

## DRAFT 2

### Third Meeting of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board Narragansett, Rhode Island October 1-2, 2015

#### Notification and Availability of Meeting Materials

The meeting was announced to the public by Federal Register Notification on September 9, 2015, and on the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB) website at [www.oeab.noaa.gov](http://www.oeab.noaa.gov). Background material and presentations prepared for this OEAB meeting are posted on the OEAB website.

#### Ocean Exploration Advisory Board Members in Attendance

Vice Admiral Paul G. Gaffney II, U. S. Navy (Ret.), Monmouth University, Chair  
Dr. James Austin, University of Texas  
Dr. Amanda Demopoulos, U.S. Geological Survey  
Dr. Jacqueline Dixon, University of South Florida  
Ambassador Cameron Hume, Consultant  
Mr. John Kreider, Oceaneering, Inc.  
Mr. David Lang, OpenROV  
Dr. Darlene Lim, NASA Ames Research Center  
Ms. Nicolette Nye, National Ocean Industries Association  
Dr. Richard Rikoski, Hadal, Inc.  
Mr. Lance Towers, PE, Boeing, Inc.

#### NOAA Management and Staff in Attendance

Mr. John McDonough, Deputy Director, OER  
Mr. David McKinnie, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the OEAB  
Ms. Yvette Jefferson, Alternate DFO  
Mr. Jeremy Potter, OER staff

#### Invited Briefers

Dr. Larry Mayer, Director, Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, University of New Hampshire  
Dr. Robert Ballard, President and Founder, Ocean Exploration Trust  
Dr. Chris German, Senior Scientist, Geology and Geophysics,  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
David Lovalvo, President, Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration

#### Meeting Summary

1. **Meeting Opening.** The Designated Federal Official opened the meeting on October 1, 2015 at the University of Rhode Island School of Oceanography in Narragansett, Rhode Island. Minutes of the March 31-April 1, 2015 meeting were discussed and approved. The Chair reviewed the previous meeting, the charge to the Board, previewed the agenda, and described a tentative OEAB meeting schedule for the next six months.

2. **Extended Continental Shelf.** Dr. Larry Mayer, Director of the University of New Hampshire's Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, briefed the OEAB regarding the U.S. Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) program, to which OER is a major contributor. Dr. Mayer described the program's operations, accomplishments and results, and work that remains to be done to define potential U.S. claims to its ECS.
3. **Ocean Exploration Trust.** Dr. Robert Ballard, President of the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) and several of his vice presidents gave an overview presentation on OET, its priorities, funding sources, expeditions, performance metrics, operational concepts—including telepresence to engage scientists ashore, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) outreach.
4. **Office of Ocean Exploration and Research Budget and Priorities Update.** Dr. Alan Leonardi, OER Director, briefed the OEAB via conference call on OER FY16 funding, with an emphasis on various scenarios under in FY16. He followed with an in-depth briefing of OER's rationale for planned *Okeanos Explorer* expeditions in FY16 and FY17, as well as renewed engagement with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and other potential partnerships for exploration in the Atlantic in FY18.
5. **Telepresence as a Paradigm for Future Research and Operations.** Dr. Chris German, a senior scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and OEAB member, gave a presentation on the educational and sociological value of telepresence. Discussion ensued about the growing value of telepresence as the ocean community realizes fewer opportunities to go to sea. He also made the point that several groups of early career and established scientists who cannot get to sea (berthing limitations, family constraints, student class schedules, physical disabilities, etc.) can conduct career-enhancing science through telepresence.

In the course of discussions following Dr. German's briefing the members discussed the value of both knowing science opportunities that lie ahead and, at the same time, hearing regularly about NOAA's long-range requirements for exploration. Explorers can use these two sets of information to better target their proposals and to forge future partnerships.

6. **National Ocean Exploration Forums.** David McKinnie, OER, presented a summary of the status of recommendations from 2013 and 2014 National Ocean Exploration Forums from external partners and OER points of view. He also briefed the members on plans and topics identified for the 2015 Forum.
7. **Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration.** Dave Lovalvo, President of the Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration (GFOE) made a presentation on GFOE, its shore-side and underway support for the *Okeanos Explorer*, the role the foundation plays as the undersea technology coordinator for OER, its activities and partnerships external to NOAA, and potential partnerships with others inside and outside of NOAA. In the public comment period that followed there were several questions aimed at clarifying GFOE's relationship with NOAA OER.
8. **Letter to the NOAA Administrator.** During the one-and-a-half-day meeting the Board discussed topics it thought should be reported as recommendations to NOAA Administrator Kathryn Sullivan. The recommendations ranged from immediate financial and scheduling decisions to a set of principles the OEAB believes should be referenced by NOAA and OER in conducting ocean exploration activities. The Board proposed a short letter to convey its recommendations to Dr. Sullivan that would also be sent to Dr. Rick Spinrad, NOAA Chief Scientist, as Dr. Sullivan's designated liaison to the OEAB. The letter was discussed, moved, and unanimously approved in open session. The letter is attached and posted on the OEAB website.

8. **Public Comments.** A public comment session was conducted from approximately 10:15 to 11:00 on the second day. The Board received a number of questions and comments from the members of the public present.
9. **Next Meeting.** The Board scheduled its winter meeting for January 20-21, 2016, at the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science in St Petersburg. The agenda will include presentations on Arctic Ocean exploration; a briefing on the Florida-based Cooperative Institute on Ocean Exploration, Research, and Technology (CIOERT); a briefing on USGS ocean exploration requirements focused on deep-sea minerals in the US EEZ and ECS; a broad discussion of existing and potential ocean exploration partnerships not limited to OER partnerships; and the results of National Ocean Exploration Forum 2015. The Board will use one-third of its schedule for intra-board open discussion.
10. **Meeting Close.** The DFO closed the meeting at noon. Several Board members then toured the URI Inner Space Center.

**Attachments**

OEAB letter to the NOAA Administrator