

Opening Statement
RDML Tim Gallaudet, U.S. Navy
**Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere/
Deputy Administrator of NOAA**
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
September 27, 2017

Thank you Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, and Members of the Committee. I'd also like to thank Senator Wicker for his gracious introduction.

I would like to thank the President and Secretary Ross for their trust and confidence in me with this nomination to be the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere which also serves as the Deputy Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). If I have the honor of being confirmed by this Committee, I look forward to working with all of you on the important work performed by NOAA in such areas as weather forecasting, storm warning, fisheries and coastal zone management, ocean exploration, and climate monitoring.

I have spent the past 32 years in the Navy studying and applying the knowledge of earth sciences. My experience in the Navy has touched everything that NOAA does for the nation, from the practical aspects of meteorology, oceanography, and hydrography, to developing policies on illegal fishing.

During my last tour in the Navy as Oceanographer of the Navy, I also served as the Navy Deputy to the NOAA Administrator. In this position, I directed the extensive partnership activities between the Navy and NOAA. It was this experience which exposed me to the many significant contributions that NOAA makes to our national security, these included severe weather warnings at Navy bases that allowed the Navy to plan and minimize damage and prevent loss of life. Also, the Navy partnered with NOAA to share ocean observations and models that are critical to ensuring our undersea forces maintain their war fighting superiority over our adversaries.

I also saw first-hand how NOAA contributes to our nation's economic, homeland, and natural resource security. Every day, NOAA's information impacts hundreds of billions of dollars of activity and infrastructure, and tens to hundreds of millions of lives in American states and territories. These impacts occur in nearly every possible sector: homeland defense, energy, transportation, agriculture, and manufacturing. Thus, NOAA is critical to the effective functioning of government: at the local, state and Federal levels. And I did not need Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose, or Maria to reinforce this understanding. My family lost our entire home to storm surge during Hurricane Katrina. The timely and accurate storm predictions from NOAA's National Weather Service allowed us to evacuate early, and although that did not prevent us from losing our home, it very well kept us alive.

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Of the many exciting opportunities that face NOAA today, three interest me most. First, implementing the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017. This will enable NOAA's combined atmospheric sensing and modeling capabilities to be the best in the world, and continue to protect lives and property while enhancing the national economy. Second, advancing fisheries management under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and any potential reauthorization. This, along with supporting the growth of aquaculture in the U.S. will help to eliminate our \$13 billion seafood trade deficit. Third, focusing NOAA's ocean observations, mapping, and exploration activities will not only expand the nation's blue economy, but also ensure U.S. competitive advantage in maritime trade, transportation, energy, business development, and defense.

Lastly, I'd like to talk about the most important part of NOAA – their people. This extraordinary team of 12,000 professionals serve all across the country and the world. It includes over 6,000 scientists and engineers that are world leaders in their fields, even a few Nobel Prize winners. They also have a first rate uniformed officer corps that fly Hurricane Hunter aircraft, operate a Fleet of oceanographic vessels, and conduct scuba and deep sea dives along with remotely operated and unmanned vehicles. If confirmed, I would be absolutely honored to help lead this amazing Team, champion their cause, and ensure they have what they need to do their work more effectively.

I want to thank the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral John Richardson and then Acting Secretary of the Navy Sean Stackley for supporting my request to retire from the Navy, allowing me to serve in this position if confirmed.

I also want to thank my wife Caren and 3 daughters, who have supported me in choosing to continue in public service.

Thank you again Committee Members, for the opportunity to be here. I look forward to your questions.