

Summary of Issue:

Evaluate and make recommendations on how NOAA decides when to use external (non-NOAA) datasets.

Expected Outcome:

The focus will be to develop a white paper on factors that NOAA should take into account when considering non-NOAA (e.g., other Federal agency, State, local, international partner, private sector, and NGO) observing networks, data, and information to use to accomplish its mission. It is recommended that the initial area of focus would be climate services.

Possible Topics/Questions to Consider:

- What criteria should be used to determine whether or not to use non-NOAA sources of data?
- How will these criteria differ based on initial vs. secondary uses of the data and information?
- Characterize what policies, procedures, and practices are in place today.
- Important aspects will include:
 - *Data source*
 - *Assured availability of data*
 - *Data quality*
 - *Transparency*
 - *Data Documentation (i.e. metadata)*
 - *Data access*
 - *Data retention*

Related Efforts to Explore:

- The U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) is preparing a document on *Data Management and Information Delivery* at the direction of the National Earth Observation (NEO) Task Force. One topic to be considered in this report is the Federal Government’s approach to non-Federal data sources (academic, State, Local, and commercial), including data sharing, data quality and calibration issues.
- IOOS Data Provider Certification Process
- NWS policy “Managing the Acquisition of Environmental Data from External Parties”
- Development of the next National Climate Assessment

Review/Study Team:

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Proposed Schedule:

- May 2011: Update to NOSC and CIO Council on EDMC proposal to address this issue
- June 23/24, 2011: DAARWG meeting in Silver Spring to frame the issue
- September 2011: Preliminary Recommendations from EDMC to NOSC and CIO Council