

**Summit on Regional Development**  
**Ocean.US, 25 – 26 July 2005**

**Agenda**

**25 July**        1900 Working Dinner (Village Bistro, Arlington)

**26 July**        0900 – 1500 (Ocean.US, lunch will be brought in)

1. Regional Ocean Councils (ROCs) and Regional Associations (RAs)

1.1 To what extent does RA development meet the goals and objectives of Regional Ocean Governance?

1.2 Should RAs be pushed as the “seeds” of ROCs? In terms of goals and objectives, are RAs the equivalent of ROCs. If not, how are they similar and how do they differ? Should these two efforts (and possibly others) be coordinated? If so, how?

2. RAs and Federal Agencies (existing and planned)

2.1 What roles should Federal Agencies have in the design, implementation and operation of RCOOSs?

2.2 How can these roles be implemented most effectively and efficiently?

2.3 How can regional initiatives of federal agencies be harmonized and coordinated most effectively with RA development?

3. RAs and the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) Alliance

3.1 What is the relationship between the IOOS RAs in the Gulf of Mexico and the GoM Alliance? How does the Alliance and its plan of action differ from the GCOOS-RA and SECOORA and their action plans? How are they similar?

3.2 How can the efforts of the GoM Alliance be harmonized most effectively with those of the GoM RA and SECOORA for mutual benefit?

4. What is the role of the ORAP in IOOS development.

5. RA Certification

5.1 Review requirements that must be met to become eligible for certification as an RA.

5.2 Discuss procedures for certifying regional groups as RAs

## **1. Background**

### **1.1 COP Report and President's Ocean Action Plan**

The report of the Commission on Ocean Policy, *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, calls for strengthening regional approaches to monitoring and managing the Nation's coastal zone by forming Regional Ocean Councils (ROCs).

The President's Ocean Action Plan calls for a "Regional Partnership in the Gulf of Mexico" and states that "The five Gulf of Mexico States have taken the lead in identifying key priorities for the Gulf of Mexico region. Among these priorities is a particular emphasis on public health, specifically water quality for shellfish beds and beaches in the Gulf of Mexico and the use of a regional ocean observing system to provide a real-time alert system for beach and shellfish bed closings. Administration officials will meet with the appropriate regional representatives in the spring of 2005 to explore partnership opportunities."

### **1.2 Federal Response to Date**

- NOAA (NOAA) has funded 11 regional groups to establish Regional Associations (RAs) to engage stakeholders in the development of Regional Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (RCOOSs) that will meet the needs of stakeholders for data and information on marine and estuarine systems.
- NOAA is supporting a workshop organized by Marc Hershman (a member of the COP) at CZ 2005 (20 July) on Regional Ocean Governance (ROG) in the US: Concept and Reality. The goal of the workshop is to "assist those individuals involved in developing and implementing ROG activities, and to assist those who are just beginning to conceptualize a ROG approach."
- NOAA (NOAA, NOAA and NOAA) appears to be taking additional actions to strengthen regional approaches to monitoring and managing the coastal zone that are not coordinated with, or done in collaboration with, RAs.
- NOAA (Jack Hayes) and EPA (Bryon Griffith) have taken the lead in responding to the Ocean Action Plan through the Gulf of Mexico Alliance.

The apparent disconnect between RA development and other relevant regional activities supported by NOAA, EPA, and other federal agencies raises several issues/questions that must be addressed sooner than later.

## **2. Participants**

NOAA – Richard Spinrad, Margaret Davidson

Ocean.US - Tom Malone, Andy Clark, Blanche Meeson, Mike Hemsley

NFRA – David Martin

USGSC – Worth Nowlin

USACE – Charley Chesnutt, Bill Birkemeier

MMS – Jim Kendall, Walter Johnson

USGS – John Haines

EPA – Barry Burgan, Hazel Groman, Brian Melzian

Navy – Cynthia Decker