

# 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 NOMECS, 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.