The Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP) have launched a near real-time, customized website displaying environmental conditions at the entrance to the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor. SCCOOS programmers worked iteratively with the maritime community and port managers to develop the website; collaborators include representatives from the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee, the Marine Exchange of Southern California, Los Angeles Port Pilots, Jacobsen Pilots, the Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports, Catalina Express, USC Sea Grant, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The website integrates wave data from CDIP and SCCOOS surface current maps, as well as NOAA nautical charts, shipping lanes and ferry routes. The wave data are updated every 30 minutes from regional offshore buoys, supported collaboratively by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Boating and Waterways. The surface currents are measured using HF radar technology supported by the State of California through its Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program (COCMP). The radar antenna locations closest to the harbor entrance are at Point Fermin, Catalina, and Newport Beach. Once these
parameters are tested and refined, the display tool will be expanded to integrate wind and meteorological data and forecasts, sea surface temperature, and tide data.

Timely and accurate information about marine conditions is critical to safe passage of vessels and efficient harbor navigation. The SCCOOS Ports website is a decision support tool for those who manage maritime traffic, and for inbound or outbound mariners from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

This effort illustrates the functional application of integrating regional assets, and the value of leveraging existing observations, models, and data management to develop useful products that contribute to maritime transportation. The website is a demonstration project funded by NOAA in support of establishment of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). The project supports the regional components of IOOS—linking observations, data management, and modeling to provide needed data and information to regional stakeholders. Following initial implementation of the website for the LA/LB region, the project will develop a customized portal for the San Diego Harbor. Discussions with port managers at other locations within California are planned for later this year.

LA/LB Harbor Website
www.sccoos.org/data/harbors/lab