



SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH, ASSOC. VICE CHANCELLOR
PRESIDENT-ELECT AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION

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March 25, 2004

Ocean Science Trust
Governing Board

Dear Ocean Science Trustees:

I write on behalf of the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System Consortium (SCCOOS) requesting that the Ocean Science Trust serve as California's officially recognized agency advisory board for our Consortium.

As you may be aware two consortia representing California's coast have been organized in response to a national Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) initiative charged with developing a national network of regional associations. These associations will leverage current infrastructure, partnerships, and other resources to develop a fully operational coastal observing system addressing a variety of policy, monitoring, and management needs. The California consortia are currently working with the California Coastal Conservancy to position California to lead the nation in developing a coast wide, real-time current monitoring system that will serve as a backbone for the regional network. In addition to developing a science plan to support this effort, the consortia are also charged with developing their own governance and operations plans.

The SCCOOS governing board and representatives from CenCOOS / nCAHOtS (in Central and Northern California), recently held a two-day organizational retreat in Santa Barbara. At this meeting SCCOOS members adopted a core set of organizing principles including a draft organizational / governance chart.

The core governing framework adopted by SCCOOS comprises the Regional Consortium serving as the Board of Governors, a Statewide Interagency Advisory Board providing

guidance and performance review, and several Data Provider / User Working Groups developed and managed at the regional level. (see attached organizational chart)

OUTLINE OF PROPOSED GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Management and Operations: Regional Consortium

Southern California's marine research community, recognized world wide for its the expertise, effectiveness, and proven track record in ocean observations, is uniquely qualified to operate, implement and sustain a long term observing program along California's coastline in the Southern California Bight.

The Regional Consortium is a collaborative network of Southern California's leading institutions and laboratories which are conducting tens of millions of dollars of research essential to supporting several coastal resource management initiatives with a focus on improving water quality, supporting fisheries management, protecting marine life, and predicting and mitigating coastal hazards.

Product Generation and Services: Data Provider User Groups

Due to the state's pro-active / stakeholder driven environmental policy initiatives, California has a well-developed network of issue-oriented interest groups and interagency partnerships.

The Data Provider / User Working Groups, developed and managed through the regional consortium are designed to formally engage these existing recognized bodies of regional associations such as the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, California Shore and Beach Preservation Association, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, the California Coastal Coalition, and other agency end-users in the development of products, services, and partnering opportunities.

Official Guidance: Policy Driven Research Needs and Performance Review Agency Advisory Board

In addition to the development of end-user products and services it is essential that the infrastructure and activities provided by the consortium members are relevant to the broader goals of both State initiatives [e.g., The Marine Life Protection Act (MPA's), California's Ocean Plan, California's Sand and Sediment Master Plan, The Clean Beaches Initiative and the California Coastal Non-point Source Pollution Control Program, the Wetland Recovery Project Master Plan, etc] as well as national initiatives

(e.g., IOOS, the NSF Ocean Research Interactive Ocean Network (ORION), and the Oceans & Human Health Initiative within NSF and NIH).

The Advisory Board would have the responsibility to define and articulate state agency research needs and to evaluate the success of the ocean observing consortium in responding to these needs

In May SCCOOS will begin a three-year strategic effort, funded by NOAA, that will develop the organizational framework for building capacity and partnerships among existing regional associations and agency end users and encourage and enhance collaboration between data collectors, data managers, and users of data and information outlined above.

We are hopeful that the Ocean Science Trust will join us as an official partner in the effort by serving as our official statewide advisory board and providing leadership, guidance and performance review.

On behalf of the all of the consortium members I would like to express appreciation to all of the Ocean Science Trustees for your full consideration of this proposal. The membership of SCCOOS looks forward to discussing it with you in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Orcutt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John A. Orcutt
Chair, SCCOOS
Deputy Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Cc: Dr. Toby Garfield, nCAHOOTs
Dr. Marcia McNutt, CenCOOS
Dr. Jeff Paduan, nCAHOOTs
Ms. Sheila Semans, SCC
Members of the Board, SCCOOS
Ms. Stephanie Watkins, CenCOOS