

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board
A Federal Advisory Committee Act Board
December 17, 2020

Dr. Neil Jacobs
Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Acting) and Assistant
Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction
14th and Constitution, NW
Washington, DC 20230

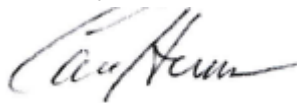
Dear Dr. Jacobs:

During its meeting on December 10, the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB) discussed the direction it would like to see NOAA take in regard to the national ocean exploration program and what the program needs to achieve over the next 6 to 12 months.

Based on this discussion, the OEAB prepared, and is pleased to present to you, the attached suggestions to help NOAA succeed as a leader in ocean exploration on the national and international stage. These suggestions address seven key areas: leadership; the Blue Economy; human resources; the water column; data; ships, innovation, and technology; and public engagement.

As always, the Board stands ready to answer questions and provide further advice or assistance as needed.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Cameron R. Hume
Interim Chair
Ocean Exploration Advisory Board