



June 2008 Update

IOOS Appropriations -- Both the House and the Senate CJS Appropriations Committees are expected to mark up the appropriations bills soon providing an indication of the support for IOOS and other programs. However, most political experts are anticipating that Congress will pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) for the FY09 Budget, leaving it up to the next Administration to either extend the CR for the full fiscal year or to prepare a FY09 budget early in the Administration. It is too soon to know just what this means for IOOS.

IOOS Legislation -- The Senate staff are still hoping to bring the IOOS legislation for a floor vote as part of a package of non-controversial bills. Originally, this was to be a package of ocean bills but the package has now been expanded to include other bills that are unable to move under unanimous consent but for which there is agreement with the House so that the legislation can be quickly passed. No date has been set, but staffs are hoping for floor time by the end of June or upon return from the July 4th recess.

IWGGO Approves NFRA Proposals -

The Interagency Working Group on Ocean Observing (IWGGO) approved the 3 NFRA proposals. These proposals requested the IWGGO:

- affirm that certification of the IOOS Regional Associations (RAs) will be accomplished through the NOAA cooperative agreement process now being established for the FY10 funding cycle,
- recognize the NOAA IOOS office as the lead federal agency for development of the regional component of IOOS, and
- work to increase federal participation with RAs.

Ocean US is preparing a memorandum that will explain this in more detail, particularly what this means for RA certification. We appreciate the IWGGO's quick action on these issues.

Tom Malone Stepping Down From Ocean US

It's hard to imagine IOOS without Tom Malone directly involved but he ensures us that even though he is leaving the Ocean US Office at the end of this month, he will remain active and supportive. Tom is one of the major players responsible for shaping and forming IOOS. In 1999, he and Worth Nowlin authored the NORLC report "Toward a US Plan for an Sustained, Integrated Ocean Observing System" that outlined the need for ocean observing and set the stage for creating IOOS. Since then, he has authored several key IOOS documents, including the "1st IOOS Implementation Plan," served as Director of Ocean US and as a member of the GOOS Scientific Steering Committee (and many other activities too numerous to list). We wish him the best in his new endeavors and offer our sincere appreciation for all he has done for creating and sustaining IOOS.

IOOS Key Messages Released.

Among the challenges we face with IOOS is communicating what IOOS is in simple and compelling terms. With all of its technical elements and diverse partners, sometimes the key aspects of IOOS are "lost in translation". In December 2007, a small working group met to form

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a communications strategy to better inform stakeholders of the purpose, goals, objectives and impacts of IOOS through the development of unified messages and associated branding. The result is a “communications toolkit” comprising:

1. High level key and core messages;
2. “Elevator speech” message construct that can be used to convey the benefits of IOOS (problems IOOS will help solve) and describes what IOOS is;
3. U.S. IOOS logo re-design and standard design template.

These materials (see attached and NFRA website) are not intended to be script, but a reference document for people to use and to modify with their own words and examples to describe IOOS. People are encouraged to build on these materials and make them their own. They are not static documents, but meant to grow with input and suggestions.

For more information, contact Timi Vann at timi.vann@noaa.gov or Deanna Eastman at deanna.eastman@ocean.us or Josie Quintrell at jquintrell@suscom-maine.net.

RAs Input for National HF Radar Plan Requested.

Jack Harlan of NOAA has asked for input from the RAs in the development of a National HF Radar plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide a single document developed with input from all RAs, NOAA and other Federal agencies and that can serve as a reference document planning, building and implementing a national HF Radar system. Each RA has appointed 1-2 HF Radar experts to work with Jack on this process. As a first step, they will complete a gap analysis of HF Radar for their region by June 27. This information will combine with other information to form the basis of a draft plan that will be reviewed by the Technical Committee and the RA HF representatives at a meeting on August 20-21 in Keystone, Colorado.

For more information, contact Jack Harlan at jack.harlan@noaa.gov

Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) Focuses on Climate Change

This year's theme for CHOW was the ocean and climate change and featured many excellent, if not depressing, presentations on the various effects of climate change on the ocean, many of which highlighted the need for ocean observations to monitor and document trends as well as for providing predictions and forecasts. Jennie Lyons of the NOAA IOOS Program prepared and disseminated a brochure on IOOS and climate change along with a NFRA brochure. Thank you to all the RAs that provided material to Jennie. A copy of the brochure and the NFRA handout are available on the NFRA website. Please feel free to print the brochure for dissemination in the regions.

For more information, contact Jennie Lyons at jennie.lyons@noaa.gov.

RA Assessments Wrapping Up

PacIOOS will be the last RA to participate in NOAA's RA assessment on June 12. These assessments are an opportunity for RAs to brief NOAA on their governance structure, outreach to users and issues they are facing. While they require a good deal of preparation time, most have proven to be valuable for providing NOAA with a much better understanding of the work and importance of the RAs. Most RAs have appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues directly with Zdenka and other members of NOAA. RA presentations will be made available on the NFRA website.

West Coast RAs meet to discuss NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEA)

The West Coast Regional Associations (SCCOOS, CeNCOOS, NANOOS, and AOOS) met June 2-3 in Portland Oregon with representatives of NOAA Fisheries to talk about needs and inputs for

future Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs). Each RA had invited participants from their region engaged in resource management, ecosystem assessment, or research. Constituents from each RA discussed how the Regional Associations could provide data and modeling assets to help inform IEAs for regions such as the California Current and the Alaska Coastal Current, and in turn, how an IEA could be used by the RAs to answer ecological questions in the regions. The 2-day workshop was organized by Elizabeth Clarke and Jonathan Phinney with NOAA Fisheries, and the 4 RAs. Considered to be a critical element of an Ecosystem Approach to Management, an IEA is a formal synthesis and quantitative analysis of existing information on relevant natural and socio-economic factors in relation to specified ecosystem management objectives. A workshop summary will be available soon.

ACT Prepares for new Demonstration Projects

The Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT) will shortly be making two Opportunity Announcements:

1) pCO₂ Demonstration.

The first announcement will be a call for applications to participate in a Demonstration of pCO₂ sensors. This ACT Demonstration project will focus on commercially available, as well as prototype instruments, designed to measure the partial pressure of carbon dioxide directly in the field and to address issues such as ocean acidification.

2) HAB Sensors and methodology Demonstration.

The second announcement will be a call for applications to participate in a Demonstration of sensors/analyzers and methodologies for detection of harmful algae. This ACT Demonstration will be conducted in collaboration with various state and NOAA harmful algal bloom programs and will focus on: (a) commercially available, as well as prototypal in situ instruments designed to detect/quantify harmful algal species and/or their associated toxins directly in the field and (b) methodologies developed to rapidly detect/quantify harmful algal species and/or toxins from field collected water samples. These Performance Demonstrations will take place at three or four regional ACT Partner Institutions each, with the goal of highlighting the capabilities and potentials of new technologies and methodologies to address the critical environmental issues.

All ACT Evaluations are free of charge for qualifying applicants and results will be made available to the public in summary reports. Formal announcements will be made in July, 2008. For more information, contact Mario Tamburri at tamburri@cbl.umces.edu

ACT Releases Demonstration Statements for 4 *in situ* nutrient analyzers.

A key to the successful adoption, and transition to operational use, of new technologies is broad community awareness and confidence. The Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT) has completed a Performance Demonstration of *in situ* nutrient analyzers/sensors with the goal of aiding in technology refinement and building user acceptance of these novel instruments. The fundamental objectives of this Performance Demonstration were to: (1) highlight the potential and capabilities of *in situ* nutrient analyzers by demonstrating their utility in a broad range of coastal environments with varying nutrient concentrations, (2) promote the awareness of this emerging technology to the scientific and management community responsible for monitoring coastal environments, and (3) work with manufacturers that are presently developing new or improved sensor systems by providing a forum for rigorously evaluating their products using an objective, third-party, nationally distributed testing program.

ACT evaluated the performance of instruments developed by American EcoTech, Satlantic, WET Labs and YSI to measure either phosphate or nitrate. Moored, surface mapping and depth profiling demonstrations were conducted in the Clinton River (MI), Chesapeake Bay (MD), Monterey Bay (CA) and Resurrection Bay (AK). Testing protocols and final reports as Demonstration Statements for each of the four instruments can be downloaded in a PDF format from http://www.act-us.info/evaluation_reports.php

Coastal States Organization to Sponsor CaRA Workshop

The Coastal States Organization (CSO), a non-profit organization that represents the interests of the state coastal zone management programs, is sponsoring a workshop with CaRA on improving the connection between coastal managers and IOOS. Through a grant from NOAA, CSO has sponsored similar workshops in SECOORA, GLOS, MACOORA and California. Roy Watlington, Jorge Corredor, Julio Morell as well as the CZM managers from PR and the VI will serve on the Steering Committee. The workshop is planned for the fall of 2008.

CDC Study Finds Ocean Weather and Large Waves Hazard to Fishermen

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention completed a study of fishing fatalities in California, Oregon and Washington. The study showed that 79% of the lost vessels were due to extreme weather conditions. Of those losses, 40% were due to extreme waves. This demonstrates the need for accurate, up-to-date information for fishermen and mariners. For more information, see: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5716a2.htm?s_cid=mm5716a2_e

Upcoming Events

June 17	NFRA Brief to the Ocean Observing Subpanel of ORRAP.
June 19	NFRA Board Meeting -- Conference Call 2:00 ET
June 20	GoMOOS Board Meeting, Portland ME
June 25	AOOS Board Meeting, Alaska
July 8	IWGOO Meeting, Washington DC
July 17	RA Monthly Call 2:00 ET
July 21-24	National Marine Educators Meeting, Savannah
July 22-24	MAST Modeling Retreat, Arlington VA
Aug 19-21	Review Panel for HF Radar Plan, Keystone, CO
Sept 15-18	Ocean 2008
Sept 18	RA Monthly Call 2:00 ET
Sept 25	IWGOO Meeting Silver Spring 2:00
Oct 16	RA Monthly Call 2:00 ET
Nov 18-20	Coastal Cities Conference, St Pete's FL
Nov 20	RA Monthly Call 2:00 ET
Dec 2-4	Regional Coordination Workshop, Baltimore MD