Summary of Public Comments: Draft NOAA Cloud Strategy

NOAA received comments on the Cloud Strategy from 10 persons or organizations (see Appendix A). The comments were parsed into 18 separate items in an Adjudication Table in Excel to facilitate resolution. Each comment was recommended for either "No Action" or "Action," i.e. possible revision or addition to current draft. Note # indicates item or row number in the Adjudication Table.

Table 1. **Summary of Public Comments Received**

type of comment		*totals*	**NO ACTION**	**ACTION**
Complimentary	Supportive, endorses or agrees with Strategy, does not require revisions.	5	*5*	*0*
Substantive	Suggested addition(s) that clarifies key points, or correction/revision to factually incorrect material	11	*2*	*9*
Major	Introduces new or expanded scope or content that may cause non-concurrence with current Strategy goals/objectives	2	*0*	*2*
Critical	Contentious issue or topic that potentially conflicts with the purpose or objective of the Strategy	0	*0*	*0*
	totals	**18**	*7*	*11*

The majority of comments were very supportive of the strategy. While a small number of responses provided only marketing material and contained no specific feedback or content that could trigger a possible revision to the strategy, the overwhelming majority of responses provided relevant input with clear references to various elements of the strategy.

Notably, there were two comments (# 1 and especially #12) that either recommend or imply the development of objectives for each of the cloud goals. We concur with the need and intent, and recommend accepting these comments for action. However, due to the crucial vetting needed to achieve broad consensus on the new objectives, we propose up to a two month timeline to perform the vetting of the objectives. Once complete, the strategy will be revised to incorporate the consensus objectives. All other items recommended for action can be addressed on the current schedule.

RECOMMENDED FOR "ACTION" - organized by the sections/outline of the cloud strategy

Purpose and Scope
1. **Expand the discussion of selecting the right architecture to include emphasizing the critical role of cloud governance to establish and maintain technical baselines** (#7/T-Rex-Relick)

Strategic Imperative
2. **Add or improve language to emphasize the need for integrating broader and more robust interoperability with the other S&T strategies to ensure an integrated approach.** (#16/Consortium for Ocean Leadership Council-White)

Future State, Vision and Success Drivers
3. **Address the inherent conflict between "cloud native" and a multi-cloud approach, to include the management challenges associated with balancing and managing the complexity of pursuing both approaches.** (#5/Leidos-Shaw)
4. **Revise language describing the desired future state and/or the cloud vision statement such that they are consistent.**

(#11, Ace Info-Starr)

5. **Add a success driver bullet calling for a security framework, to include common tool sets for deployment, monitoring, and incident response**
(#8/T-Rex-Relick)

NOAA's Strategic Goals for Cloud

6. **Follow a similar structure as the other S&T strategies (implies new content to specify cloud objectives, which would be documented within the goals section)**
(#1/NOAA-OAR-Wanninkhof, and #12/Ocean Exploration Advisory Board)
Note: Recommend up to two month timeline to address due to necessary vetting and consensus.

7. **Add language to promote professional development opportunities, and encouragement of graduate programs and student training** *(e.g., could be added as objectives under the cloud-enabled workforce goal)*
(#'s 14 and 15/Consortium for Ocean Leadership Council-White)
Note: Recommend up to two month timeline to address due to necessary vetting and consensus.

8. **Recommend establishing a Cloud Program Management Office (PMO) to provide comprehensive guidance and advisory services for cloud migration and optimization effort.**
(#6, AWS)

Guiding Principles

9. **Expand the "Default to industry and community best practices" to include discussion of automating testing for system interoperability, security testing and deployment**
(#10/T-Rex-Relick)

Other

10. **Add an acknowledgements section**
(#1/NOAA-OAR-Wanninkhof)

11. **Add an appendix (or otherwise) to define technical terms**
(#2/NOAA-OAR-Wanninkhof)

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR "NO ACTION"

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12. **The potential growth in cloud computing will be severely limited if the data needed for research and operations isn't easily available in the cloud.**
(#3, Blaylock)
Rationale: We concur with this observation but no edits are needed

13. **New data formats that NOAA pursues should strive to make the tools necessary to use the data available to all computing platforms.**
(#3, Blaylock)
Rationale: We concur with the intent but no edits are needed

14. **Recommend noting that to simplify data access and use, NOAA must understand its data and its change through the business value processes. Data lineage, definition and security classification are critical to simplifying data use, protection and increasing its business value.**
(#9/T-Rex-Relick)
Rationale: We concur with the intent and need, but the comment applies to the scope of the NOAA data strategy (which the cloud strategy is intimately tied to) and should be directed to that team for consideration.

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15. **Input from Pure Storage**
    (#12/Pure Storage-Duckett and McCartin)
    Rationale: Feedback was mostly marketing material indicating how the vendor could support the strategy, but contained no specific comments or input regarding the strategy itself.

16. **Input from Mystic Aquarium**
    (#'s 16 and 17/Mystic Aquarium-Coan)
    Rationale: The comments were supportive and complimentary, but contained no specific recommendations or content that would trigger a possible revision to the strategy

17. **Suggest integrating broader and more robust interoperability efforts into each of the strategies to ensure an integrated approach**
    (#16/Consortium for Ocean Leadership Council)
    Rational: We concur with the intent, and are already committed to accomplishing this through an effort to coordinate and synchronize the implementation plans of each of the S&T strategies.

18. **Implied (potentially – the comment was non-specific and vague) extensive reorganization of the strategy**
     (#1/NOAA-OAR-Wanninkhof)
    Rationale: We believe the structures are sufficiently similar and not materially different, with the notable exception that the draft cloud strategy does not specify objectives (whereas each of the other strategies do). We intend to address this as noted in the recommendations for action section.

Appendix A: Sources of Public Comments (number of comments submitted)

1. Ace Info – Kevin Starr (1)
2. Amazon Web Services – unspecified individual (1)
3. Brian Blalock - affiliation unspecified (2)
4. Consortium for Ocean Leadership Council – Jonathan White (3)
5. Leidos – John Shaw (1)
6. Mystic Aquarium – Stephen Coan (2)
7. NOAA/OAR – Rick Wanninkhof (2)
8. Ocean Exploration Advisory Board – John Kreider (1)
9. Pure Storage, Bill Duckett and Bob McCartin (1)
10. T-Rex – Clyde Relick (4)