

**Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel
of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP)**

**Walt Disney World, Grand Floridian Hotel
Orlando, FL**

November 17-18, 2009

MINUTES

**** All meeting documents and presentations can be found
on the ORRAP web page: www.nopp.org/site/orrap ****

Tuesday, 17 November

Jim Eckman (Alternate Designated Federal Official – DFO) called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the room. Minutes from the 11-12 August 2009 meeting were approved as written. P. Gaffney reviewed the agenda.

Briefings

- Mel Briscoe updated the group on the status and implications for ORRAP of the **Interim Report produced by the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (OPTF)**. The primary theme of the second phase of the OPTF effort is Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), which is required to conduct sound ecosystem-based management.

**IMPORTANT ELEMENTS ARISING from the ORRAP MEMBERS' DISCUSSION
of the INTERIM REPORT:**

- The ORRAP is placed at a very high level in the Interim Report; it is recommended to advise the National Ocean Council (NOC), the most senior body in the proposed governance structure.
- Instead of having complete freedom to decide its own agenda, the ORRAP could be tasked by the NOC with taking on certain issues.
- ORRAP membership would be reviewed for a possible expansion of its expertise.
- Community input into the development of the Interim Report sought minimal overlay of new governance structures onto existing structures, especially at the regional level.
- Because of their advancements in MSP, representatives from Rhode Island and Massachusetts should present at the next ORRAP meeting on their successes and lessons learned.
- Because of the connection between MSP and ocean renewable energy development, the ORRAP Industry Sub-panel will spend the next few months developing the framework for a case study to demonstrate an ideal, step-by-step permitting process for new ocean renewable energy projects.

- Jerry Miller provided an update on the “refresh” process for the **Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy (ORPPIS)**. As part of the process, the ORPPIS went out for public comment on new technologies, updates, developments, etc. The Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST), the group responsible for the ORPPIS, has formed writing teams to provide

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS from the DISCUSSION:

- The revised ORPPIS is expected by February, at which point additional community input will be sought.
- Thus, ORRAP input is probably most appropriate around February. In the meantime, a sub-group of ORRAP could formulate a set of comments for JSOST.
- New ocean-relevant legislation will be addressed in some way in the revised ORPPIS.
- No new societal themes emerged from public comments, but there were certain topics raised repeatedly in comments:
 - Ocean acidification
 - Climate change
 - Infrastructure (vessels, drilling, sensors, etc.)
 - Improved modeling
 - Marine spatial planning
 - Education / Ocean literacy
- JSOST is reconsidering whether Near-Term Priorities are the best way to implement the ORPPIS in the near term, and it welcomes ORRAP advice on this matter.

content regarding these new developments for the revised ORPPIS. The JSOST is also hosting Town Halls around the country to receive additional community input.

- The group reviewed the results of the 16 November **Education Workshop**, the objective of which was to devise guiding principles and content for a revised ORRAP education strategy.
- Jackie Ogden and Allyson Atkins described some of **Disney’s existing and new environmentally focused public education initiatives**, all of which have demonstrated success in delivering environmental messages to guests.

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS from the DISCUSSION:

- The framework for the revised document is posted on the ORRAP website: www.nopp.org/site/ORRAP.
- NOPP Office staff, in conjunction with the ORRAP Education Sub-panel, will assemble a white paper based on input from the Education Workshop and ORRAP meeting, by mid-January.
- When the Education Sub-panel meets next, it should hear briefings on opportunities available for underrepresented groups.
- The ORRAP should focus only on those issues that fall within its legislative charge.

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS from the DISCUSSION:

- All Disney programs are designed to deliver a message (e.g., conservation, environmental stewardship, corporate responsibility, etc).
 - Disney maintains close partnerships with outside organizations, such as the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.
 - One study to assess the impact on guests of zoos and aquariums has shown evidence of reinforcing, and even changing, guest behaviors.
 - Disney does not currently have a corporate policy statement on climate change, although it might develop one.
 - Disney will attempt to forge partnerships with conservation NGOs by offering to share educational materials and messages.
- Jim Eckman updated the ORRAP on various aspects of **NOPP projects**, including topics, funding, potential future topics, and the interagency collaboration that goes into the selection and funding processes. As a result, the ORRAP recommended:
 - That the NOPP briefing become an annual occurrence, detailing the specifics of the research topics and awards made under the previous year's NOPP Program, with a focus less on process and more on research results;
 - That there be clearer evidence of the U.S.—foreign distribution of NOPP funds. This recommendation comes as a result of a potential perception issue due to foreign performers receiving U.S. federal funds, particularly in the current period of economic distress;
 - That the interagency working groups of the JSOST make use of NOPP as a mechanism to identify and implement the priorities of the ORPPIS; and
 - That the ORRAP initiate an annual conversation – beginning at its next meeting – about priority topics that should go through the NOPP process.

ORRAP Business Session – Discussion of future work and updates from Sub-panels

The ORRAP discussed its expected work plan for 2010 and topics for future consideration. The draft Work Statement and Action Items from this meeting are posted on the ORRAP website: www.nopp.org/site/ORRAP.

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS from the SUB-PANEL UPDATES:

- The ORRAP will form an ad hoc Ocean Acidification Sub-panel to facilitate discussion among experts to advise on federal ocean acidification efforts.
- The ORRAP finalized letters containing its recommendations to various audiences (posted on the ORRAP website). Topics include education and ocean observing.
- Updating the ORRAP education strategy will comprise the Education Sub-panel's entire thrust for 2010.
- The ORRAP reviewed the Industry Sub-panel's recommendations from the last ORRAP meeting (August 2009). The ORRAP suggested some changes to the recommendations but adopted their principles so that they can be approved at the next ORRAP meeting.
- The Industry Sub-panel will complete its case study for development of ocean renewable energy projects.
- Current and former ORRAP members are participating in the 3-5 December 2009 workshop on coastal inundation.

Wednesday, 18 November

J. Eckman called the meeting to order. P. Gaffney reviewed near-term ORRAP actions (available on the ORRAP website) and suggested that Members check their schedules to determine whether a late April 2010 meeting in St. Petersburg could be possible for the next ORRAP meeting so as to coincide with the finals of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. **Prominent items for the next meeting** will include MSP briefings, a session on the Arctic, the ORRAP education strategy, an update from the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Acidification, and the ORRAP's role in the ORPPIS refresh.

Presentations – all presentations are posted at: www.nopp.org/site/ORRAP

- Gil McRae, from the Florida Oceans and Coastal Council, presented on his group's prioritization of research in support of coastal and ocean resource management in Florida. The Council's value lies in its role as a coordinating entity, which is greatly needed in Florida. For example, the Council hosted a workshop that brought together state and federal agencies to agree on a unified list of prioritized mapping needs.
- Mitch Roffer described the current status and future needs of ocean observing efforts in Florida. Organizations in Florida are ready to provide integrated observations and produce applied products for decision makers, but cultural challenges must be overcome in order to get necessary funding, and more partnering between government agencies and observing organizations is needed.
- Ned Cyr briefed the ORRAP on the great deal of federal agency activity currently underway regarding ocean acidification, catalyzed in part by NOAA's mandate under the FOARAM Act. The JSOST agencies have formed an Interagency Working Group on Ocean Acidification (IWGOA), which is charged with coordinating, refining, directing, and exchanging information about ongoing work related to ocean acidification.
- Tim Cowles gave an update on the current state of the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI), as well as some of its connections to the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). The construction of the OOI infrastructure was accelerated by the infusion of funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- Charly Alexander provided an update on the Data Management and Communications (DMAC) effort within NOAA's IOOS program. The IOOS is comprised of three components (Observing Systems, DMAC, and Modeling & Analysis), with DMAC as the bridge necessary to connect the other two. He stressed that current DMAC activities are feasible, executable, scalable, and sustainable.

IMPORTANT NOTES from the PRESENTATIONS:

- There is little public awareness of and support for ocean observing in Florida, and thus the funding available is extremely meager.
- The Ocean Observing Sub-panel will examine the issues in the Roffer presentation and determine whether it is appropriate to develop a recommendation for ORRAP.
- NOPP Office staff will compile input from the Ocean Observing Sub-panel on federal/state/regional observing efforts in support of IOOS for use in an ORRAP “report card” that assesses the efforts.
- The Ocean Observing Sub-panel will outline the metrics that should be used to develop such an assessment.
- Because ocean acidification is of interest across multiple agencies, the IWGOA should examine interagency research efforts to determine those that could be leveraged by coordination through NOPP.
- A joint session between IWGOA and the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Observations was suggested.
- Ocean science community input has been essential to OOI development. After a period of relatively low information-sharing about OOI developments, the OOI is now working to improve its engagement with the community.
- There is great potential for collaboration between OOI and IOOS, but such collaboration is not funded as part of OOI construction funding.
- Technical challenges are not the impediments to advancements in DMAC; the problem lies in differences in culture and standards.

Public Comment Period

Representatives from Project Pure Florida echoed concerns previously voiced to the ORRAP about the permitting process for development of ocean renewable energy projects. They believe that the process inhibits progress and stifles innovation and that its scope is so narrow as to ignore the technologies offered by their organization. They encouraged the adoption by the federal government of incentives and other measures designed to ease the permitting and regulatory processes.

Next Meeting

It was tentatively agreed that the next ORRAP meeting would occur in March or April 2010. The exact dates are subject to member and DFO availability.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

Meeting Attendees

ORRAP Members	Organization
Peter Betzer	University of South Florida
Max Coon (<i>via phone</i>)	NorthWest Research Associates
Dan Costa	University of California, Santa Cruz
Bob Cowen	University of Miami
Jane Davis	Walt Disney World Animal Programs
Randy Fisher	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Paul Gaffney, Chair	Monmouth University
Debra Hernandez, Vice-Chair	Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association
Paul Kelly	Energy & Ocean Policy Consultant
Shirley Pomponi	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution
Larry Robinson	Florida A&M University
Celia Smith	University of Hawaii
Kerry St. Pé	Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program
Invitees and others attending	
Jim Eckman, Alternate Designated Federal Official (DFO)	Office of Naval Research
Charly Alexander	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Felipe Arzayus	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Allyson Atkins	Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom
Terence Bolden	Project Pure Florida
Mel Briscoe	Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Tim Cowles (<i>via phone</i>)	Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Ned Cyr (<i>via phone</i>)	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Jim Fahey	Teledyne RD Instruments
Matt Gilligan	Savannah State University
Marlene Kaplan	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Lee Marcum	Project Pure Florida
Molly McCammon (<i>via phone</i>)	Alaska Ocean Observing System / National Federation of Regional Associations
Gil McRae	Florida Oceans and Coastal Council

Jerry Miller (<i>via phone</i>)	Office of Science and Technology Policy
Jackie Ogden	Walt Disney World Animal Programs and Environmental Initiatives
Kathleen O'Keefe	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Mitch Roffer	Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service
Sue Skemp	Florida Atlantic University
Andy Stamper	Walt Disney World Animal Programs
NOPP Office	
Ben Chicoski	Consortium for Ocean Leadership
Leigh Zimmermann	Consortium for Ocean Leadership

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