IOOS Regional Associations (RAs)
Establish a Governance Mechanism

• Establish RCOOSs by
  - Incorporating, enhancing & supplementing existing OS infrastructure in each region

• Engage all stakeholders
  - Ensure the involvement of data providers & users in the design, operation & improvement of the RCOOS
  - Data providers & users (stakeholders)
    • Private sectors: Industry, NGOs, Academia, Research Institutions
    • Public sectors: Federal & State Agencies, Academia

• Establish a Legal Structure that serves as its own fiscal agent to
  - Receive & dispense funds
  - Engage in enforceable contracts
  - Obtain liability insurance

Business Plan

• Goals & Objectives Must
  - Relate to one or more of the 7 societal goals.
  - Conform to IOOS Design Principles.

• Funding
  - Plan for obtaining, increasing, sustaining, & diversifying revenue streams for system design, implementation, operation, & improvement.

• Needs, Benefits, Product Development & Marketing
  - Describe what sectors of society will benefit and how.
  - Link objectives to benefits and product development.

• Linking Observations to Models & Products
  - Describe the observing, data management, & modeling subsystems & how they will be efficiently linked & developed to achieve objectives.

• Education & Training
  - Establish a mechanism for engaging the education community in design of the IOOS & use of IOOS data for Earth science education.
  - Describe plans for growing the workforce of trained system operators & how the user community will be trained to access & use data & information.
Regional Ocean Councils (ROCs)

- **Functions**
  - develop regional goals, priorities & mechanisms for responding to each issue;
  - communicate regional needs at the national level & better address issues of national importance in the regions;
  - address a wide range of issues, interactions among activities, & influences from upstream to far offshore;
  - help build public awareness about ocean and coastal issues

- **Characteristics**
  - Council membership should be representative of every level of decision making in the region, drawing on the knowledge of all stakeholders;
  - The specific structure and functions of a regional ocean council should be determined by participants in the region;
  - Boundaries of regional ocean councils should encompass large areas with similar ecosystem features.
    - e.g., LMEs except Pacific coast & Great Lakes

- **Formation**
  - efforts to establish ROCs should be supported immediately in areas where regional approach is already strong.