Presentation Title: Strengthening Application of NOAA Science and Services in the Public Health Sector

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Presentation Abstract: An ad hoc NOAA-wide Health Team has been leading an effort to develop the agency’s Health Strategy as called for by the Science Advisory Board in the Ocean Health Working Group report, “One Ocean, One Health: NOAA in the Lead.” As part of this effort, the NOAA Health Team is strengthening collaborations with health agencies in the US and internationally. The focus is on the application of NOAA’s unique expertise, information, data, modeling, forecasting, and infrastructure in weather, water, climate, oceans, and coasts to help health agencies improve protection of public health through informed decision making and understanding. Benefits include identification of public health community needs and direct demonstration of use and value of NOAA’s science and services in the public health sector. In October 2011, a collaboration with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was formalized with a Memorandum of Understanding, signed by the agency Administrators, that provides a commitment and framework for coordination, actions, and prioritizing future activities. An Action Plan for these collaborative activities is being developed and will be discussed.