Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM - 6 Aug 2010

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The Z-Gram is an informal way of keeping you up-to-date on IOOS® activities. Please advise of additional addressees, or if you are receiving and no longer want to receive. If you think others could benefit from the Z-Gram please pass it on. To see previous Z-Grams go the IOOS website and view under 'program updates.

IOOS® - Our Eyes On Our Oceans, Coasts, and Great Lakes

Programmatics:

- **NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan (NGSP); NOAA's Strategic Execution and Evaluation Process (SEE) and OPTF:** While it might seem quiet from our office, I wanted to let you know that there is much work going on in the background to ensure that IOOS is positioned correctly in the NGSP, the follow-on to PPBES is SEE (now being rolled out and what we need to follow to prepare the FY13 budget) and the new efforts are outlined in the OPTF. This means that many meetings, background work in determining programmatic outcomes and metrics, and understanding how this fits into a larger context of NOAA's support to OPTF and then into the interagency and non-federal partnerships within OPTF. I could not begin to describe all the meetings and activities within the Z-Gram, but I wanted you to know that folks across the IOOS office are working hard on your behalf. Additionally, we are responding to questions on NOAA's Climate Service. This is on top of the normal workload of responding to the FY12 budget process where DOC is taking a hard look at base budgets.
- **Progressing on the ICOOS Act**: The National Science Foundation will be publishing the Federal Register Notice for the Public-Private Use Policy Process for comment. This effort was undertaken by the new Interagency Ocean Observing Committee (IOOC) with much of the heavy lifting being done by the IOOS office. As well, we will be moving on the progress report and templates that accompany that - look for the web posting in the next two weeks; we have begun the work on certification as called for in the legislation and the stand-up of a System Advisory Committee (aka a new FACA).

Initial Operating Capability - Data Management and Communications (DMAC) Subsystem of IOOS® http://ioos.gov/library/dmac_implementation_2010.pdf

- **Customer Projects: Contact Charly Alexander** at Charles.Alexander@noaa.gov if you want to be part of the action.
    - **IOOS Biological Data Project:** No update.
    - **USACE Water Level SOS Project:** No update.
    - **Climate Project with NCCOS/National Marine Sanctuaries:** No update.

- **Technical Updates:**
    - **NDBC:** Modifications to NDBC test SOS server is located at http://sdftest.ndbc.noaa.gov/sos/. Service now includes observed properties for air temperature, conductivity, and SLP pressure available in CSV, TSV, and KML formats. Water temperature and salinity from gliders is now available in CSV and TSV formats.

Interagency Project Collaboration: The Z-Grams are certainly focused on providing information on IOOS® connections to these projects and it is not intended to provide programmatic updates of these specific projects because they all have project leads.

- **High Frequency Radar/Radio (HFR):** HF Radar Technical Steering Team did meet on July 28, with representation from the IOOS regions and federal partners. The day was successful in outlining the key issues that will now be addressed by tiger teams. The draft minutes will be circulated and once finalized, and I will provide the results in the Z-Gram.
- **IOOS and Links to the National Water Quality Monitoring Network:** No update

- **IOOS and National Science Foundation (NSF) - Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI):** No Update.
- **DMAC Steering Team:** No Update.

Other:

- **Response to Deepwater Horizon:** Harvey Seim is back in theater and Dick Crout (NDBC) is back in action giving Sam a break. The attention is now focused on the transition from response to restoration. There are four main activities with which we are keeping engaged. There is a commission working to understand the causes and effects of the spill; the Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA); the Administration's Restoration Task Forces under the Secretary of the Navy and within NOAA the "Science Box" - which is our team to look at long-term science. Currently Sam and Harvey have gotten approval for a 30-day observing effort to continue to understand the location of the oil through the water column. This effort encompasses a number of observing assets including six IOOS glider assets.
- **Bay and Estuarine Sensor Technology Workshop (IOOS®):** From July 27-30, NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Program and the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office hosted a small-scale demonstration of an end-to-end data observing system and collect stakeholder input on that system. The Bay and Estuarine Sensor Technology Workshop was held at the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office's new Environmental Science Training Center in Oxford, MD. Roughly 50 observing system specialists deployed a unified system of buoys, autonomous underwater vehicles, and

surface vessels. Environmental data sets to be collected include, but are not limited to, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll a, and turbidity measurements. For more information, contact Rob Ragsdale, Doug Levin, or Doug Wilson.

- **PacIOOS In Action:** HFR from Oahu are now visible on the national server at Scripps. The sites are also visible on the NDBC server's website and the data should be soon. http://cordc.ucsd.edu/projects/mapping/maps/?ll=20.897305,-157.901001&zm=9&mt=p&rng=0,50&cs=4&res=2km_a&ol=1&cp=1
- **CaRA in Action:** The Caribbean Integrated Coastal Ocean Observing System deployed a data buoy off Escambrón beach to provide data on winds, waves and currents to locals including the port of San Juan and the island's Atlantic coast. The new buoy deployed on July 23, following the successful deployment and operation of another buoy to the southeast of Caja de Muertos, serving the port of Ponce and Caribbean coast. It is now operational and the data it collects can be viewed in near-real time online: http://gyre.umeoce.maine.edu/caricoos/. The buoys are constructed by the University of Maine buoy group, and operated jointly by the University of Maine and researchers from the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez campus.
- **NANOOS in Action - V2 of NANOOS Visualization System (NVS)**: Version 2.0 brings many changes, the most readily apparent being the interface. A dock has been added to the left side of the Assets section, and provides easy control over a number of features. Several of the features, such as Filters, Assets, and Legend, are slightly reworked from previous NVS versions. The Overlays column, with links to radar currents and satellites, was pulled out of the Assets in order to make accessing overlay and gridded assets easier. In prior versions, users had to scroll to the bottom of a long list of assets to see them. Overlays for some Wavewatch variables are now available, and we wanted to highlight NVS overlay capabilities and make it easier for users to access them. A new column named "Regions" has been added and provides quick shortcuts for zooming the map. The map itself has also been redesigned with the goal of maximizing its size, specifically for users with laptops or small displays. All padding has been removed from the map, and all columns and the dock can be hidden, allowing the map to take up virtually the entire screen. Map controls have been moved to a small panel floating at the top right, and even these controls can be minimized to give the map more real estate. In addition to these UI changes, other key features include: (1) If an asset has forecasts for its location, a "Comparator" tab is added. The Comparator allows comparisons between the asset's observations and available forecasts. (2) A new tab named "Details" is now available for assets and allows NANOOS to display any asset specific information we want. (3) New tab named "Credits" is also available for assets. The purpose of this tab is to allow for a richer description of the organizations and people that provide the asset and data. The only asset that currently uses the Credits tab is the overlay asset HF Radar, but as with Details, credits are easy to add. (4) You can now download multiple formats of the data - CSV, CSV for Excel (dates are formatted to be

Excel friendly), JSON, or XML. (5) Download options are now available in info windows for overlay assets, such as Wavewatch. Overlays are downloaded in KML format and can be imported directly into Google Earth. (6) Plots now have organizational logos (IOOS, NOAA, NANOOS) attached to them. For a detailed list of additions and changes, you can view NVS Version History: http://www.nanoos.org/nvs/information/version_history.php

- **SECOORA in Action - Ocean Observing Supports Recreational Opportunities at Local Florida Park and Exemplifying the Partnerships of IOOS:** Fred Howard Park, located on the Gulf of Mexico in the City of Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, Florida, is a popular destination for kite surfers, wind surfers, kayakers, and beachcombers. Visitors come from an hour or more away on a regular basis to use this unique area for its recreational opportunities. Knowing the weather and wind conditions in the area is a big deciding factor that helps them to plan their activities in the park. In addition, its physical location, jetting into the Western Gulf of Mexico, provides valuable advance water level and coastal inundation information to local emergency management personnel during extreme weather events. The Fred Howard Park meteorological/tidal station is a part of the University of South Florida's (USF) Coastal Ocean Monitoring and Prediction System (COMPS). Initial site funding was via a cooperative effort between USF/COMPS, a State of Florida Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance Trust Fund (EMPATF) competitive grant, the Pinellas County Park System, and the City of Tarpon Springs Office of Emergency Management. Physically located on the southwest corner of the second causeway bridge, it became an operational COMPS weather station in June 2004. In September 2008, the causeway bridges needed replacement, and the station was removed during construction for over a year. During the downtime, COMPS Program Director Cliff Merz received many inquiries about the status of the station and when/if it would be back online. The users were able to access the data through the COMPS web site and it was also linked to and accessed frequently from a local water sports store Web site. Bruce Snyder, the head of the non-profit Friends of Fred Howard Park, estimates between 500-600 users accessed the information from the station to plan their trips to the park. Water-level data was used by local emergency management offices for flooding and inundation purposes and after event analysis. There was uncertainty there would be funding available to reinstall the station when the bridge repairs were complete. Fortunately, through selective reuse of suitable original site equipment, USF College of Marine Science funding support, availability of limited EMPATF/COMPS instrument sparing, and Pinellas County support, the site's meteorological measurement capability was able to be restored. Unfortunately, limited follow-on operation and maintenance funds exist. The Friends of Fred Howard Park heard of this and decided to help. The group raised over $1,500 through donations of profits from wind surfing lessons held at the park to support continued station operation. The Fred Howard Park COMPS station is now back online with a full suite of

meteorological sensors, providing the public with wind speed and air temperature (among other parameters). Emergency managers remain interested in restoring the in-water water level and temperature/conductivity sensors. Through funding from SECOORA, the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association, these in-water sensors will be added in the near future.

- **Congrats to Dena Seidel and entire team at Rutgers and Mark your Calendars:** The film "Atlantic Crossing: A Robot's Daring Mission" will premier in the Blue Ocean Film Festival as a finalist in the category of Ocean Adventure and Exploration. Please see link: http://www.blueoceanfilmfestival.org. This is indeed a high honor, as the National Geographic sponsors this festival and they received many applications. Only about 1/3 of the applications were chosen to premier. The film will show on August 27 and we will also conduct a science panel in association of this film.
- **MST Special Ocean Observing Journal Special Request:** We are on track for a November/December releases. All papers have been turned in or will be by early next week and I thank you for that. The papers will now be reviewed and I ask that if you have been asked to review a paper for this journal you take the time to help us out. Thank you in advance for your efforts. We also have confirmation on commentaries from OSTP/JSOST; ORRAP; NOAA, US Geological Survey, Oceanographer of the Navy; US Coast Guard, NFRA, US Army Corps and NSF. The commentaries are due by August 20.
- **Funding Opportunity:** NASA has announced a 2011 Federal Funding Opportunity for the proposals exploiting Aquarius data for ocean science investigations. The objective of the Aquarius instrument is to contribute to a better understanding of ocean circulation, the prediction of changes in this circulation, and its impact on Earth's climate and water cycle. The Aquarius mission is described in the attached transition survey and fully at http://aquarius.gsfc.nasa.gov. The NASA Ocean Salinity Science Team (OSST) supports basic research and analysis activities associated with the salinity measurement objectives of the Aquarius mission. The goals of the OSST are to provide the scientific underpinning for production of the best possible satellite-derived ocean salinity data sets and to demonstrate the Earth science and applications arising from analyses of the ocean surface salinity data. Specifically, proposals addressing the following objective are sought: Conduct ocean science investigations that are possible only through exploitation of Aquarius data. Notices of Intent are due to NASA on 30 August 2010, with full proposals due 29 October 2010. Provided a successful launch, currently scheduled for April 2011, selected proposals will begin in May 2011. Proposals are expected to be on the order of $100K - $200K per year for up to four years.

Congressional:

- DWH spill is generating a great deal of Congressional interest and response in the form of legislative proposals related to NOAA response, including long-term ocean and coastal

monitoring. Efforts so far have involved tracking bill movement and providing comments on suggested language and interpretation.

Communications and Outreach:

- August 8, 2010 - Regina IP (San Diego News Room) - *"Gulf Spill Prompts Scripps Scientist to Lend a Hand"* http://sandiegonewsroom.com/news/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=42518:gulf-spill-prompts-scripps-scientists-to-lend-a-hand&catid=43:wildlife&Itemid=59
- August 5, 2010 - NOAA Press Release - "*NOAA, IOOS® Partners Deploy New Ocean Observational Equipment near San Juan, New buoy to provide critical weather & water data to area officials*"

IOOS Conference Involvement: This section will highlight those conferences where IOOS is a sponsor or has a session:

- **IOOS and ASLO Meeting - Call for Abstracts:** The next ASLO meeting will be the 2011 Aquatic Sciences Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, February 13-18, 2011. The call for papers is now available and the website (http://www.aslo.org/meetings/sanjuan2011/) is live. We look forward to you attending. The deadline for both abstract submission and early registration is **11 October**. Please consider submitting a paper for Session: S75: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: Current Needs and Future Challenges; Conveners: Dr. Nasseer Idrisi, University of the Virgin Islands, nidrisi@uvi.edu; Simon Pittman, NOAA Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment, simon.pittman@noaa.gov and Zdenka Willis, NOAA IOOS Program, zdenka.s.willis@noaa.gov. This will be a great opportunity to showcase IOOS Regional Association activities in the Administration's priority of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.
- **GEOOS Forum on Ocean Observing, ahead of MTS/IEEE Oceans 2010 - Register now for this event on 19 September:** Want to hear about Ocean Observing worldwide? Sign up for the GEOSS (Global Earth Observation System of Systems) Workshop XXXVIII - Evolution of Ocean Observing Systems – building on infrastructure for science. The workshop, sponsored by OES, is being held just prior to the OCEANS'10 Seattle. When: 19 September - 8:30AM-6:00PM. It will feature speakers from OOI, IOOS, IMOS, Japanese Ocean Observing Systems, Neptune Canada, and several European Directors. Moderators include Dr. Rick Spinrad, VP of Research of Oregon State University and Craig McLean, Acting Assistant Administrator of NOAA's OAR. It is no-cost but we ask that you to register at: http://www.oceans10mtsieeeseattle.org/main.cfm/CID/35/.

Upcoming Meetings: We have merged our calendars and now there is single calendar that allows you to view the IOOS-related meetings. To see this calendar, please visit: http://www.usnfra.org/calendar.html or http://ioos.gov/calendar/

- **OOI Meeting:** Jeff de La Beaujardiere; August 2-3; Rutgers University
- **IOOS MPA Task Team Workshop:** Charles Alexander, week of August 30, 2010, Monterey, CA (tentative)
- **Blue Ocean Film Festival:** Monterey, CA - Zdenka to attend
- **CA World Ocean Conference:** 7-10 September: US IOOS/CeNCOOS, SCCOOS and NANOOS - Bronze Sponsor - a number of papers, sessions and a booth display
- **MTS/IEEE Oceans 2010:** Seattle - 21-23 September: Zdenka, Carl Gouldman, April Black, Jack Harlan to attend

Cheers,
Zdenka