

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board
A Federal Advisory Committee Act Board

4 October 2018

RDML Timothy Gallaudet, USN (ret)
Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (acting)
And Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
14th and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Admiral Gallaudet,

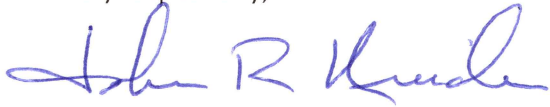
The Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB) responded to your request to establish a subcommittee on Ocean Exploration Education to review the ongoing OER education program. The subcommittee was tasked with making recommendations to OER and the NOAA Administrator regarding the effectiveness of the program to date, whether OER should consider adopting new approaches to pursuing its educational objectives, and what performance metrics would be most useful in measuring program effectiveness.

The subcommittee met in April and May 2018 and produced a report in June 2018. The OEAB received the report and discussed its recommendations at its meeting 25-26 September 2018. The OEAB endorses the subcommittee report, and is pleased to forward it to you for your consideration with the following comments and suggestions:

- The OEAB enthusiastically supports the subcommittee assessment that the OER education program has been doing an admirable job with limited resources.
- The subcommittee makes 34 recommendations in seven categories. The OEAB recommends that you ask OER to prioritize the recommendations in the context of OER and NOAA education goals and objectives, and that you ask OER to:
 - assess which priorities can be achieved within current budget and staff resources; and
 - assess what additional recommendations could be addressed if the annual budget were increased by \$500,000.
- The OEAB notes its view that the subcommittee recommendation to establish a standing subcommittee on education be tabled, until it can be considered in the context of other subcommittees you may establish.
- Finally, the OEAB requests that you ask OER to report to the Board on its implementation of the review recommendation in one year.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Ocean Exploration Program.

Very respectfully,



John R. Kreider
Chairman, NOAA OEAB

Cc: NOAA OEAB
Mr. David McKinnie, DFO
Jerry Schubel, Education Review Subcommittee Chair
Alan Leonardi, Director, OER