

**Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)  
First Annual Implementation Conference  
31 August - 2 September 2004**

**Goals and Objectives**

Ocean.US has been working with federal agencies (NOAA, NASA, NSF, Navy, EPA, ACE, USGS, MMS, and USCG) to draft a preliminary “*Annual IOOS Development Plan*” for the initial IOOS.<sup>1</sup> It is essential that this document reflect both federal priorities and common regional priorities. The final plan (which will be revised and updated annually following the Annual IOOS Implementation Conference) will make recommendations to be used by federal agencies in establishing their priorities for contributing to the implementation, operation, and improvement of the initial IOOS. To this end, the conference will provide the first forum for the leaders of nascent Regional Associations to work directly with participating federal agencies to help finalize the *First Annual IOOS Development Plan*. The objectives are to formulate recommendations for the following:

- (1) Prioritized, phased implementation of the initial IOOS infrastructure using existing operational observing subsystem assets (FY 05-06); and
- (2) Prioritized, phased enhancements of the initial IOOS (FY 07-14).

Ocean.US will use information gathered at the conference to guide preparation of the *First Annual IOOS Development Plan* much like the Ocean.US 2002 Workshop at Airlie House was used to formulate the design of an IOOS that includes both a global ocean-climate component and a coastal component with a national backbone and regional observing systems.

The conference will focus on the establishment of:

- (1) Regional Associations (RAs) for designing, implementing, operating, and improving regional coastal ocean observing systems;
- (2) Data management and communications (DMAC);
- (3) Phased development of a national backbone that meets regional needs; and
- (4) Coordinated development of global and coastal components based on global requirements of the coastal component and coastal requirements of the global component.

The purpose of the conference is not to review the preliminary IOOS development plan in detail. Rather, it is to initiate an annual forum for federal agencies and regional groups to collaborate in the development of the IOOS over time and to make specific recommendation for IOOS implementation that address data and information needs of the regions as a whole. These are the objectives of days one and two of the Conference. Day three will involve representatives from Ocean.US and federal agencies only.

## **Participants**

Representatives from federal agencies, nascent RAs (two from each region), the NORLC Interagency Working Group, the U.S. GOOS Steering Committee, and the Ocean.US enterprise (Ocean.US staff and Executive Committee).

## **Procedure**

Day one will begin with an overview of the status of IOOS planning and implementation and a session to clarify outstanding questions, issues, and conference procedures. The day will conclude with plenary sessions on establishing RAs and the National Federation of Regional Associations (NFRA) and on integrated DMAC.

Day two will begin with an overview of the global ocean-climate component, its status, and future development. This will be followed by a breakout session with five Working Groups (WGs):

- One WG will develop recommendations for coordinated development of the global and coastal components that recognize the interdependence of the two components and the goal of a developing a single, seamless IOOS for oceans and coasts.
- Four WGs will use high priority product-categories to guide the formulation of recommendations for prioritized, phased implementation in the near term (the initial system using existing assets: FY 05-06) and the longer term (enhancing the initial system: FY 07-14) for each product category. Product-categories to be addressed and the rationale for selecting them are attached.

Day three will initiate a multi-agency federal planning process that will lead to completion of the *First Annual IOOS Development Plan* for transmission to the National Ocean Research Leadership Council (NORLC) following a public comment period (October). Recommendations from the regional, data management, and breakout sessions will be used by representatives from federal agencies to begin the process of establishing priorities for IOOS development during FY 05-06 and FY 07-14, and by Ocean.US to build this information into the integrated annual plan.

## **FOOTNOTE**

<sup>1</sup> The preliminary *IOOS Development Plan* has been made available to all workshop participants. Recommendations are made for an initial IOOS to be built using existing observing subsystem assets that are operational and for enhancements to that system. Enhancements may include additional operational assets (not all assets will be incorporated immediately) and research and pilot projects likely to enhance operational capabilities.