Dated: December 21, 2007.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E7–25177 Filed 12–27–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Publication of North American Datum of 1983 State Plane Coordinates in feet in Nebraska

AGENCY: National Geodetic Survey (NGS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Geodetic Survey (NGS) will publish North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) State Plane Coordinate (SPC) grid values in both meters and U.S. Survey Feet (1 ft = 1200/3937 m) in Nebraska, for all well defined geodetic survey control monuments maintained by NGS in the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) and computed from various geodetic positioning utilities. The adoption of this standard is implemented in accordance with NGS policy and a request from the Nebraska State Surveyor, Nebraska Department of Roads, the Professional Surveyors Association of Nebraska.

DATES: Individuals or organizations wishing to submit comments on the Publication of North American Datum of 1983 State Plane Coordinates in feet in Nebraska, should do by January 28, 2008.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to the attention of David Doyle, Chief Geodetic Surveyor, Office of the National Geodetic Survey, National Ocean Service (N/NGS2), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, fax 301–713–4324, or via e-mail *Dave.Doyle@noaa.gov*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to David Doyle, Chief Geodetic Surveyor, National Geodetic Survey (N/NGS2), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910; Phone: (301) 713–3178.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Abstract

In 1991, NGS adopted a policy that defines the conditions under which NAD 83 State Plane Coordinates (SPCs) would be published in feet in addition to meters. As outlined in that policy, each state or territory must adopt NAD 83 legislation (typically referenced as Codes, Laws or Statutes), which specifically defines a conversion to either U.S. Survey or International Feet as defined by the U.S. Bureau of Standards in Federal Register Notice 59–5442. To date, 48 states have adopted the NAD 83 legislation however, for various reasons, only 33 included a specific definition of the relationship between meters and feet. This lack of uniformity has led to confusion and misuse of SPCs as provided in various NGS products, services and tools, and created errors in mapping, charting and surveying programs in numerous states due to inconsistent coordinate conversions.

Dated: December 20, 2007.

David B. Zilkoski,

Director, Office of National Geodetic Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[FR Doc. 07–6233 Filed 12–27–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–JE–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XE67

U.S. Climate Change Science Program Revised Research Plan Summary

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Publication of U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Revised Research Plan Summary and request for public comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 104(f) the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (GCRA), the U.S. Climate Change Science Program Revised Research Plan Summary is being published in the **Federal Register** for a 60-day public comment period. The public comments received on the Revised Research Plan Summary will be considered during the preparation of the final Revised Research Plan as well as the Scientific Assessment document required by Section 106 of the GCRA. The final version of the full Revised Research Plan will be published on the CCSP web site. Public comments received on the Revised Research Plan Summary will be made available upon request.

DATES: Comments must be received by February 26, 2008.

ADDRESSES: A formatted version of The U.S. Climate Change Science Program Revised Research Plan Summary is available on the CCSP Web site at: *http://www.climatescience.gov/Library/stratplan2008/summary/default.htm* Comments should be sent to Dr. Fabien Laurier, Climate Change Science Program Office at: *research-plan-summary@usgcrp.gov*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Patricia Jellison, Climate Change Science Program Office, 1717 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20006, Telephone: (202) 223–6262

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Revised Research Plan for the US Climate Change Science Program (CCSP)

I. Introduction

About the Revised Research Plan

This Revised Research Plan is an update to the 2003 Strategic Plan of the US Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) (*http://www.climatescience.gov/Library/stratplan2003/final/default.htm*), a document which was developed via a thorough, open and transparent multi-year process involving a wide range of scientists and managers. A significant part of this process was the review of both the draft and final plan by the National Academy of Sciences (*http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record__id=11565* for the draft plan; *http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record__id=10635* for the final plan). These reviews played an important role in influencing the 2003 Strategic Plan's development.

The Strategic Plan has long-term value to CCSP, but like any strategic plan, it must be supplemented by shorter-term revisions that take into account both advances in the science and changes in societal needs, and CCSP has an ongoing long-range strategic planning process to ensure that these needs are met. The Revised Research Plan (hereinafter referred to as the Research Plan) draws on CCSP's long-range planning process and provides this update, in compliance with the terms of the Global Change Research Act (GCRA) of 1990.

In the Research Plan, the reader will find several things: (1) an updated statement of vision, goals and capabilities consistent with CCSP's current Strategic Plan but reflecting both scientific progress and the evolution of the Program based on accomplishments and evolving societal and environmental needs; (2) a description of the relationship of the Research Plan to the current Scientific Assessment; (3) highlights of ways in which the program

is evolving in the context of the progress made over the years 2003–2007 since the Strategic Plan was put in place, and a description of the priorities that have emerged as a result; and 4) a description of research plans for the coming years, in order to build upon the work envisioned in the Strategic Plan and begun over the past four years.

The purpose of this Summary of the Research Plan is to provide information about the structure, scope and content of the Research Plan, in order to solicit and facilitate public comment about the Plan.

About the Climate Change Science Program

The vision of CCSP is: A nation and the global community empowered with the science-based knowledge to manage the risks and opportunities of change in the climate and related environmental systems. The core precept that motivates the CCSP is that the best possible scientific knowledge should be the foundation for the information required to manage climate variability and change and related aspects of global change. Thus the mission of the CCSP is to:Facilitate the creation and application of knowledge of the Earth's global environment through research, observations, decision support, and communication.

CCSP's five strategic goals are:

- CCSP Goal (1): Improve knowledge of the Earth's past and present climate and environment, including its natural variability, and improve understanding of the causes of observed variability and change
- CCSP Goal (2): Improve quantification of the forces bringing about changes in the Earth's climate and related systems
- CCSP Goal (3): Reduce uncertainty in projections of how the Earth's climate and related systems may change in the future
- CCSP Goal (4): Understand the sensitivity and adaptability of different natural and managed ecosystems and human systems to climate and related global changes
- CCSP Goal (5): Explore the uses and identify the limits of evolving knowledge to manage risks and opportunities related to climate variability and change

In order to understand CCSP's role in fostering and coordinating US federally-funded climate change research, it is important to understand what CCSP is and the role CCSP has in the federal government. CCSP is not a federal agency. Rather, it is a structure and a mechanism for coordinating and integrating federal research on global change, and making recommendations on priorities that federal agencies consider in their planning, as authorized in the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (GCRA). Research on global change, including climate change, is sponsored by thirteen federal agencies; the CCSP agencies also include government entities that do not sponsor research but which play a critical role in the federal process. The latter are the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of Management and Budget. CCSP fosters coordination of federal global change activities across thematic and crosscutting elements that utilize four core approaches: research, observation, communication and decision support; it also helps to coordinate international research and cooperation. Member agencies include the following:
Agency for International Development
Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of the Interior
Department of State
Department of Transportation
Environmental Protection Agency
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
National Science Foundation
Smithsonian Institution

The program is led by an interagency committee of senior representatives from the participating departments and agencies that is responsible for overall priority setting, program direction, management review, and accountability to deliver program goals. This committee is chaired by the CCSP Director. Interagency Working Groups for each of the program's research and crosscutting elements plan and implement interagency activities and priorities aligned with CCSP's Goals. These elements include the following: Atmospheric Composition, Climate Variability and Change / Modeling, Water Cycle, Land-Use and Land-Cover Change, Carbon Cycle, Human Contributions and Responses / Decision Support, Observation / Data Management, Communication, and International Research and Cooperation. CCSP has a single office, the function of which is to facilitate the activities of the Program by providing value-added staffing and day-to-day coordination of CCSP-wide program integration, strategic planning, product development, and communication.

Global change research activities across CCSP's thirteen departments and agencies includes research conducted by scientists in federal agencies, academia, industry, and non-profit organizations through a mix of directed and competed programs. The Research Plan provides a summary of ways in which CCSP provides leverage for individual agency efforts through improved coordination and communication, and provides an avenue for integrating and producing reports to Congress that include both research progress and a summary of future plans. CCSP also provides climate-related input to other federal and Administration initiatives (e.g., the Ocean Action Plan, the US Group on Earth Observations), and a way for the federal climate change research establishment to assess joint opportunities and needs for programmatic evolution in response to changing societal and environmental needs.

The Research Plan outlines CCSP's key products. One of these is CCSP's annual report to Congress, which provides a yearly update on key scientific findings and plans for the coming fiscal year. CCSP also sponsors workshops, like the 2005 workshop on Decision Support, which brought together experts and stakeholders on climate change and its impacts and yielded a report of its proceedings (*http://www.climatescience.gov/workshop2005/finalreport/default.htm*). CCSP also contributes expertise and support to other national and international assessments, including the IPCC Fourth Assessment (2007). Other key products of the Program include the aforementioned 2003 CCSP Strategic Plan and a series of twenty-one Synthesis and Assessment Products (in progress) that are one outcome of the substantial stakeholder engagement in the earlier strategic planning process. These Synthesis and Assessment reports provide in-depth ''state of the science'' information responsive to CCSP overarching strategic goals and related to specific national, regional and sectoral issues. (Please see *http://www.climatescience.gov/Library/default.htm* for information on available products and the status of products in preparation.) In addition, numerous peer-reviewed scientific papers are published each year under the auspices of CCSP.

The Research Plan provides an overview of CCSP Program management and review, including communications; how the Program is structured and how priorities are established and used; existing and planned annual and multi-year internal review processes, NRC reports and assessments; stakeholder

and community engagement and guidance; ties to other national, international and sectoral assessments such as IPCC, WMO-UNEP, Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, and other reports; and linkages to agency budget processes.

II. Progress, Priorities and Plans

Research Progress towards Goals 2003—2007

Section II of the Research Plan provides an overview of the Program's progress and priorities. Significant progress has been made in many areas of climate change research, as evidenced by the development of the 21 Synthesis and Assessment Products; several of these reports are now complete and others are in progress. The accomplishments of the past four years have led not just to advancement of scientific knowledge, but as significantly, to the evolution and refinement of the science questions and approaches needed for current and future global change research. CCSP's strategic goals have a direct relationship, by design, to the research elements outlined in the GCRA. The Research Plan provides a crosscut that relates progress across GCRA research elements to CCSP strategic goals and core approaches, as well as selected highlights of key progress (and the impacts and societal benefits resulting from that progress) across the research elements called for in the GCRA:

(1) Global measurements, establishing and providing stewardship for the worldwide observations necessary to understand the physical, chemical and biological processes responsible for changes in the Earth system on climate-relevant spatial and temporal scales

(2) Documentation of global change, including the development of mechanisms for recording changes that will actually occur in the Earth system over the coming decades

(3) Studies of earlier changes in the Earth system, using evidence from the geologic and fossil record

(4) Predictions, using quantitative models of the Earth system to identify and simulate global environmental processes and trends, and the regional implications of such processes and trends

(5) Focused research initiatives to understand the nature of and interaction among physical, chemical, biological, and social processes related to global change.

Emerging Priorities

CCSP has an ongoing planning process, to determine yearly objectives as well as longer-term strategic approaches. The Research Plan is a reflection of the current stage of these planning activities. CCSP's planning process uses the vision articulated in the Strategic Plan for 2003–2013 as a starting point, and is further informed by CCSP-commissioned reports from the National Research Council (e.g. the 2007 NRC review of CCSP: *http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record__id=11934*), as well as CCSP-sponsored stakeholder and scientific outreach, involvement in international global change programs, and a wide range of assessment activities in which CCSP is involved. This approach provides the basis for ongoing assessment and alignment of priorities based on emerging scientific and societal needs.

Any scientific research program must evolve over time based on what has been learned during earlier periods, and CCSP is no exception. This is particularly true for an Earth science related program, in which the past several years have brought dramatic increases in knowledge; significant advances in the length and quality of observational data sets (including more comprehensive observations of climatic phenomena than was previously possible); improvements in the scope, resolution, and quality of models; and the initiation of several major observational efforts that have only now begun to yield results for integrated scientific study, or will appear shortly after the release of the revised Plan.

One of the most significant advancements of recent years is that ongoing monitoring of key Earth systems over the past four years and analysis of records extending back through time have revealed a number of important Earth system changes and previously-unknown processes, including (but not limited to), the continuation of warm years; changes in the cryosphere, e.g. Arctic sea ice coverage, significant changes in ice mass in Greenland and Antarctica, and permafrost temperature; changes in patterns and frequency of wildfire; changes in species distributions; ocean acidification and its consequences; changes in storminess; hydrologic changes; and the recognition of unexpected behavior in seasonal greenness in tropical and temperate forests. Continued collection of paleoenvironmental data has also provided a basis for understanding the importance of not just climate change, but also climate variability and the potential for abrupt changes, to Earth systems. This legacy of past observations is key to understanding potential future changes and impacts.

Long- and short-term monitoring efforts have benefited from advances in technology and analysis capabilities; however, there are significant challenges associated with these gains. These issues were the subject of a CCSP internal workshop on Observations in 2006. Drawing from the report of that workshop, the Research Plan addresses the major issues relative to observations, including: (1) advances and issues in capabilities and their implications; (2) gains and losses in orbital and ground-based observations networks, including NPOESS, Landsat-like systems and other climate sensors; (3) long- vs. short-term observations; (4) advances in (and costs of) computational and data storage and retrieval capacity; and 5) the increased sensitivity, scope and comprehensiveness of climate models and the needs thereof.

In the four years since the 2003 Strategic Plan was published, the climate community has also completed work on several important assessments, including the IPCC 4th Assessment Report (to which CCSP made substantial scientific contributions) and the Synthesis and Assessment Products being developed under the auspices of CCSP, which have helped to integrate many related scientific areas and to provide a comprehensive report on the state of the science. These assessments have had a significant influence on the broader climate policy community, and have helped to shape external dialogues and to frame the new questions that face policymakers. These discussions within the user community have already begun to place increased demands on CCSP to provide more regionally-resolved and sector-specific information about climate, its societal impacts and vulnerabilities, and to provide the rigorous scientific basis to support increased societal planning for adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change.

As a direct result of the past four years of Program activity and progress, as well as recognition of the important changes to earth systems noted above, there are significant new demands on CCSP. The most substantial of these is the need for information at a scale that is pertinent to direct land- and resource management issues, in order to support decision-making. The development of robust partnerships will be an essential component of CCSP's response to these needs. These areas include not just climate change itself but improved understanding of associated issues of climate change impacts, adaptation, vulnerability, and sustainability, as well

as the need for tools for the delivery of information for decision support in a manner that is both timely and useful, and at scales that are relevant, to stakeholders' needs.

This section of the Research Plan contains specific examples of issues and events that influence CCSP's research directions. The list of examples includes such major developments as:

- Dramatic increases in knowledge
- Significant advances in the length and quality of observational data sets
- Improvements in scope, resolution, and quality of models and modeling efforts
- Initiation of major new climate sensors and observational efforts that are now beginning to yield results for integrated scientific study, and potential loss of others
- Completion of important assessments, including the IPCC Fourth Assessment, assessments by WMO/UNEP, the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, and CCSP's Synthesis and Assessment Products

Research and Programmatic Plans

The sections outlined above are intended to provide an overview of the structure and purpose of CCSP, its products, accomplishments and challenges, and the progress which has led to the emergence of new priorities and changed emphases over the past four years. The remainder of the Research Plan's content is devoted to the articulation of Plans for the Program both programmatically and as related to CCSP's strategic goals, for the period 2008—2010 and beyond.

A sampling of programmatic and research plans is provided in this Summary. However, it is anticipated that the full scope of these plans will be developed with inclusion of the public input that results from the publication of this Summary. Since the public input to this Research Plan will be an essential component in developing the research directions of CCSP, this input will also be considered in the development of the current Scientific Assessment as required by the GCRA. The GCRA requires that the Scientific Assessment integrates, evaluates, and interprets the findings of the [United States Global Change Research] Program. The current Scientific Assessment is under development; it will integrate and draw from many sources, including the 2003 Strategic Plan, the Synthesis and Assessment Products, and this Research Plan, including the public comments received during the Research Plan's development, and other published sources. By promulgating this Summary, CCSP invites and encourages public comment to help inform both the development of the Research Plan and the articulation of CCSP's future research priorities.

In addition to research plans aimed at achieving objectives associated directly with CCSP's strategic goals, CCSP intends to explore ways in which to improve and extend its achievement of programmatic goals. Issues related to the crosscutting elements of modeling, observations systems and networks, stakeholder engagement and communication of CCSP results to the public, to non-governmental organizations, to the climate change technology community and to state and local officials and other decisionmakers are among the areas for needed growth that were identified by the National Research Council in its recent report on CCSP progress (NRC 2007). Over the next three years CCSP will actively consider responses to these needs to determine and implement effective approaches. The CCSP agencies will also continue to take a leadership role in the dissemination of results and products that come from the program's research, observations, and decision support activities. In particular, the program will ensure that the conclusions from its assessment products and activities are widely communicated. In addition, the program will coordinate the development of interagency climate-related communications with those of the member agencies to help assure that the accomplishments of the overall national investment in climate-related science are understood and are widely available to users of the information.

The scope of CCSP scientific research is far-reaching. CCSP Strategic Goals encompass everything from basic scientific research on Earth's past and present climate and climate variability, the forces that result in changes to Earth's climate and related systems, reducing uncertainties in projecting future change and its consequences and the sensitivity/adaptability of both ecosystems and human systems, all the way to the application of the knowledge gained to the decisionmaking process for the management of risks and development of strategies for adaptation to climate change. In the four years since the release of the Strategic Plan, investment in and progress towards CCSP Goals 1 through 3 has been greater than that for Goals 4 and 5. Significant advances have been made in documenting climate changes and understanding the interconnected workings of Earth systems. Improvements in modeling capabilities have fostered a better understanding of forcing factors and couplings between ocean, atmosphere and land systems. Relative to the state of the science four years ago, substantial progress has been made in understanding and predicting climate change and variability at global and continental scales. Accordingly, strides have been made in characterizing and reducing the uncertainties associated with projecting the magnitudes and effects of future climate and related systems change. The value of these results is demonstrated by their inclusion in and importance to the IPCC 4th Assessment.

As stated in Section I above, CCSP's Goals provide the focus and direction for the program, to ensure that knowledge developed by the participating agencies and research elements can be integrated and synthesized, and this remains the overarching strategy for the program. The following descriptions provide a sense of the strategic purpose and scope encompassed by these goals, and the way in which the goals inform research, observations, decision support and communications throughout the program:

CCSP Goal (1): Improve knowledge of the Earth's past and present climate and environment, including its natural variability, and improve understanding of the causes of observed variability and change

Climate conditions change significantly over the span of weeks, seasons, years, decades, and even longer time scales. CCSP research will improve understanding of natural oscillations in climate on time scales from weeks to centuries, including improving and harnessing ENSO forecasts, a large-scale climate oscillation with implications for resource and disaster management. Research will continue to sharpen qualitative and quantitative understanding of climate extremes, and to what degree any changes in their frequency or intensity lie outside the range of natural variability, through improved observations, analysis, and modeling. The program also will continue to expand and refine observations, monitoring, and data/information system capabilities and increase confidence in our understanding of how and why climate is changing. Fostering improved interactions and connectivity between research and ongoing operational measurements and activities continues to be another important aspect of the program's work.

CCSP Goal (2): Improve quantification of the forces bringing about changes in the Earth's climate and related systems

Combustion of fossil fuels, changes in land cover and land use, and industrial activities produce greenhouse gases (GHGs) and aerosols and alter the composition of the atmosphere and physical and biological properties of the Earth's surface. These changes have several important climatic effects, the quantification of which has improved dramatically in recent years but upon which a substantial amount of work remains to be done. Research conducted through CCSP will continue to address the reduction of uncertainty in the sources and sinks of GHGs; aerosols and their precursors; the long range atmospheric transport of GHGs and aerosols and their precursors; and the interactions of GHGs and aerosols with global climate, ozone in the upper and lower layers of the atmosphere, and regional-scale air quality. It will continue to improve quantification of the interactions among the carbon cycle, other biological and ecological processes, and land cover and land use to better project atmospheric concentrations of key greenhouse gases and to support improved decisionmaking. The program will also continue to work towards improved capabilities for developing and applying emissions scenarios in research and analysis, in cooperation with the Climate Change Technology Program (CCTP).

CCSP Goal (3): Reduce uncertainty in projections of how the Earth's climate and related systems may change in the future

While a great deal is now known about the mechanisms that affect the response of the climate system to changes in natural and human influences, many questions remain to be addressed and refined. There is still uncertainty regarding precisely how much climate will change overall and especially in specific regions. A primary objective of CCSP is to continue to develop information and scientific capacity needed to sharpen both qualitative and quantitative understanding through interconnected observations, data assimilation, and modeling activities. CCSP-supported research will continue to address basic climate system properties and the feedbacks or secondary changes that can either reinforce or dampen the initial and ongoing effects of greenhouse gas and aerosol emissions and changes in land use and land cover. The program will also continue to address the potential for future changes in extreme events and uncertainty regarding potential rapid or abrupt changes in climate. CCSP will also continue to build on existing U.S. strengths in climate research and modeling, and to enhance capacity for development of high-end coupled climate and Earth system models.

CCSP Goal (4): Understand the sensitivity and adaptability of different natural and managed ecosystems and human systems to climate and related global changes

Seasonal to annual variability in climate has been connected to impacts on ecosystems and many aspects of human life. Longer time scale natural climate cycles and human-induced changes in climate have additional effects. Improving our ability to assess the potential implications of variations and future changes in climate and environmental conditions on ecosystems and human systems could enable governments, businesses, and communities to mitigate damages and seize opportunities by adapting infrastructure, activities, and plans. CCSP research will increasingly examine the interactions of multiple interacting changes and effects (e.g., the carbon dioxide ''fertilization effect'', deposition of nitrogen and other nutrients, changes in landscapes that affect water resources and habitats, changes in frequency of fires or pests) to improve knowledge of sensitivity and adaptability of systems to climate variability and change. CCSP research will also improve methods to integrate our understanding of potential effects of different atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and to develop methods for aggregating and comparing potential impacts across different sectors and settings.

CCSP Goal (5): Explore the uses and identify the limits of evolving knowledge to manage risks and opportunities related to climate variability and change

In recent years, the scientific and technical community has begun to develop a variety of products to support management of risks and opportunities related to climate variability and change, but much remains to be done in this area. CCSP will foster additional studies and encourage evaluation and learning from these experiences in order to develop and improve decision support processes and products that use knowledge to the best effect, while communicating levels of uncertainty appropriately. Working in partnership with stakeholders and end-users of this information, CCSP will develop resources (e.g., observations, databases, data and model products, scenarios, visualization products, scientific syntheses, assessments, tools and approaches to engage ongoing consultative mechanisms) to support policymaking, planning, risk reduction and adaptive management.

As shown above, CCSP Goals 1 through 3 remains important, with significant research questions that remain to be articulated and answered. One mechanism by which CCSP undertakes these strategic priorities is through the development of near-term (i.e.1–3 year) interagency implementation priorities. One example of a near-term interagency implementation priority that CCSP has identified as needing intensive effort is a focus on understanding carbon cycling and climate change in high latitude regions, since these regions are among the most rapidly-changing areas of the planet; another is the development of an integrated Earth system analysis capability to focus toward creation of a high-quality record of the state of the atmosphere and ocean since 1979, information that is needed in order to improve the assimilation of land cover and dynamic sea ice modeling into carbon and nutrient cycling and other crucial areas.

The coming years will see substantially increased need for CCSP to accelerate progress on Goals 4 and 5, in order to more fully understand the implications of climate change for both natural and managed ecosystems and to improve the delivery of that information to land and resource managers and other stakeholders. This is an important area of potential growth for CCSP. New foci include improvements in the reliability of ecological forecasting, in order to foster and support natural resource management and decision making; an increased emphasis on the development of an early warning system for the possibility of abrupt climate change to assist managers and decisionmakers in planning for sea level rise and other potential rapid changes; and an increased focus on the development of tools for decision support,; and an increased focus on the development of tools for decision support, to improve delivery of needed information in formats and at scales (particularly regional scales) that maximize their usefulness to stakeholders.

The increased emphasis on decision support and the delivery of needed information to stakeholders and decision-makers discussed above is an example of an evolving overall programmatic priority for CCSP. Further, each of the thirteen participating agencies also has its own priorities that make invaluable contributions to CCSP, and which contribute a large portion of CCSP's progress toward CCSP's strategic goals. In addition, CCSP has identified specific

implementation priorities -- important topics that require the coordinated efforts of multiple agencies. While these implementation priorities are only a part of the overall program, they are vital mechanisms through which CCSP integrates agency activities to create knowledge and products that are greater than the sum of the individual agency efforts. The following are examples of implementation priorities for the next few years that are inherently interagency, and that will contribute to the program's long-term priorities (priorities that are specific to single agencies are not included here).

Enhanced Carbon Cycle Research on High Latitude Systems

The global carbon cycle has been one of the seven interdisciplinary science focus areas for CCSP and its GCRP predecessors for many years. Accomplishments include completion of CCSP Synthesis and Assessment Product 2.2 ''State of the Carbon Cycle Report''(*http://www.climatescience.gov/Library/sap/sap2–2/final-report/default.htm*) as well as improved availability of CO2 measurements and advances in coupled carbon-climate modeling and assimilation, plus others. Recognition that high latitude systems are increasingly important sources of atmospheric carbon as regional warming occurs makes it critical to improve our understanding of the carbon dynamics in high latitude systems, and the factors that may lead to changes in those dynamics. These are crucial elements of global carbon modeling and a priority for understanding the linkages and feedbacks between carbon, ecosystems and land cover, hydrology, and climate variability and change.

Quantification of Climate Forcing and Feedbacks by Aerosols, Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases, Water Vapor, and Clouds

The need to quantify and understand the impacts of radiative forcing on climate has long been important to CCSP/GCRP. Advances have been made in our understanding of climate influences of aerosols, reactive gas emissions and ozone in both the troposphere and stratosphere, and these continue to be important. The next level of complexity adds the importance of water vapor in the upper troposphere and lower stratosphere, as a key component of the atmospheric system. There is now increased recognition of the importance of quantifying the climate forcing associated with aerosols, clouds, the spatially-varying shorter-lived trace gases, as well as upper tropospheric and lower stratospheric ozone. Recent analysis, including that associated with the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has emphasized this need, and a number of scientific advances and improvement in observation and modeling capability make the timing appropriate for an enhanced focus on this topic.
Development of an Integrated Earth System Analysis Capability: A focus toward creating a high-quality record of the state of the atmosphere and ocean since 1979

Just as the public and decision-makers can today easily access weather maps (i.e., ''analyses'' of the atmosphere) to support a wide range of applications, tomorrow's decision-makers need tools to visualize the evolving state of the climate system over the entire planet, including its oceans, land surface, and vegetation. Substantial progress has been made in the development of coupled Earth system modeling, particularly with the adoption of a common Earth System Modeling Framework. Historical reanalysis of data for the 20th century, improvements in coupled ocean-atmosphere analysis capabilities and the incorporation of land surface processes, sea ice dynamics and the hydrological cycle will yield an improved record of the state of the atmosphere and ocean. This effort will contribute to the ability to separate natural and human-induced climate forcing of climate variations and change, and will result in improved accessibility of research-based information on climate variations and impacts to decision-makers and the public.

Development of an End-to-End Hydrologic Projection and Application Capability

The need to provide information to water resource managers and other decision makers on issues related to how climate affects water availability, drought, and water quality has long been a component of CCSP activities, and the global water cycle is one of CCSP's identified research elements. An end-to-end system to provide information to water resource managers and other decision makers on issues related to how climate affects water availability, drought, and water quality requires integration and improvement of existing research and monitoring capabilities to reduce uncertainties in hydrological/climate predictions. Assembling the building blocks for the development of an end-to-end global water cycle infrastructure and an development of an observations-based Generalized Hydrological (water, energy, biogeochemical) Modeling/Prediction Framework will help to reduce uncertainties and improve hydrologic predictions, leading to improved decision-support information and resources.

Assessing Abrupt Change in a Warming Climate: Toward Development of an Abrupt Change Early Warning System

Changes in the climate system are considered ''abrupt'' if they occur more rapidly than the time needed by society and ecosystems to adapt to them (NRC 2002). Possible impacts range from accelerated melting of ice sheets and associated sea level rise, severe and sustained droughts, to systematic changes in weather patterns over broad regions that may result from changes in ocean circulation. CCSP has a research element aimed specifically at climate variability and change, which has fostered considerable progress in our understanding of past abrupt climate events and the potential causes for rapid changes. Given this progress, a near-term emphasis is to reduce the remaining knowledge gaps that limit our ability to provide early warning assessments of the likelihood of future abrupt climate change, at global, national and regional scales, over the remainder of this century. The effort has a special focus on those changes that have the largest potential impacts, with the overarching goal of providing policy- and decision-makers with information needed to better assess and minimize future risks due to abrupt change.

Ecological Forecasting

Ecological forecasting brings together modeling with observations and results from experiments and process studies to predict the impacts of natural and anthropogenic environmental changes on life-sustaining ecosystems. Many CCSP agencies are engaged in activities that include components of an ecological forecasting capability to address critical emerging questions. Progress has been made in such areas as documenting changes occurring in boreal forests. This has set the stage for reducing scientific uncertainty about possible future changes in primary production, biogeochemistry, and biodiversity, to findings that show that global oceanic phytoplankton productivity responds to changes in upper-ocean temperature and stratification. Work for the coming years builds upon earlier investigations to expand the development of models linking geophysical and ecological phenomena, to better characterize the uncertainty associated with linked models, and thus to provide more

reliable ecological forecasts. The result will be an enhanced understanding of ecological response to changing climate as well as improved natural resource management and decision-making.

The full Revised Research Plan includes—for both programmatic and strategic goals—the identification of emerging societal and scientific needs; the changes and shifts in emphasis to major scientific questions that have resulted from advances in knowledge and other accomplishments; the most urgent research needs that have emerged; and the expected outcomes, products, impacts and societal benefits. The brief examples above suggest the direction that CCSP will evolve in the future, towards increased engagement with stakeholders and increased attention towards relevance of scientific results to decisionmaking and policymaking. The full scope of the Research Plan will reflect the public input that results from the publication of this Summary. By publishing this Summary, CCSP invites and encourages public comment to help inform both the development of the Research Plan and the articulation of CCSP's future research priorities.

III. End Matter

In keeping with CCSP policy and its legacy of openness and transparency of process, the Research Plan will close with information regarding the preparation of the Research Plan, including but not limited to, a listing of: (1) Authors; (2) Reviewers; (3) References; (4) Sources of images and other figures; and (5) Important Links and Contact Information.

Dated: December 21, 2007.

William J. Brennan,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for International Affairs, and Acting Director, Climate Change Science Program.

[FR Doc. E7–25254 Filed 12–27–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–12–S

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 11 a.m., Friday, January 25, 2008.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., NW., Washington, DC, 9th Floor Commission Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Surveillance Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Sauntia S. Warfield, 202–418–5084.

David A. Stawick,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 07–6247 Filed 12–26–07; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 11 a.m., Friday, January 11, 2007.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., NW., Washington, DC, 9th Floor Commission Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Surveillance Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Sauntia S. Warfield, 202–418–5084.

David A. Stawick,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 07–6248 Filed 12–26–07; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 11 a.m., Friday, January 4, 2007.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., NW., Washington, DC, 9th Floor Commission Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Surveillance Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Sauntia S. Warfield, 202–418–5084.

David A. Stawick,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 07–6249 Filed 12–26–07; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 11 a.m., Friday January 18, 2008.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., NW., Washington, DC, 9th Floor Commission Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Surveillance Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Sauntia S. Warfield, 202–418–5084.

David A. Stawick,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 07–6250 Filed 12–26–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–P

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 2 p.m., Wednesday January 16, 2008.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., NW., Washington, DC, 9th Floor Commission Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Surveillance Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Sauntia S. Warfield, 202–418–5084.

David A. Stawick,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 07–6251 Filed 12–26–07; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. DoD–2007–OS–0145]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the *Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995*, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service announces a proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and