

## **AOML Research Review Teleconference**

### **Wednesday, January 16, 2008**

#### Participants

Alexander (Sandy) MacDonald (Assistant Administrator for Laboratories and Cooperative Institutes (LCI), Mike Uhart (NOAA-OAR), Ward Seguin (NOAA – LCI), Bob Atlas (Director, AOML), Judy Gray (Deputy Director, AOML), Erica Rule (AOML staff), William Lau (Review Chair), Douglas S. Luther, James R. Miller, Steve Murawski, Robert Houze, Jagadish Shukla

(Highlight notes and Q&A summary)

Sandy MacDonald reminded the reviewers that AOML's panel of reviewers comprises a wide range of backgrounds and all are encouraged to share their opinions in evaluating AOML research. Reviewers are asked to evaluate the quality, relevance, and performance of research to both internal and external interests; Strategically position laboratory in its planning of future science; and ensure research is linked to NOAA strategic plan, mission, and priorities. (Documentation to be posted on web site.)

The scope of research presented in the review will include three science themes:

- Oceans and Climate (Climate Observing Systems, Atlantic Circulation and Fluxes, Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, Western Hemisphere Warm Pool and CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Ecosystem (Florida Coastal Ecosystems, Corals)
- Hurricane (Tropical Cyclone Intensity Change, Tropical Cyclone Structure and Precipitation, Tropical Cyclone Tracks, and Tropical Cyclone Frequency and Intensity)

Each reviewer is asked to independently prepare written assessments. Dr. Lau, the Chair and a federal reviewer, is asked to prepare a summary report. The Chair is not asked to analyze (just summarize) the individual reviewer comments and will not seek consensus recommendations. Within 45 days after the review at AOML, reviewers are asked to provide a draft of the summary report to DAA who will review for clarifications. The final report is to be submitted to the Assistant Administrator accompanied by the individual reports.

Travel will be arranged starting this Friday (1/18) by Gladys Medina at AOML.

- **Do all reviewers comment on all research themes/topics?**  
Reviewers are asked to provide comment on areas in which they have expertise, but should also feel free to comment on any aspect of the review.
- **Do the three research themes (Oceans and Climate, Ecosystems, and Hurricanes) mirror the organizational structure of AOML?**

The organizational structure at AOML is generally similar to the three themes presented in the review. Several AOML scientists conduct research that is cross disciplinary, and this overlap is what lead us to present by research theme.

- **Are reviewers expected to comment on the organizational structure of AOML?**  
No, reviewers are not expected to comment on the organizational structure of AOML. Reviewers are expected to comment on the research at AOML.
- **The scope of research at AOML is very broad, is this review meant to evaluate this scope?**  
Reviewers may evaluate the scope of AOML research as it pertains to NOAA's mission and research goals.
- **Will compilations and analysis of metrics such as publications and citations be provided?**  
Yes, various metrics listed in the Charge to Reviewers will be provided to reviewers in advance on a review specific web site for AOML.
- **Will previous AOML Research review materials and recommendations be provided to reviewers?**  
Yes, an electronic copy of AOML's 2000 Research Review will be available on the review web site.
- **Are the original comments submitted by the individual reviewers included in the final report?**  
Yes. The final report will consist of the reviews provided by each individual reviewer, as well as a summary report provided by the chair (William Lau). Only the summary report is reviewed by Sandy MacDonald for factual errors and clarity before final submission to the Assistant Administrator for OAR (Richard Spinrad).
- **On which research theme are the individual reviews expected to comment?**  
Bill Lau – Oceans and Climate  
Doug Luther – Oceans and Climate  
Jim Miller – Oceans and Climate  
Steve Murawski – Ecosystems  
Bob Houze – Hurricanes  
Shukla – Oceans and Climate
- **May reviewers contact individuals at the lab and elsewhere for follow-up while writing their reports?**  
Yes.
- **What is the format for the report-out session on the last day of the agenda?**

The preliminary report-out session on the last day of the review will be oral.

- **Are there guidelines for the individual reports?**  
Yes, a template will be provided which lists topics we hope you will cover, but it is only a guide.
- Bill Lau suggested that the panel identify two reviewers for each research theme.
- **What is the format of the science presentations?**  
The format will be oral presentations by individual scientists, with more detail provided during the poster sessions. The focus will be on present research with an indication of future directions.
- The reviewers asked that presenters minimize the role of power point and allow adequate time for questions about the science and for probing.
- **May reviewers make suggestions that allow AOML to better align itself with NOAA's research goals?**  
Yes.
- **A secure AOML website will be provided to address every detail reviewers are asked to consider during the review process. This website will be made available the first week of February.**

#### Travel

- There will be a common hotel for reviews. Reviewers will be contacted this Friday to make travel arrangements. Travel will be invitational for non-NOAA reviewers and all receipts will be submitted afterwards for reimbursement. \*\* Note change from telecon discussion, AOML will be the point of contact for travel logistics (Gladys Medina)