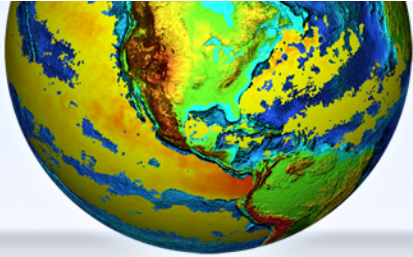


Climate Observations and Analysis Program Review

April 11-13, 2007
Asheville, NC



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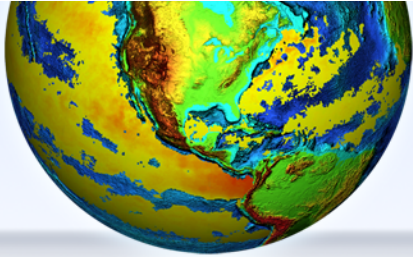
General Findings

There is considerable **excellent work** going on in NOAA which is contributing to the Climate Observations and Analysis program.

The activities in the COA program **are providing many valuable climate observational products and services to the nation** that should be continued.

The essential work of collecting observations and creating climate records, assuring their quality and documenting and making them accessible to the climate research, applications research, and decision-making communities is of **great importance and should receive a high priority** in the Climate Goal.

However, the program was not developed with a particular objective, so that it **lacks an overall coherent theme and a strategic plan**.



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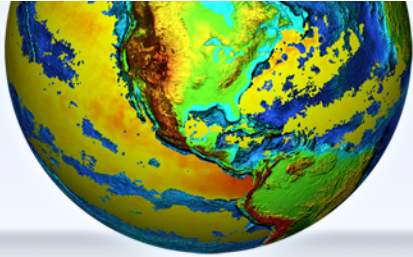
Major Challenges

The review panel identified several overarching strategic issues that affect the management of the COA Program and the NOAA Climate Goal in general.

These include **the need for a shared vision** that

- (i) provides a coherent, integrated structure for COA activities and services, in essence a strategic plan;
- (ii) improves the functioning of the NOAA internal process that integrates program planning, budget formulation and execution, and processes used to determine priorities when requested and appropriated budgets differ;
- (iii) advances the approach to engaging partners from the external communities in COA and Climate efforts; and
- (iv) furthers the integration of the many efforts under COA with one another and other activities under the Climate Goal.

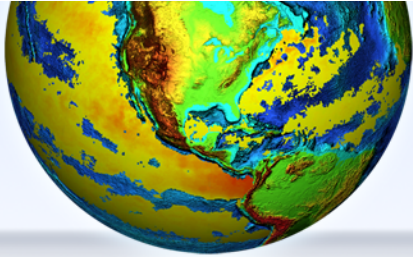
The Panel suggested that if a Climate Service were a distinct line of NOAA then it would ease many of the perceived management difficulties.



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What we have done:

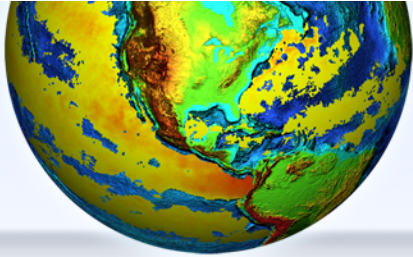
- Proposed a separate Climate Service line office within NOAA
- Established an office for climate observations in proposed Climate Service
- Co-located global climate observing program (ocean, atmosphere, and Arctic in Climate Observation Division) with Integrated Ocean Observing System to improve coordination
- Addressed problems imposed by PPBES process by working with new integrated SEE logic model process
- Proposed expansion of the greenhouse gas observation network
- Overlapped old/new observing systems, decommissioned non-performers
- Enhanced reanalysis activities
- Expanded Annual State of the Climate Report, included external peer review
- Developed an approach to climate attribution issues in a way that maintains agency credibility and reliability with a team of NOAA and non-NOAA experts
- Engaged partners/external organizations



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What we are working on:

- A strategic framework for a NOAA climate observing system
- Adopting “climate information system” approach
- Establishing synergies/interrelationships among observing components to aid prioritization
- Addressing satellite data assimilation, relationships and dependencies on other parts of NOAA, and long-term relationship between NASA and NOAA
- Leading data management activities to provide more appropriate levels of direction, prioritization, and integration of activities, systematically identify opportunities and risks, and to raise the needed funds in the budget process.
- Implementing GEO-IDE and linking it to CLASS
- Sustaining user engagement/feedback



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What we have not done:

- Enhance ocean observing system (deep-diving Argo, additional Ocean Reference Stations, biogeochemical sensors)
- Conduct a Strengths, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat analysis
- Commit a fixed fraction of program funds to peer-reviewed extramural funding, and maintain this funding commitment.