

Minutes

24th Meeting of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board February 29, 2024, Virtual Meeting

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board Members in Attendance

- Vicki Ferrini, Columbia University Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Chair
- Peter Girguis, Harvard University
- Kevin Hand, Ocean Worlds Lab, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- Lesley K. Iaukea, Indigenous Knowledge & Earth and Environmental Convergent Science Program
- Eric King, Schmidt Ocean Institute
- Veronique LeRoux, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- Mark Moline, School of Marine Science and Policy, University of Delaware
- Frank Muller-Karger, College of Marine Science, University of South Florida
- Ellen Prager, Earth2Ocean, Inc.
- Clara Smart, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory
- Ramsay Taum, Pacific Islands Leadership Institute, Hawaii Pacific University

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board Members in Absentia

- Justin Manley, Just Innovation Inc.
- David Millar, Fugro USA, Inc.

Designated Federal Officer for the OEAB

- David Turner, NOAA Ocean Exploration
- Joanne Flanders, NOAA Ocean Exploration (alternate)

NOAA Ocean Exploration Staff in Attendance

- Jeremy Weirich, Director
- Jennifer Lukens, Deputy Director
- Kristen Crossett, Outreach and Education Division Chief
- Rachel Medley, Expeditions and Exploration Division Chief
- Liz Hoadley, Education Team
- Ashley Marranzino, Science & Technology Division
- Amanda Maxon, Expeditions and Exploration Division
- Nina Pruzinsky, Science & Technology Division

DOC Ethics

- Laura Trevisani, Attorney-Advisor, Ethics Law and Programs Office, OGC/DOC

Observers

A number of individuals from other organizations observed the meeting at various points.

Executive Summary

1. Opening Remarks

David Turner opened the meeting, highlighting the agenda and introducing Laura Trevisani for the annual Ethics Training.

2. Ethics Training

Attorney-Advisor Laura Trevisani provided a brief Ethics Training for OEAB attendees and members of the NOAA Hydrographic Services Review Panel.

3. Campaign Presentation: Beyond the Blue: Illuminating the Pacific

- Presenter: E&E Division Chief Rachel Medley
- Summary: Discussion on the upcoming campaign, focusing on goals aligned with NOMECC, Seabed 2030, the UN Decade of Sustainable Development, and the comprehensive approach planned for the full Pacific basin.

4. Working Session for Board Members

- PEOPLE Group: Chaired by Ellen Prager, the discussion centered on establishing a participatory ocean exploration framework, innovating educational programs, and expanding the scope of ocean exploration to include indigenous and local knowledge.
- DATA Group: Led by Frank Muller-Karger, the group deliberated on innovating IT middleware solutions, addressing data sovereignty and ownership, and fostering capacity building and knowledge transfer.
- PARTNERSHIPS Group: Eric King discussed the emphasis on transforming NOAA's partnership engagement, organizing competitions and innovation challenges, and establishing incubators and accelerators.

5. Consolidated Challenge Statements and Ideas

- Develop rapid response capabilities, participatory frameworks, and educational initiatives within NOAA.
- Advocate for IT middleware solutions, sovereignty in data management, and public engagement in ocean exploration.
- Emphasize transformative partnership engagements, competitions, and support for innovation through incubators.

6. Key Discussion Points

- The importance of integrating indigenous and local knowledge in ocean exploration.
- The need for a cross-agency data and information pipeline to enhance data as a service.
- The discussion highlighted systemic challenges in ocean exploration and the potential for cross-sector collaborations.

Actions

- For OER: To establish a governance structure for the "Beyond the Blue" campaign and facilitate further discussions on the use of data and engagement strategies.
- For OEAB: Members to contribute further to the development of the proposed initiatives, focusing on inclusivity, innovation, and strategic partnerships.

7. Public Comment Period

No attendance and no comments from the public.

8. Next Meeting

The OEAB will hold its 25th Meeting on May 14-15, 2024, in-person at NOAA's Silver Spring, MD campus.

Closing Remarks

David Turner thanked participants for their contributions and emphasized the importance of the discussed initiatives in advancing ocean exploration.

The meeting adjourned with a commitment to advancing the objectives of ocean exploration through collaborative efforts, innovative approaches, and community engagement.