

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) ♦ Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) ♦ Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) ♦ Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) ♦ Pacific Island Integrated Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) ♦ Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) ♦ Caribbean Integrated Ocean Observing System (CarIOOS) ♦ Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) ♦ Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MACOORA) ♦ Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GOMOOS) ♦ Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS)

Providing the Regional Teamwork to Develop an Integrated Ocean Observing System

June 17, 2005

The Honorable Wayne T. Gilchrest, Chair
Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans
House Committee on Resources
188 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

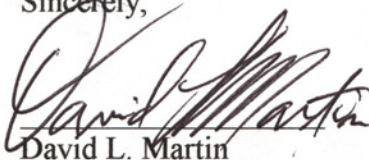
On behalf of the National Federation of Regional Associations (NFRA), we thank you again for your strong support for coastal ocean observing and, in particular, for introducing H.R. 1489, "The Coastal Ocean Observing System Integration and Implementation Act of 2005"; we have provided you previously with comments on particular aspects of the bill.

We note the central importance of having regional federal agency participation involved in the leadership of the various regional observing efforts that NFRA represents. While the central importance of having federal participation in regional efforts is understood, an explicit statement authorizing and encouraging such participation would be helpful. Accordingly, we offer the following suggested additional language for Section 4 (b)(h) of H.R. 1489:

"Federal participation on Regional Associations. Representatives of federal agencies may serve as full members of Regional Associations in order to coordinate needs for regional information and to avoid duplication of effort."

On behalf of the NFRA, we thank you again for the opportunity to provide this comment on H.R. 1489. We are available to provide any additional information and answer any questions you may have, if necessary.

Sincerely,



David L. Martin

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National Federation of Regional Associations

AOOS, NANOOS, PacIOOS, CeNCOOS, SCCOOS, GCOOS, CarIOOS, SECOORA, MACOORA, GOMOOS, GLOS