



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

September 23, 2021

The Honorable Cameron R. Hume
Chair, Ocean Exploration Advisory Board
NOAA Ocean Exploration
7600 Sand Point Way, NE
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear Ambassador Hume:

Thank you for your recent letters on behalf of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB).

As NOAA Administrator, I appreciate the OEAB's dedicated service and significant expertise. Your analysis and advice on ocean exploration priorities, technologies, and data and information management are valuable to me and to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Ocean Exploration and Research. My team and I will thoughtfully review your input, and I look forward to discussing our takeaways with you in the near future.

My broad intentions related to ocean exploration are as follows:

- Build on NOAA's legacy of pre-eminent science, service, and stewardship, and enhance our leadership role in the United States and abroad;
- Advance the Biden-Harris Administration's priorities on climate change, renewable energy, conservation, and other relevant issues, while also promoting economic recovery and sustainable development that ensures responsible stewardship of our ocean;
- Collaborate with the Secretary of Commerce to strengthen and leverage the "new blue economy" as a critical component of our national economic recovery and growth; and
- Work with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and our sister agencies to implement the National Strategy for Ocean Mapping, Exploring, and Characterizing the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, while otherwise advancing national priorities for knowledge about the ocean.

THE ADMINISTRATOR



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More specifically, I concur with the OEAB's statements regarding the importance of innovative partnerships as critical to the Nation's ocean exploration activities and the need to foster and implement new technologies to increase the value and efficiency of ocean exploration expeditions. And I agree the U.N. Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development creates opportunities in both areas.

Again, I appreciate your proactive input. I look forward to working together to guide our ocean exploration mission to deliver optimal outcomes for NOAA, the Nation, and the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Spinrad", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Richard W. Spinrad
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
and NOAA Administrator

cc: Craig McLean, Assistant Administrator, NOAA Research
Gene Fisher, Acting Director, Office of Ocean Exploration and Research
David McKinnie, OEAB DFO