SEC. 1047. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION OF OCEAN RESEARCH ADVISORY PANEL FROM DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY TO NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.

(a) AUTHORITY FOR OCEAN RESEARCH ADVISORY PANEL.—Subsection (a) of section 7903 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting ", through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration," after "The Council";

(B) by striking "Panel consisting" and inserting "Panel. The Panel shall consist"; and

(C) by striking "chairman" and inserting "Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, on behalf of the Council";

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking "National Academy of Science" and inserting "National Academies"; and

(3) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF PANEL.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by inserting ", through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration," after "The Council";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(3) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraphs (2) and (3):

"(2) To advise the Council on the determination of scientific priorities and needs.

"(3) To provide the Council strategic advice regarding national ocean program execution and collaboration.".

(c) FUNDING TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES OF PANEL.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended by striking "Secretary of the Navy" and inserting "Secretary of Commerce".

[Please note: The Changes to Existing Law section below sets out in "red line" format how the legislative text above would amend existing law]

Section-by-Section Analysis

In support of the Secretary of Defense's Efficiency Initiatives, the Department of Defense is recommending a realignment of agency responsibility for supporting the Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP) by transferring responsibility for administration of that Panel from the Department of the Navy to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce. The Administration believes that this change is consistent with the function of this advisory board.

The Administration believes that the support responsibilities of ORAP are more appropriately aligned under NOAA. This change would not affect or diminish the statutory authorities of the National Ocean Research Leadership Council (NORLC) or the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP), or their respective relationships with the ORAP. The changes made by this section would allow the functions of the ORAP to be aligned more appropriately to address the full range of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes policy issues as they relate to the expanded Administrative responsibilities directed by the President in Executive Order 13547, "Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes."

Budget Implications: Transferring the functions of these committees to other organizations or other advisory boards would result in the following potential savings.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)									
	FY 2015	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**Appropriations From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line Item**	**Program Element**
Ocean Research	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy	02	0602435N	0602435N
Ocean Research Efficiency	-.2	-.2	-.2	-.2	.2	Research, Development, Test & Evaluation,	02	0602435N	0602435N

						Navy			
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	--	--	--	--

Changes to Existing Law: The proposal would make the following changes to existing law:

TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE

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CHAPTER 665—NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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§ 7903. Ocean Research Advisory Panel

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Council, through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall establish an Ocean Research Advisory Panel. The Panel shall consist~~ing~~ of not less than 10 and not more than 18 members appointed by the ~~chairman~~ Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, on behalf of the Council, including the following:

(1) One member who will represent the ~~National Academy of Sciences~~ National Academies.

~~(2) One member who will represent the National Academy of Engineering.~~

~~(3) One member who will represent the Institute of Medicine.~~

(~~4~~2) Members selected from among individuals who will represent the views of ocean industries, State governments, academia, and such other views as the Council considers appropriate.

(~~5~~3) Members selected from among individuals eminent in the fields of marine science or marine policy, or related fields.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Council, through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall assign the following responsibilities to the Advisory Panel:

(1) To advise the Council on policies and procedures to implement the National Oceanographic Partnership Program.

(2) To advise the Council on ~~selection of partnership projects and allocation of funds for partnership projects for implementation under the program~~ the determination of scientific priorities and needs.

(3) To provide the Council strategic advice regarding national ocean program execution and collaboration.

(~~3~~4) To advise the Council on matters relating to national oceanographic data requirements.

(~~4~~5) Any additional responsibilities that the Council considers appropriate.

(c) FUNDING.— The ~~Secretary of the Navy~~ Secretary of Commerce annually shall make funds available to support the activities of the Advisory Panel.