve Thur
11:30 - 11:45 AM (15 min)

With Sarah's departure, Steve Thur is now the Chair and the Council now needs a Vice Chair. Could have one of the primaries from within the SC (but not OAR to ensure the Chair and Vice Chair aren't from the same LO) or a mid-level person outside the SC. To be rotated every 6 months. 5-10% time commitment, limited oversight of initiatives, and this individual will serve as Chair if Thur is not available.

NWS: It's healthy for the organization to think outside the box. As Chair of NOAA Council of Fellows, we could also choose from the NOAA Council of Fellows (senior level scientists).

- Chair: would be good option to have the rotation/succession

NMFS also likes this as a career development opportunity and ability to rotate people

OMAO supports the alternate option and views this as a professional development opportunity for a mid-level career professional.

NMFS: Fisheries supports the idea; to what extent do we compete this? LANTERN-style? What are the mechanics?

OAR (Alt): The primary OAR rep thinks it's an excellent idea to have a mid-level scientist serve in this role.

Morgan: Sit in NESDIS and would be happy to follow up with NESDIS folks about the idea

Chair: Propose for just this first cycle (6 month period) that in the next 2 weeks, each of the principals (but not OAR) nominate an individual from within their LO. Email the nomination with a paragraph at most to Thur and the Exec email. We should take a later approach for this first cycle rather than going through a formal LANTERN so that we have someone on board for the November meeting. Then we can think about a more formalized structure - I will talk with Admiral Hann about the NOAA Council of Fellows idea and we can consider a LANTERN fellow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next meeting: November 15th at 10:30 am ET
- There will not be a December Science Council meeting because of the holidays.

ACTION ITEMS

- **NLAC Update:**
 - Circulate NLAC ToR among LOs and ensure that all LOs are represented on the NLAC
 - NLAC ToR be updated every 2 years - Exec Sec work with Thur and Ben to review current ToR and circulate it through the SC
 - One edit: eliminate all the references to the “Research Council”
 - Provide SC with who NLAC has engaged with for SC to add comments and recommendations
 - NLAC will provide SC with a short scoping document, timeline, including time to address the issues raised (resourcing and support); time for SC to review
 - Exec Sec will discuss another update in a few months
- Selecting a Vice Chair:
 - Jessica Morgan will follow up with NESDIS on the idea of a mid-level
 - In the next 2 weeks, each LO will send 1 name to Exec Sec
 - Follow up for OMAO and NESDIS on the process
- Combo Nov/Dec meeting (DEC 3rd)