

Bi-Weekly IOOS® Z-GRAM - 17 June 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 the IOOS website and view under program updates.

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

**IOOS® Regional Observations and Technology Innovation:** Through the FY12 President's Budget request, NOAA requested \$8,500,000 to develop and improve sensors for ocean chemical, biological, and physical parameters at multiple spatial and temporal scales to monitor changing conditions in the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. This is really exciting for IOOS and the nation. While the funds are not in hand until the FY12 budget is finalized by Congress, we need to develop the program now to be able to meet agency deadlines for FY12. This effort is being co-led by CDR John Adler (on detail to the Operations Division from NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO)) and Gabrielle Canonico (US IOOS Program Office). The team is focusing on these tasks:

- assess existing technology development programs;
- identify candidate technologies for transition to operations and funding;
- develop a program plan;
- develop a vehicle(s) for announcing and distributing funds.

We will see information on programs such as Navy's Advance Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD), NOAA/NSF Comparative Analysis of Marine Ecosystem Organization (CAMEO) and DHS's University Center of Excellence. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SETTING UP THIS PROGRAM. We know many of you have been involved in both conducting and participating in large scale interagency demonstrations and we would like to hear your ideas. Please send John Adler, [John.Adler@noaa.gov](mailto:John.Adler@noaa.gov) and Gabrielle Canonico, [Gabrielle.Canonico@noaa.gov](mailto:Gabrielle.Canonico@noaa.gov) your ideas or availability to set up a time to talk with them.

**Governance and Management Subsystem:**

- **Farewell:** It's never good when you have to have the *Farewell* category twice in one month. It is a bittersweet farewell to Dr. Sam Walker whose final day with the US IOOS Program was 17 June. Sam accepted a position with British Petroleum and will relocate in Houston, TX. We will miss Sam who has been with US IOOS for the last 6 years- first with SECOORA and then with the National Office. During DWH, Sam proved his outstanding leadership as he set up the subsurface monitoring unit and the Joint Analysis Group. He was IOOS' man on the scene coordinating our efforts to the National Response. We will miss him greatly but as we know, once an IOOSian, always an IOOSian and we look forward to a continued partnership with Sam in his new position. CONGRATS!
- **Welcome Aboard:** We welcome CDR John Adler, NOAA Corps, who is on detail with us for 25% of his time until September 2011 to assist us with establishing a new Sensors

Innovation Project - see above. John has been evaluating technologies for NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations so he is no stranger to what we are trying to accomplish.

- **FY11 Budget and Awards:** OMB submitted NOAA's budget to Congress on 14 June. The IOOS Program Office is working closely with NOS AA team and NOAA's Acquisition and Grants Office to process the FY11 awards. We are doing everything we can do, pending final approval of NOAA's budget, to have these awards ready for approval. We are keenly aware of the issues the Regions are facing as the previous awards come to a close on 1 July 2011. My sincere thanks to Scott, Carl, Regina, Dave, Gabrielle and Carmen are all working hard to keep the awards moving.

### **Observation Subsystem:**

- **High Frequency Radar/Radio (HFR):** A draft agenda has been created for the meeting scheduled for July 19-20, in Boulder, CO (NCAR Foothills Laboratory). Logistical preparations are ongoing.
- **Animal Telemetry Observations:** Successful acoustic receiver test aboard a Chesapeake bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS) Buoy: Doug Wilson, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) reported that NCBO has successfully tested a new generation of acoustic receiver (Vemco VR2C) that has the capability to be deployed in Buoys and transmit data using a cellular network. Doug's team was able to display animal telemetry data in real-time from the VR2C receiver that was deployed on the CBIBS buoy on the James River at Jamestown, VA. Link to the data- <http://science.ncbo.noaa.gov/FishTags/data> (You can select time (EDT) range and any of the tags seen so far by the receiver).
- **IOOS Non-Federal Observing Asset Inventory Status:** The draft non-federal observing asset inventory is on-line for verification. The designated RA Inventory POCs and Executive Directors have been notified. Input to the inventory was requested by June 24 and a list of next steps has been outlined.

**Data Management and Communications (DMAC) Subsystem:** To get on the IOOS System Status list which announces service changes, please contact Derrick ([Derrick.Snowden@noaa.gov](mailto:Derrick.Snowden@noaa.gov)) or Rob ([Rob.Ragsdale@noaa.gov](mailto:Rob.Ragsdale@noaa.gov)).

- **Coastal Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP):** Charly, the IOOS representative on the CMSP Data and Tools Team (DTT), will be presenting an overview of IOOS DMAC and emerging priorities at the next DDT meeting. There is significant interest from the team to identify leverage points for collaboration in order to ensure consistent approaches to data access and interoperability and to ensure we minimize possible duplication of efforts. Charly also met for two hours with CMSP DTT Chair Tony LaVoi on Monday June 6th to discuss what some of these candidates might be - including the emerging IOOS Data Catalog.
- **IOOS Data Catalog:** National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) has generated about 50 new, albeit basic, ISO 19115 metadata records based on existing datasets served via the THREDDS server at PacIOOS. These datasets should be visible in the catalog in the next few weeks. As efforts to populate the catalog progress, we now have a useful tool to help

evaluate the documentation of data services throughout IOOS. These tools will help us improve the data set documentation as we iterate with the data stewards hosting the data. Other catalog enhancements include ongoing work on the user interface especially related to Internet Explorer performance problems. Comments are always welcome.

- **Regional Priority Activities:** A process to define the top nine highest priority activities as defined at the regional DMAC workshop is underway. Clarifying the priority activities would significantly enhance the deployment of common SOS and THREDDS services in each of the regions. Derrick contributed a list of straw-man definitions for the Regional DMAC Coordinators to build on or to revise, accordingly. The definitions will help guide the work that the RAs will engage in FY 12. The responses will be the focus of a conference call between the IOOS Regional DMAC Coordinators and the Ops. Division at the end of the month.

### **Modeling and Analysis Subsystem:**

- **NOAA Modeling Meeting:** Charly, Zdenka, and Coast Survey Development Laboratory's Mary Erickson met with NWS/Office of Science and Technology's Fred Toepfer (Hurricane Forecast Improvement Program) and Dave McCarren (National Unified Operational Prediction Capacity) to discuss potential collaboration with NWS/Office of Science and Technology (OST) on the next phase of the US IOOS Modeling Testbed. Several candidate opportunities were discussed and it seems there is significant interest in following up with more specific ideas.
- **US IOOS Model Testbed One Year Meeting:** The agenda has been finalized for the First Annual Testbed Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Consortium for Ocean Leadership in Washington, D.C., June 22 – 23. Over 60 participants to date have registered.

**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.

- **DMAC Steering Team:** The DMAC-ST provided comments on the DMAC Implementation Plan to Derrick and Carmel on the first conference call since the May meeting. These comments will be incorporated into the plan which is still on target to be completed this fiscal year. With Sam's departure Charly Alexander will be the "Acting" DMAC ST Chair.
- **Fourth in the Series of IOOC Industry Work Shops - next one in the Great Lakes: HOW GREAT LAKES OBSERVATIONS CAN WORK FOR YOU -** The Great Lakes Observing System, in coordination with the IOOC, is holding Sweet Sea Observations: Making Great Lakes Observations Work for you, a workshop to explore how Great Lakes observations programs can provide economic, environmental and safety benefits to industries, government and citizens. The workshop will be held Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at the Edison Boat Club (100 Lycaste, Detroit, Michigan 48214). To register, and for more information, please visit [www.iooc.us/greatlakes](http://www.iooc.us/greatlakes) or contact Jennifer Read, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Observing System, [jread@glos.us](mailto:jread@glos.us), 734-332-6101.

- **IOOS and Links to the National Water Quality Monitoring Network: Coordination with EPA:** The elements for developing a demonstration project were discussed. Plans to review existing predictive beach water quality tools and to identify the available water quality related observations for the potential demonstration sites to be determined for developing a proof of concept were outlined on the call. A review of existing predictive beach tools will help define the model framework for this effort.
- **IOOS and The National Science Foundation (NSF) - Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI):** OOI-CI External Observatory Integration (EOI) Release 1 User Review (6/16): Members of the OOI-CI development team presented a status report and demonstration of current functionality of the EOI module being developed for the Cyberinfrastructure Release 1. The EOI capabilities for Release 1 are being designed to support a use case in which the Cyberinfrastructure provides data from external sources (e.g. NDBC buoys, Argo float data, etc.) to two modeling groups (Rutgers and UHawaii/SOEST). The User Review is a formal step in the System Development Lifecycle being implemented by the OOI-CI development team. The results of the test were promising and the modeling groups were optimistic that the new services would significantly increase their access to data and efficiency in processing data. Similarly, the development team received valuable feedback on the design and capabilities of their product.
- **National Ocean Policy Listening Sessions Continue:** If you are interested in being involved in these activities, please email Staci Lewis ([slewis@oceanleadership.org](mailto:slewis@oceanleadership.org)) for more information.

DATE	LOCATION	VENUE	TIME
June 27, 2011	Exeter, NH	Exeter High School	11:30 AM-3:00 PM
June 27, 2011	Galveston, TX	Galveston Convention Center	5:00-8:30 PM
June 27, 2011	Ocean Shores, WA	Quinalt Beach Resort and Casino	8:30 AM-5:00 PM
June 29, 2011	San Francisco, CA	TBD	1:00-5:00 PM
June 30, 2011	West Long Branch, NJ	Monmouth University	10:00 AM-5:00 PM
July 1, 2011	Portland, OR	Portland State University	TBA

#### Other:

- **ACT Board Meeting:** ACT has reconstituted a new Executive Board that is comprised of: Rick Spinrad, OSU; Steve Weisberg, SCWRP; Margaret Palmer, CBL; Chris Sholin, MBARI and Ralph Rayner COL and LSE. Gabrielle (IOOS Program) attended the board meeting and reported that the meeting went very well. ACT is undergoing a program review, therefore the discussion centered around measuring success, coordinating with existing and new partners, evaluating effectiveness, focusing on fewer themes aligned with IOOS Regional priorities in order to take a more comprehensive approach to address user and manufacturers needs within those themes, and to establish teams of experts

(including RA and Federal Agency expertise) to work with. We look forward to working with ACT as they continue to improve their support to US IOOS.

- **Bravo Zulu to Teledyne Webb Research:** I was hosted by Tom Altshuler and Clayton Jones to Teledyne Webb Research and Teledyne Benthos. The purpose of the trip was twofold. First on behalf of the US IOOS Program, I presented a framed picture/coin and plaque commemorating the Historic Flight of Scarlet Knight. Teledyne Webb Research provided the glider for this mission and continues to push the technology working on thermal gliders and integration of new sensors. It was truly an honor to have Doug Webb present at the event and have the chance to chat with him about ocean observing. Second I invited to tour both Teledyne Webb Research and Teledyne Benthos facilities, it was a unique opportunity to see the synergy between the two parts of Teledyne focused on advancing ocean observing. My thanks to Tom and Clayton for their gracious hospitality.
- **NOAA Partnership Opportunity with the Ocean Discovery Institute (ODI):** Doug Levin was invited by Sarah Schoedinger, Senior Program Manager, NOAA Office of Education, to participate in a scoping meeting for a NOAA partnership with the Ocean Discovery Institute (ODI) in San Diego. ODI uses science exploration to engage urban and diverse young people in three ways: education, scientific research and environmental stewardship. Through their programs youth are empowered to transform their lives and make a difference in the world as scientific and environmental leaders. Doug's role was to look for intersections between NOAA science and the ODI program theme. Doug and Sarah provided input into their preliminary building design, programmatic and interpretation possibilities. While in San Diego, Doug and Sarah met with the ODI executive staff, senior staff, and the students they are impacting. This was an initial meeting. Follow up meetings are expected while ODI builds and transitions into their new facility.
- **Northeast Coastal Ocean Data Partnership (CODP) Annual Meeting and Metadata Training Workshop (Durham, NH)** Derrick Attended. The CODP is a community organization dedicated to sharing data management technologies amongst partners in the Northeast. The CODP provides a significant contribution to the efforts of NERACOOS. The annual meeting focused on project status updates and identifying objectives for the next year. Many of the presentations related to data set and data service documentation which led nicely into the day two agenda: a hands-on workshop style seminar focused on using tools to transform FGDC metadata into the more modern, and increasingly mandated, ISO 19115 metadata standard for geospatial data. The hands-on nature of the workshop was well received as participants used tools installed on their own laptops to transform, manipulate, and create metadata descriptions of their own data sets.

**Congressional:** No updates

**Communications/Outreach and Website Updates:**

- Editorial by Bob Weisberg titled "The Loop Current may not have protected South Florida this year" was published in the St. Petersburg Times June 5.

**IOOS Conference Involvement:** This section will highlight those conferences where US IOOS is a sponsor/has a session/relevant sessions of interest to US IOOS:

- Coastal Zone 2011: Join us for US IOOS related sessions
  - 19 July: 1:15-2:45 -Panel: US IOOS - New and Improved Tools for Coastal Managers' (\*Z. Willis, D. Dugan, J. Thomas, K. O'Brien, H. Kerkering )
  - 20 July: 1:15-2:45 -'US IOOS: Tracking Water Quality' (\*Quintrell, Morrison, Newton, Porter, Read)
  - 20 July: 2:45-5:00 pm: (Café) 'CMSP, IOOS, and Data: They Don't Have to be Four Letter Words' (\*Easter, Sheldon, Quintrell)
- **MTS/IEEE Oceans 2011:** No update
- **SAVE THE DATE - MTS/IEEE Oceans 2012:** VA Beach Convention Center: October 14-19 2012.

**Upcoming Meetings:** To see the IOOS calendar, please visit:  
<http://www.usnfra.org/calendar.html> or <http://ioos.gov/calendar/>.

Cheers,  
Zdenka