

## *Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS)*

### **Board of Governors Meeting**

**13 June 2007  
SCCWRP  
Costa Mesa, CA**

### **MINUTES**

Board of Governors present:

John Orcutt, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Steve Weisberg, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project; Tony Michaels, UC Los Angeles; Keith Stolzenbach, UC Los Angeles; Libe Washburn, UC Santa Barbara; Soroosh Sorooshian, UC Irvine; David Tralli, JPL; Dr. Federico Graef Ziehl, CICESE

Attendees:

Richard Bouchard, NDBC; Dave Caron, USC; Melissa Carter, SIO; Yi Chao, JPL; Mary Elaine Helix, MARINE (via phone); Ben Holt, JPL; Nick Nezlin, SCCWRP; Dave Panzer, Minerals Management Service; Kelly Perry, JPL; Dr. Oscar Sosa Nishizaki, CICES; Jonathan Phinney, NOAA Southwest Fisheries/PaCOOS; Sheila Semans, California Coastal Conservancy; Paul Siri, Ocean Science Applications; Guangyu Wang, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission; Eric Terrill, SCCOOS; Stephanie Peck, SCCOOS; Lisa Hazard, SCCOOS

\* Denotes that a Powerpoint of the agenda item presentation is available for viewing at: <http://www.sccoos.org/CostaMesaJune2007.html>.

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions – John Orcutt

The meeting convened at 8:45 a.m. John Orcutt welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the Board of Governors and attendees introduced themselves. Dr. Federico Graef Ziehl, CICESE's new Director General, and his representative, Dr. Oscar Sosa Nishizaki, were introduced and welcomed to their first meeting. Dr. Graef replaces Dr. Mendieta as CICESE's appointment to the SCCOOS Board of Governors.

#### 2. SCCOOS updates

- Regional Association/RCOOS update - Eric Terrill\*

Eric Terrill provided an update of SCCOOS's governance structure, SCCOOS as the Regional Association and Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS), and relationship to IOOS and the eleven regional associations.

Tony Michaels asked about any systematic method of making sure that what is produced reflects what end users want. Eric reviewed work we are doing with groups of end users. It was suggested that we pick 4-5 high profile, high bang-for-the-buck users,

such as lifeguards, boaters, etc. non-academic and non-political based, and push the envelope – develop products over the next 12 months, even if all the data isn't developed yet. Keith Stolzenbach asked if we need a more deliberate process for establishing user requirements? Expectation management was discussed.

Steve Weisberg – focus on interface, now very data focused. Target of next BOG meeting should be this kind of process. Have the Senior Advisory Committee roll out 2-3 of these. Two user groups: boaters (easy and large audience), already using it. Create interface.

Tony – think like a marketing agent. People will be drawn, will be using it as is. Still interacting with a sophisticated user. From political standpoint – people who know nothing could and should use it, if they knew language and how to use it. Raise visibility. Leverage existing things to create most visible products and users. The group discussed the question, “if I am a boater, where do I go for . . .?”

Board would like to see, in a year from now, 4-5 products, that are public; realization of what we can do. Have it be a goal setting exercise. Get it out of tightly technical world, and think of more public consumption of it. Tailor it more. Yes, it is being used, but user is struggling to use it more efficiently. Fully flesh out the interactive with user commands. RA system is the brain trust. Would like to see this realized to greater extent.

- National Federation of Regional Associations (NFRA) – Stephanie Peck

An update on NFRA activities was provided. NFRA is working with NOAA and Ocean.US on certification criteria and funding issues. SCCOOS participated in the NFRA Fall Meeting/IOOS Regional Coordination Meeting in Chicago in October 2006 and in the NFRA Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C in March 2007. NFRA is also coordinating a Coastal States Organization (CSO) Workshop, co-sponsored by State Coastal Conservancy, Ocean Science Trust, SCCOOS, and CeNCOOS, focusing on the application of ocean observing for MPAs and water quality to be held in September 2007.

### 3. Federal updates

- Current IOOS legislation – Stephanie Peck\*

House leadership wants to move HR 2337 but the energy bill portions are controversial. IOOS and climate change portions are fully supported. Rep Allen's bill, initially incorporated into HR 2337, could be separate bill again; what comes out of conference committee will be critical. S 950 is scheduled for mark up in committee. These two major pieces of legislation address key issues that SCCOOS and Regional Associations have been concerned about.

- IOOS/NOAA – Eric Terrill\*

Eric Terrill provided a presentation on the function and organization structure of the new IOOS program office, led by new IOOS Director Zdenka Willis.

- IOOS Regional Observations Registry – Lisa Hazard\*

Lisa Hazard provided an overview of SCCOOS's participation in the IOOS Regional Observations Registry, a national database that tracks the operational status and distribution of in situ ocean observation activity among the non-federal participants in IOOS.

- National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) – Richard Bouchard\*

Richard Bouchard provided an update on NWS/NDBC's IOOS strategy, including planned buoy augmentation and schedule.

- Pacific Coast Ocean Observing System (PaCOOS) – Jonathan Phinney

Jonathan Phinney provided an overview of the current status and focus of PaCOOS.

#### 4. State updates

- State Coastal Conservancy – Sheila Semans

COCMP Review – in general, external reviewers were really happy with progress. Two issues or questions still need to work on: how do we make this operational? How do we measure success? SCCOOS and CeNCOOS are looking at what are the operational costs after the systems are installed during the initial phase of COCMP. SCCOOS/CENCOOS are working to develop performance metrics. NOAA and other regions are looking at how California will enter the operational phase.

- Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and Ocean Sciences Applications (OSA) – Paul Siri  
Paul Siri updated the Board on recent OPC actions and progress in getting the OSA program going.

- Marine Protected Areas Monitoring – Paul Siri

Paul Siri updated the Board of the development of Marine Protected Areas program, including thoughts about anticipated monitoring needs and the role that ocean observing will play. The topic of ocean observing applications in MPAs is the subject of a workshop being conducted in September 2007, as was mentioned earlier.

- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) Gap Analysis project –  
Guangyu Wang

SCCOOS has been included in a SMBRC project, Santa Monica Bay Research and Monitoring Gap Analysis, which seeks to catalog gaps in research, mapping, and monitoring of the marine resources in Santa Monica Bay. The Ocean Protection Council recently approved funding of \$210,000 for the pilot project. The project proposes to work in collaboration with SCCOOS to collect and compile historical physical and biological oceanographic data for trend analysis.

## 5. Working group report – Eric Terrill\*

- Update on Modeling efforts was provided.

## 6. Summary/Recap of Major SCCOOS events

- COCMP radar operations – Lisa Hazard\*

Lisa Hazard provided an overview of the status of SCCOOS's implementation of HF radar through the state COCMP. The display of the data on the web site is available through a Google maps interface and includes diagnostics plot of which sensors are coming in to make the data. ROWG – working group is a great resource, dynamic, regular discussions and meets once per year. Requested 3-year extensions from FCC; if not deemed research, won't get bounced off so frequently. Working on improved interface on California mapping sites.

- Huntington Beach 2006 demonstration – Burt Jones\*

Burt Jones made a presentation on HB06. The demonstration brought together an unprecedented set of surf zone and transition zone observations that apply to coastal ocean management issues. The combined observations represent a value of \$2-\$3 million. Proof of concept and modeling were done in real-time. The demonstration also represented a synergy of local agency supports and funders. These factors allowed them to do a fairly sophisticated inner shelf experiment.

COCMP – deliverables were carrying out this effort. Trying to put together special issue on findings for Journal publication; perhaps in the Fall 2007. Burt is getting clearer as to Coastal Conservancy expectations. What do we do to bundle up for customers? Possible Executive Summary to show what could be achieved, could have a lot of value. Put together 2-3 page description of what happened; in Executive Summary, include 1) ranked priority list of applications; 2) what we want to do with data sets that come out; and, 3) this is what we want to do next. Come out of this with an optimized set of instruments.

- Hyperion environmental data support – Eric Terrill\*

Eric Terrill provided an overview of the Hyperion discharge event that took place in November 2006.

## 7. SCCOOS Program Integration

- Rocky Intertidal Monitoring Network and SCCOOS – Mary Elaine Helix\*

Mary Elaine Helix provided a presentation on MARINE and current rocky intertidal monitoring efforts, including walking through the database that has been developed. Their efforts are a good match with the ocean observing system, as biologists are interested in surf, swell, current, wind, water temperature and water quality measurements; they are interested in nearshore conditions that affect larval transport,

spread of disease, and physical changes to the site (storms). SCCOOS participated in the MARINE Workshop held at SIO in October 2006 and helped identify a list of observing data that the group would be interested in having available at SCCOOS.

- Developing a regional HABS program – Dave Caron\*

Dave Caron provided information about NOAA'S ECOHAB (Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms) and MERHAB (Monitoring and Event Response for Harmful Algal Blooms) programs. There has been considerable activity off coast of California this spring; issue is not just domoic acid. Hot spots were right at the coast. There is so much we don't know about many of these organisms. Looking at developing portals, for the public, scientists, academics, a place where people can go to access and share information. Sensors are not in place now to do what they need to do with respect to domoic acid (DA). Can get a sense of what is going on with sampling. Upwelling events can give a sense of when conditions are right to produce a bloom.

Easiest way for SCCOOS to get into the biological data is HABS. Two reasons for SCCOOS involvement: SCCOOS's location is ideal to capitalize on this; and, SCCOOS should be the place that puts the information out. Packaging of data and information; portal; initiate public face of this.

- Bight Regional Monitoring – Steve Weisberg

Steve Weisberg provided background on the Southern California Bight Regional Monitoring Program and shared thoughts on potential for SCCOOS involvement in the upcoming 08 survey. An initial meeting is being held at SCCWRP in September 2007.

#### 8. SCCOOS product line discussions – Eric Terrill\*

- climatic time series
- short term decision making (nowcast/forecast)
- intensive regional observations and synthesis

Data products were described in the last proposal SCCOOS submitted under these three organizing principles. Most observation activities fall under this three-prong approach to describing the targeted nature of the efforts.

#### 9. Future directions and opportunities

John Orcutt commented on the progress that has been made and changes that can be seen in SCCOOS growth. We've gained traction, and SCCOOS is definitely on the national scene. Obligation now is to how we're going to leverage all this. Many opportunities, such as HABS.

Group discussed question of how do we proceed at this point? Are there substantial or fundamental changes in the way we go about doing this. Dave Tralli expressed concern about waiting another year to see progress in end user driven products. Question was

asked about Eric's plan to take research products into user products? Eric reiterated the three organizing principles, as demonstrated in last SCCOOS proposal to the NOAA call.

Question is how to tune products without excluding others? Data management is becoming much more robust.

Tony would like to see the Board meet three times a year, or should meet more often, if not that. Put more challenges on Board not just SCCOOS management.

Issues of relevance, and discussion of how best to proceed on these issues:

- MPAs and HABS, hot button topics. Ready for collaboration – is ecological leadership present within existing SCCOOS?
- PISCO
- Fisheries

Steve would like to see Board of Governors meetings be active, not reactive; he would rather meetings be focused. Strategic Business Plan must be consistent with state strategic plan and federal plan. Meet with senior staff of marine monitoring enterprise. Interface with science team of Ocean Science Trust.

#### 10. Board of Governors Business – John Orcutt

- CICESE new Governor

Dr. Graef shared with the group some comments. He feels CICESE can participate in SCCOOS efforts:

- Can contribute data
- CICESE observational programs and activities, 3-4 cruises per year
- Collaboration with what we're doing
- Would like us to come to one of their meetings
- They have a lack of knowledge of biology, but has best physical oceanography in Mexico
- Area is becoming like Miami; tall buildings and development; they will have problems at the coast. Plumes – doesn't know if will travel to San Diego or south.
- This kind of information will be needed; Americans will be the ones concentrated there.
- Liquid gas plans north of Ensenada
- Project that goes from Ensenada to 80km to south – planning to build a huge port. Will try to replicate port like LA or Long Beach. Will be a test of the biology and impacts. Expected to have deleterious effects on ocean, cultural and economic influence.
- In a few years, they will see a very different coast than what they have now.
- He sees things that could be applied by management; need the data and information.

- Punta Bandera development
- Bajagua
- Big investment; private, state and federal \$ - will help fund baseline studies.

The Board expressed a number of suggestions to develop SCCOOS at the present juncture.

- Conduct more frequent meetings of BOG w/conference calls as well, as was requested by BOG last year, to provide avenue for routine updates to the Board.
- Bring action items to Board at its meetings.
- Consider more deliberate user needs assessment process
- Decide upon a few key products or markets that SCCOOS can direct efforts.
- Of the 7-8 priority data products SAC identified, what is in our one-year plan? In our five-year plan?
- Coordinate with state and federal strategic plans