

**Subcommittee on the Environment of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology
Hearing “Ocean Exploration: Diving to New Depths and Discoveries,” 5 June 2019 Question for the
Record response from panel member Steve Barrett representing Oceaneering International Inc.**

Question: During the hearing, the panel was asked if there is a national strategy for ocean exploration and there didn’t seem to be a clear response. Given that there does not seem to be a single national strategy, do you think there should be one? If so, what should it look like and aim to achieve and who should develop it?

Answer:

Yes, there should be a national strategy for ocean exploration.

The following should be considered as key components to formulation and execution of a national strategy for ocean exploration.

- Should provide clear vision and direction for federal, commercial, academic and non-profit investors and stakeholders to align their respective investments, resources and talent. The vision should emphasize U.S. leadership in the Blue Economy, empowering maritime competitiveness and ocean sustainability.
- Strategy should inform a multi-year plan that provides the architecture for coordination of expenditures and activities.
- Leverage NOAA’s Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) Program and National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) to spur discoveries of new knowledge, advance innovative technology, engage international partners and stimulate current and next generations.
- Congressional enactment of the BLUE GLOBE Act (**B**olstering **L**ong-term **U**nderstanding and **E**xploration of our **G**reat **L**akes, **O**ceans, and **E**stuaries Act) to advance data collection and monitoring by supporting data sharing, accelerating technology development and innovation, growing the future marine workforce, and developing a better understanding of the Blue Economy.
- Proactive congressional leadership to ensure accountability, provide sustained funding and provide the forum for public debate and discussion of critical ocean exploration challenges and opportunities.

Development of the strategy should be led by NOAA in partnership with industry, academia, and non-profit organizations.