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U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee

September 25, 2017

Ed Kearns
Chief Data Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer / High Performance Computing and Communications
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
151 Patton Ave, Asheville, NC 28801

Dear Ed:

Congratulations on your position as NOAA Chief Data Officer, and thank you for your informative briefing on the progress of the NOAA Big Data Project (NBDP).

One of our Committee's charges is to investigate innovation, public-private sector partnerships, and development of new, cost-effective technologies to make recommendations for safe and efficient ocean transportation and commerce. The knowledge gained in the NBDP can contribute significantly to these goals. We are encouraging the IOOS communities to interact with your project by identifying specific pilot data sets that are relevant to maritime customer needs. We wish to understand more about the diverse business models of the five CRADA participants, and explore which of these might be most applicable to ocean data and models. Ocean data is similar in some ways to meteorological data (e.g., NEXRAD and CODAR) but differs in many other ways (diverse sources, variables and customers) from the initial pilot data sets being pursued by the NBDP.

To realize maximum value from ocean observations, many data sets will need to be integrated and visualized in four dimensions. Clearly

cloud providers will need to tailor their applications to address this need, while at the same time pursuing a viable business or non-profit model. The FAC's working group on Ocean Big Data looks forward to your lessons learned and further guidance on this promising innovation.

Thank you for your time and your willingness to reach out across NOAA to maximize the value that Big Data analytics portends.

Sincerely,

Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., USN, Ret.

Cc:
Ben Friedman, performing the duties of NOAA Administrator and Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere,
W. Russell Callender, Ph.D., Assistant Administrator, NOAA's National Ocean Service,
Carl Gouldman, Director, NOAA U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System,
Interagency Ocean Observation Committee