

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.