

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have read the Executive Summary of the final report and approve of its direction. We need a stronger entity for the oceans and Great Lakes, and we certainly need to include the Great Lakes, as has been done here, because they are drinking water and must be kept that way.

Here are some added thoughts:

1. Please do not let the takeover of LANDSAT TM by NOAA adversely affect the spatial resolution, spectral resolution, and timeliness of delivery of the data. NOAA has traditionally been uninterested in 30m data, but it is more useful for oceanography than they realize.
2. Methane clathrates at the continental slope are barely stable, and should be monitored by imaging methane in the air. No capability for this now exists on U.S. satellites, and it is long overdue. This is a major climate warming consideration because when and if the methane clathrates go unstable, there can be a rise of several degrees C within a decade or two (there was a 16 degrees Celcius rise at Antarctica and Greenland in 20 years at the end of the last Ice Age, according to ice core analysis).
3. Toxic algae are principally blue-green algae (cyanobacteria), and they should be sought by mapping the pigment phycocyanin, rather than chlorophyll, which is now the common practice. Almost every plant makes chlorophyll, but phycocyanin is produced by cyanobacteria (which sometimes release toxins) and few others. Phycocyanin is a much more unique marker of toxic algae.

I am pleased to see that the President approves of this report.

Your Friend,  
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