

2020-06 NAML Position Statement - Response to National Oceanographic Partnership (NOPP) Reauthorization Proposal

NAML strongly supports the Committee Discussion Draft on the reauthorization of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP). While NOPP as an interagency research program has been around for many years, this legislation would elevate the program by having the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Council on Environmental Quality (both Offices within the Executive Office of the President) serve as co-chairs of the interagency ocean policy committee. The bill also strengthens the ability of NOPP to create new partnerships with industry, the academic community, and other non-federal partners in the oceanographic community in the areas of science, data, resources, education, and communication. NAML endorses the Ocean Research Advisory Panel and its mandate to include academic institutions and individuals eminent in the fields of marine science, policy, and related fields. NAML strongly encourages the addition of language that emphasizes equal opportunity and diversity in the selection of individuals to serve on the panel.