



BRIEF PROGRESS REPORT

from the SCCOOS Executive Steering Committee (April 2005)

The SCCOOS Executive Steering Committee consists of Russ Davis (SIO, acting committee chair), Paul DiGiacomo (JPL), Burt Jones (USC), Keith Stolzenbach (UCLA), Libe Washburn (UCSB) and Eric Terrill who is the non-voting Chief Operations Officer of the SCCOOS office.

Our first task was to establish the budget for renewal of the NOAA Pilot "Shelf to Shoreline Observatory Development" proposal. This was accomplished through a voting process that adjusted the budgets of programs started in the first year, but, because of a reduced budget, was unable to begin any new programs. The guiding principles were to support the COCMP effort, equalize funding for similar efforts, and direct as much as possible to product development and data distribution as was feasible. These last functions are still seriously under-funded.

In an attempt to both develop strategies for different elements of the program and to coordinate the efforts at different institutions within the same element, we have begun establishing working groups for Near Shore Processes, High-Frequency Radar, and Data Management.

The Near Shore Processes group is co-chaired by Burt Jones (USC) and Bob Guza (SIO) and now includes Falk Fedderson (SIO), Mark Moline (Cal Poly), Carter Ohlman (UCSB). They are also considering additions in the areas of HABs and microbiology. This group met with near-shore stakeholders from the San Pedro Bay region at the Orange County Sanitation District on April 12 where they presented SCCOOS/COCMP plans, solicited input on the specific site, and recruit assistance from local groups. Support was given from the stakeholders for focusing the nearshore effort on the region north of the Santa Ana River mouth in the Huntington Beach region. Indications of a desire to collaborate were given by several of the stakeholders. Another stakeholder meeting for the nearshore study will occur in conjunction with the Beach Water Quality Working Group on May 18. Eric Terrill previously presented an overview of SCCOOS to this group. Following the second stakeholder meeting the first scientific planning will be held in either late May or early June.

Taking advantage of coordination done under COCMP, we have adopted the joint SCCOOS/CenCOOS HF Radar Working Group as our forum for radar and surface current matters. The group includes Toby Garfield and Jeff Paduan from CenCOOS and Burt Jones (USC), Mark Moline (Cal Poly), Eric Terrill (SIO) and Libe

Washburn (UCSB) from SCCOOS. This group is meeting via teleconference and email. Their major activities are (1) site planning and acquisition, (2) radio frequency allocation, and (3) realtime data transfer to the JPL ROMS model.

Eric Terrill suggested to the ESC a two-tiered structure that separates guidance of data management for the mechanics of managing data (an advisory panel and a working group). Eric's suggestion for the advisory group included John Hunter (CalCOFI/NMFS), Frank Vernon (SIO), Paul DiGiacomo (JPL), and someone from the San Diego Supercomputer Center. Judging from a lack of response, the ESC was not enthusiastic about setting up an advisory panel yet. Meanwhile, SIO has established an ad-hoc SCCOOS working group for data management that includes about 10 people from SIO and is adding people from other SCCOOS institutions. JPL is funding a GIS interface to their model and remote sensing that will expand our mechanisms to show spatial data and Andy Bingham, who is doing that, is included in the ad-hoc working group. Eric Terrill proposes that this group expand into the SCCOOS Data Management WG by including other institutions and that it take some time to establish a blueprint of SCCOOS data practices before an advisory group is established. Eric is now soliciting white papers that match up data types with data management approaches for the core activities now supported. The idea is to document the 'best practice' approaches now being used to a) communicate the scope of the data types targeted, b) inform outsiders of the approaches underway, and c) identify where we can integrate and improve. This should hopefully be a living paper/blueprint that can be later be expanded.

The ESC requested Eric to provide a list of staffing needs for operating the SCCOOS office. Eric has responded that the MPL/JIMO business office is presently meeting the corporate functions required of SCCOOS. Eric identified the staffing positions of an Organization and Administration Coordinator, an Outreach and Communications Coordinator, and a Product Development Manager. The former two positions are being met by Debbie Duckworth and Carolyn Keen respectively. Eric is looking for mechanisms to secure financial support for the Product Development Manager position.

The Governing Board is invited to comment on the approach and to suggest additional directions or other people we might involve.