



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

SEP 16 2015

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D.
Chair
U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee
5673 Bend Creek Road
Dunwoody, GA 30338-2707

Dear Conrad,

Thank you for the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Advisory Committee's recommendation, "Elevating IOOS to a National Endeavor." Your message resonates with my current priorities for the agency. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) supports strong national leadership for IOOS, finding new ways to communicate with our stakeholders and increase investment in IOOS, and looking for new and better ways to plan for and measure future growth and successes as you outline in your recommendations.

I appreciate the actionable statements listed in the guiding principles and already see NOAA implementing many of them. NOAA will continue to support them through my priority for environmental intelligence for the Nation. I understand the challenge of building and maintaining multi-agency relationships and encourage the Committee to consider working with the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee to engage agencies at the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology level.

I encourage you to further develop your marketing and communications principles. Specifically, consider the role IOOS plays in supporting our national economy and spurring coastal investments. As the economy becomes more global, our coastal communities are paramount to facilitating trade from all parts of the United States to all parts of the world. NOAA supports effective and robust supply chain strategies through safe navigation which is another area where IOOS observations and services contribute to resilient economies and communities.

I greatly appreciate the Committee's recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KDS", written over a white background.

Kathryn D. Sullivan, Ph.D.
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere

