



Ocean Exploration
Advisory Board

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 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*

NOAA OE Funding

- 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