

**New England Public Briefing
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
July 27, 2006**

Dan Walker (OSTP) presented the briefing on the national ocean research priorities.

Question: With regards to the near-term priorities, will there be lobbying efforts to get them included in the budgets?

Response: Discussions are ongoing to address the priorities into the '08 budgets. The priorities will be clearly manifested in the '09 budgets. By '11, the priorities should be incorporated. The community can help by agreeing on the priorities and helping to champion them.

Question: Are the priorities being developed independent of the Administration?

Response: The priorities are being formulated using input from the community. If they have community support, they will be pushed forward.

Question: Will this effort constitute a dilution of core research funding?

Response: The intent is not to take dollars from basic or core research. The document identifies societally relevant themes that require additional attention. 21 research priorities are identified and each of those priorities contains basic research.

Question: Has the Department of Defense or the Department of Homeland security played a role in the priority development process?

Question: ONR, the Joint Chiefs, and the Coast Guard have all been participating in the process.

Comment: Since the Denver meeting, we've seen money pulled from the NOAA education effort. The outlined priorities currently read like oatmeal-they don't have a compelling nature. The document needs to present problems, issues.

Response: The document is being prepared by the executive side, but will need to be funded by Congress. The document should be able to sell the priorities. The tone of the document could be more evocative-combine passion with content.

Question: Will there be information on the how to comment when the document is released?

Response: The mechanism to provide comments will be outlined on the web pages and notices of the release of the document will be distributed throughout the ocean community.

Question for the audience: If \$30 million were available, what should be funded first?

Replies:

-Structure funding for IOOS and take it away from earmarking. Establish a pot of money that the regional associations could compete for.

-Maintain access to the sea. Infrastructure requires a long lead time and consists of big ticket items-ships, satellites.

- Put ocean science back in the budget, back to the levels it had.
- Put a 30 year perspective back infrastructure, as opposed to the current 2-3 year perspective.