

Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System Vision Statement

The Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) is a multi-organizational partnership created to deliver continuous observations of present ocean conditions, assessments of previous conditions, and predictions of future conditions, for the benefit of society. California's oceans are critical to its economy and culture, with industries such as fishing, recreation, and tourism dependent on a healthy, functioning coastal ecosystem. The West Coast Governor's agreement places priority on effective management of the coastal ocean, and SCCOOS will provide the foundational data to support those management activities.

SCCOOS employs a suite of technologies to support science-based management decision systems. SCCOOS integrates real-time measurements from instruments such as moorings, gliders, drifters, and radar with discrete samples collected via conventional means to provide a comprehensive assessment of ocean conditions in the Southern California Bight (SCB). SCCOOS integrates these data into models and other analyses products that advance the delivery of coastal observations for improving management of southern California's coastal ocean. SCCOOS is developing broad capabilities for both short-term decision-making support (oil spill, search and rescue, coastal water quality, storm response, beach closure, harmful algal blooms) and long-term assessment (climate change, fisheries, ecosystems, evaluation of management decisions). SCCOOS is committed to continuous innovation to ensure that these management products are the finest available.

The success of SCCOOS will be judged not only on the technical excellence of its products, but whether those products are adopted and applied by the outside user community. Achieving this depends on close collaboration between SCCOOS and the end-users of its products, with the interaction ensuring management relevance of the system. SCCOOS data are made freely available in multiple formats to ensure that they are easily interpretable by users with differing levels of sophistication and interest, including the general public, while also preserving the necessary depth of detail to support the scientific community.

SCCOOS is envisioned as a partnership of data providers that extends beyond the member organizations. SCCOOS's real-time measurement systems provide a foundation for integrating a large number of ocean monitoring activities, but represent only a fraction of the ocean monitoring activities in southern California. To achieve its mission, SCCOOS seeks to serve as an umbrella organization for the synthesis and packaging of information, through partnerships with scientists from other organizations. SCCOOS is focused on providing observing services for the Southern California Bight, but is also committed to synchronizing with other entities in contributing to larger ocean observing efforts in both the State of California and the federal Integrated Ocean Observing System.