Chair’s Introduction

Ocean Exploration

Advisory Board

a FACA Committee

December 2, 2014

Inaugural Meeting
Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (PL 111-11)

- Establishes a national OE program within NOAA
  - in collaboration with others
- Directs NOAA to explore
  - In collaboration with others
- Directs NOAA to develop an OE Strategic Plan
  - In collaboration with others
- Establishes an OEAB

oeab.noaa.gov
OEAB Boundaries

• Advise the Administrator on priority areas for survey and discovery
• Assist the NOAA OE program in development in of a 5-year plan
• Review the competitive proposal review process annually
• Other assistance as the Administrator requests
• Comply with FACA rules (hear these today)
Administrator Requests

• Focus, first, on the NOAA OE program

• Consider the Administrator’s priority:
  – “Environmental intelligence”
  – Other priorities Dr. Spinrad may bring up today
NOAA and OER Organization

• Undersecretary of Commerce and NOAA Administrator
  – Dr. Kathryn Sullivan

• Chief Scientist
  – Dr. Rick Spinrad

• Assistant Administrator (Acting) Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
  – Craig McLean

• Director, Ocean Exploration and Research
  – Dr. Alan Leonardi

• Deputy Director, OER
  – John McDonough

• OEAB Designated Federal Official
  – David McKinnie
• Funding
  – average of $29.8 million/year from FY 01-14
  – FY 13: $23.2 million appropriated
  – FY 14: $26.0 million appropriated
  – FY 15: [House=$28.0 million. Senate=$26.2 million]

• Some practical constraints to reallocation of funding
Inaugural Meeting

• Get acquainted
• Get “FACA-ed”
• Discuss general operating procedures
• Extensive background briefings
  – focused on NOAA OE
• Discuss among the Board:
  – definition of “ocean exploration”
  – vice chair interest
  – next meeting in first half of 2015