



Oregon State
University

Research Office

September 15, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Francis Chan as the next Director of the NOAA/OSU Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies (CIMRS).

Francis comes to us from the Department of Integrative Biology. He is an ecosystem ecologist by training and received his PhD from Cornell University. Francis has been an important member of Oregon State University's marine science community, and has worked in at-sea research along the Oregon Coast for nearly two decades. He brings with him extensive experience in collaborative, interdisciplinary and use-inspired science. He is currently a co-PI in the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) and has strong collaborative relationships with researchers across multiple colleges at OSU. Such partnerships have resulted in over \$20 million in federal, state and philanthropic research grants to the University. Francis is also a leader in the state and regional ocean science-to-policy arena. He has led scientific working groups whose efforts have translated directly into new ocean change legislations and ocean science investments in Oregon and California. Francis is a committed ambassador for ocean science at OSU, reaching audiences through appearances on OPB, NPR, the National Geographic Channel and in The New York Times and others.

As you know, Oregon State University is among universities that lead marine and atmospheric science advances nationally, in part, because of our significant co-investment with NOAA. This includes significant engagement at Hatfield Marine Science Center with NOAA ship operations, labs from two different NOAA Line Offices, and across the whole campus through Oregon Sea Grant, the Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies (CIMRS), the Cooperative Institute for Climate, Ocean, and Ecosystem Studies (CICOES) and Marine Studies.

For over four decades, CIMRS has conducted cutting-edge transdisciplinary research that supports NOAA's mission, goals and strategic initiatives, while training the next generation of marine scientists to advance knowledge of ocean ecosystems. This long-term partnership highlights the strength of the marine science research and training enterprise at OSU. Francis assumes the directorship of CIMRS as OSU finishes work on the current cooperative institute grant and embarks on completing strategic planning for the next phase of CIMRS, leading to the development of a 10-year proposal for a future CIMRS to build the next version of the cooperative institute through fostering the most productive NOAA and OSU marine and atmospheric research futures, aligned with NOAA's needs.

Francis brings a vision of collaborative and inclusive research excellence that builds from CIMRS' successes. Francis plans to build a cooperative institute that further accelerates collaborations between disciplines and between OSU, NOAA, industry and stakeholders across the university to develop innovative solutions for ocean challenges. Accomplishing this will require an ocean science community that is truly open to all. As the next director, Francis sees an important role for CIMRS in supporting the crucial work of equity and justice in ocean science.

Please join me in congratulating Francis for his new role. His curiosity, excitement and energy are inspiring, and I look forward to working with him when he starts in his new role on Monday, September 21. I would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Michael Banks, for his leadership as director of the NOAA/OSU Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies for 10+ years. Michael is excited to help with the transition and continue to be a champion for marine resources research in his new role as Senior Advisor for Marine Resources to the Vice President for Research.

Sincerely,

Irem Y. Tumer, Ph.D., ASME Fellow
Interim Vice President for Research

312 Kerr Administration Building, Corvallis, Oregon, 97331
research.oregonstate.edu