

## Bi-Weekly IOOS® Z-GRAM - 16 December 2011

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The Z-Gram is an informal way of keeping you up-to-date on US 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 to the IOOS website and view under [program updates](#).

IOOS® - A Partnership supporting Lives and Livelihoods

As we have done the past we change up the format in the last Zgram of 2011 by providing you our holiday wishes from the US IOOS Program Office in lyrics. So after some year end notes we bring you "*US IOOS, US IOOS*" which can be sung to the tune of Jingle Bells.

### Notes:

- **Hail and Farewell:** We bid April Donnelly goodbye with our sincere appreciation for all her efforts in implementing US IOOS. With NOAA OLA and then the US IOOS Program Office through the passing of the IOOS Act, she has championed our efforts to meet the elements of the ACT. Our liaison to Congress, she has organized a number of events to showcase US IOOS. We wish her all the best. We welcome Victoria Kromer, who will manage our office operations, facilities, travel, controlled correspondence, and other projects supporting the office. She received her undergraduate degree in political science and communication from St. Louis University.
- **US IOOS Annual Report:** As required by the ICOOS Act, the Lead Federal Agency (NOAA) provided the IOOC with a "State of US IOOS". The briefing is posted on <http://www.ioos.gov/communications/welcome.html>
- **GCOOS was a sponsor of the Gulf Summit Focuses on Policy, Science and Strategies for a Healthy Gulf:** Dr. Ann Jochens, GCOOS Executive Director, participated on the panel on Metrics to Assess Gulf Health. Her presentation "A Foundational Monitoring System to Inform the Gulf of Mexico Report Card," described the role of an integrated observing system in a Gulf of Mexico Report Card process. Her messages were three-fold. First, a successful environmental report card for the Gulf of Mexico will require integration of diverse information, including physical, biological, chemical, geological, and meteorological data, that can be used to assess the state of the ecosystem being evaluated. Second, the foundational monitoring system needed to provide the information must be built through the integration of assets of a multi-entity partnership of government agencies, academic and research institutions, and private industries. Third, the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System (GCOOS) is such a foundational monitoring system.
- **Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives: Restoring Jobs, Coastal Viability and Economic Resilience in the Gulf of Mexico: H.R. 3096, the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2011:** Dr. Bob Weisberg,

University of South Florida (USF) testifies on the importance of US IOOS and GCOOS: <http://transportation.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?newsid=1463>

- **AOOS is one of the co-hosts of the National Marine Educators Association annual conference:** The Call for Proposals for the 2012 National Marine Educators Conference, North to Alaska's Seas: a confluence of science and culture, is now open until February 17, 2012. The conference, which will take place in Anchorage, Alaska, during June 24-28, 2012, will bring together formal and informal educators, scientists, students, and resource managers to share ideas about the world of water. <http://www.coseealaska.net/files/alaska/2012%20NMEA%20Call%20for%20Proposals.pdf>
- **ACT Opportunity Announcement:** The Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT) will conduct a performance verification of in situ pH sensors. ACT is requesting preliminary applications - from developers or manufacturers of commercially available pH sensors. ACT evaluation will focus on moored instruments that are designed for in situ measurements of pH. Testing will be conducted in diverse freshwater, brackish and marine coastal environments. ACT sensor technology evaluation will be free of charge for qualifying applicants, contingent upon government funding. All results will be posted to the website - [www.act-us.info](http://www.act-us.info). For more info contact Dr. Tom Johengen ([johengen@umich.edu](mailto:johengen@umich.edu)) or Dr. Mario Tamburri ([tamburri@umces.edu](mailto:tamburri@umces.edu)).
- **PacIOOS deploys a wave buoy:** PacIOOS deployed a new Datawell Mark II Waverider Buoy in Maui's coastal waters. This makes 7 real-time wave buoys in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Marshall Islands to provide streaming data on wave height, direction, period, and water temperature to the PacIOOS website ([www.pacioos.org](http://www.pacioos.org)), to the USACE sponsored Coastal Data Information Program at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (<http://cdip.ucsd.edu>) and via Twitter @buoy51205.
- **Flower Gardens Bank National Sanctuary, BP and Liquid Robotics partner on the deployment of wave gliders:** Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is collaborating with Russell Putt, contractor to BP, to deploy wave gliders to conduct acoustic and current surveys in the Gulf of Mexico. Three Liquid Robotics wave gliders were deployed from two locations along the Gulf Coast. Two of the gliders are outfitted with acoustic packages to detect marine mammals in the East and West Gulf of Mexico, and one glider is outfitted with an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler and will conduct surveys at East Flower Garden Bank to collect data as a contribution to a study being conducted by the Navy Research Lab. The objective of the study is to model micro-movement of water around topographic features. The glider time is being donated by BP.
- **SCCOOS provides HF Radar data in Oil Spill Response Tool:** SCCOOS high frequency (HF) radar data are now available in the Environmental Response Management Application® (ERMA) viewer for the Southwest region. This web-based tool was designed by NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, the University of New Hampshire, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to assist both emergency responders and environmental resource managers in dealing with incidents including oil spills. ERMA was the official viewer for the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) in Ventura in September 2011, making HF radar data available to all program participants.

- **MARACOOS successful annual meeting held in DC.** MARACOOS brought together an impressive array of Federal and non Federal partners and stakeholders in a number of panels to discuss how MARACOOS can continue to improve their support to their customers. Mary Glackin, NOAA's Deputy Under Secretary for Operations; Dana Goward, Director, Marine Transportation Systems Management, US Coast Guard and Dr. Louis Uccellini, Director, National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), NOAA provided key note addresses. Becky Baltes and I was fortunate to be invited to provide a talk on the US IOOS Modeling Testbed and National look at US IOOS, see the IOOS web site for our presentations.

NOW PLEASE ENJOY

**US IOOS, US IOOS**  
(to the tune of Jingle Bells)

**Bobbing coasts 'N ocean  
IOOS buoys standing watch  
Met sensors in motion  
Winds and temp they catch  
On Great Lakes awake  
Making forecasts right  
It's P. h. and D.O. they take  
A time series tonight**

**Oh Coastal Obs, Coastal Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way  
Coastal Obs, Coastal Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one source open way**

**Sampling bays we know  
Water quality sondes relay  
Nitrates they do show  
Under piers they sway  
ESPs assay  
Making waters right  
What fun it is to splash and swim  
In clean surf with delight**

**Oh, Great Lake Obs, Great Lake Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way  
Great Lake Obs, Great Lake Obs  
Data all the day**

**Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way**

**Up and down they float  
In a global AGRO fleet  
O'er the depths they go  
Sampling every beat  
Data is tracked  
Monitoring variability  
To see and know the impact  
On the oceans agility**

**Oh, Ocean Obs, Ocean Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way  
Ocean Obs, Ocean Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way**

**Sensing on the coast  
H. F. radar scans away  
Currents and waves we show  
Mapping all the way  
Vectors ... Servers sing  
Making vectors right  
Those obs we like to graph and bring  
To boaters day or night**

**Oh, Coastal Obs, Coastal Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way  
Coastal Obs, Coastal Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one source open way**

**Testing sensors shows  
Data quality's in play  
Fresh or salt we go  
Verifying all the way  
Obs Reports we bring**

**Posting results onsite  
The key to this is real testing  
Get error bars just right**

**Oh, Great Lake Obs, Great Lake Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way  
Great Lake Obs, Great Lake Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way**

**Flying salty seas  
Aquarius paves the way  
Ocean waters she shows  
Sensing miles each day  
Sensors transmit beams  
Global salt just right  
Data makes computers gleam  
From shining satellites**

**Oh, Ocean Obs, Ocean Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy, we provide  
In a one-source open way  
Ocean Obs, Ocean Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way**

**Swimming through the flow  
Silbo glider as a sleigh  
Arctic to Tropics we go  
Measuring all the way  
Up and down on wings  
Rights and lefts In bights  
What fun it is to dive and ping  
A Profile path tonight**

**Oh, Coastal Obs, Coastal Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way  
Coastal Obs, Coastal Obs  
Data all the day**

**Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one source open way**

**NCEP is our friend  
In a coastal mod'ling way  
O'er to Ops we go  
Testbeds show the way  
Obs to bear we bring  
Making models right  
Louis' elves Transitioning  
Best Forecasts are in sight**

**Oh, Great Lake Obs, Great Lake Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way  
Great Lake Obs, Great Lake Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way**

**Swimming westward ho  
With four floats and four sleighs  
O'er the Pacific they go  
Gliding on the waves  
Payloads on fins dwell  
Taking data right  
In the sun they rise and fall  
On waves they fly just right**

**Oh, Ocean Obs, Ocean Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way  
Ocean Obs, Ocean Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way**

**Coastal Obs, Great Lake Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy, we provide  
In a one-source open way  
Ocean Obs, Ocean Obs  
Data all the day  
Oh, what joy we provide  
In a one-source open way**

From each of us in US IOOS Program Office, we wish you a very happy and safe Holiday season with family and friends. We appreciate everyone's effort and dedication to making US IOOS a reality and look forward to an even stronger partnership in 2012. The Zgram will return in the new year.

Cheers,

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Zdenka Willis

Director, US IOOS Program Office

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