

Argos System Use Administration Executive Summary

Argos SUA administration at NOAA processed 244 System Use Agreements (SUA) with 39 SUAs held pending for questions over the course of May 2003- May 2004. NOAA uses an internal metrics of 14 days to process completed SUAs. For 2003 the SUAs processing time averaged 5.4 days down from 6 days in 2002-2003, with a decrease in the number of pending SUAs received for processing (15% from 28%). As of June 16th 2004 there were 4 Pending SUAs not associated with the review of Vessel Monitoring Systems usage and 7 SUAs for the Fishing Vessel monitoring application.

The Electronic processing system contractor has continued to run into problems installing the development system. During trails conducted in January and February of 2004 issues were identified with the software coding compatibility with the resident hardware and software. There were several issues with the performance of the system that could not be overcome. The contract funding ran out at the end of March 2004 with no delivered system. NOAA negotiation with the contractor to resolve the issues remaining and complete the installation by the beginning of July 2004.

NOAA is submitting a procedure for implementing the user letters approved by the OPSCOM. The user letters serve as notification from CLS/SAI to the users of their requirement to renew their SUA, 30 days prior to renewal, on the renewal date and 30 days after renewal date. The letters also reference data denial for non compliant programs. NOAA is also submitting a draft data denial policy for review of the OPSCOM. Both documents have been shared with CLS/SAI with no comment generated. NOAA requests an action to have the two documents reviewed before acceptance in the Consolidated Report.

In October 2003 NOAA work with NACLS on how sensitive use applications need to be filed as was agreed at OPSCOM 37. Some slight modifications were made from what was brief at last year's OPSCOM. The Changes were made based on request of NACLS and its users. Applications for sensitive use will be submitted in entirety to NACLS and kept secure at their location. NACLS will provide a signed SUA with the name of the program, contact, organization sponsoring the program, a brief description of the activity, number of platforms, and program start date. The type of sensitive use category would be listed under the other file in Application type section of the SUA. This same procedure was adopted for CLS. While review the sensitive use application at NACLS it was discovered that a couple of application had no record on file. NOAA would like to request an action to review again NACLS programs have completed SUA's on file.

