

Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM - 20 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:**

- **Welcome Aboard:** Captain Scott Kuester has joined the IOOS Program Office as the Regional and External Division Division (READ) Chief. He has replaced Jamie, who is retiring from NOAA Corps. Scott has 26 years of service with extensive sea duty. Most recently he was on detail at the Department of Commerce helping the new team get in place. We also welcome Rebekah Lee, who has joined us as our Administrative Assistant, replacing Chenika Butler. Rebekah recently relocated from Orlando, Florida.
- **Thank You:** Thank you very much to Dave Easter, who has been the Acting READ Division Chief for nearly the last 2 months. We really appreciate his willingness to step up in these duties and has set READ up well for our FY11 planning.

**Initial Operating Capability - Data Management and Communications (DMAC) Subsystem of IOOS®** [http://ioos.gov/library/dmac\\_implementation\\_2010.pdf](http://ioos.gov/library/dmac_implementation_2010.pdf)

- **Customer Projects:** **Contact Charly Alexander** at [Charles.Alexander@noaa.gov](mailto: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:** Changes to the NDBC production SOS server were made on August 19. The production server is located at: <http://sdf.ndbc.noaa.gov/sos/>. The service now includes air temperature, conductivity, and sea level pressure. These observed properties are available in CSV, TSV, and KML format. They will not be offered in GML. Glider data was added to the database. These data include water temperature and salinity and are only available in CSV and TSV format. These data may only be requested by station ID. Support for glider data in collections is not yet available.
- **Regional DMAC:** The Regional DMAC Team talked about the regional task list and priorities heading into FY11. In addition to improving on the interoperability of services, the members on the call agreed to establish a uniform visualization display for High Frequency Radar outputs, leveraging SCCOOS code across all of the regions. This was an activity discussed in the workshop and was also part of a discussion at the NFRA Products Development Workshop. The next conference call will be held on September 1.

**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):** No Update.
- **IOOS and Links to the National Water Quality Monitoring Network:** Regional and Interagency Water Quality Project Conference Call (August 12): Discussion of resource constraints to developing a project consumed a large part of this month's call. Identifying activities that are already being done that can contribute to this project and taking the approach to focus on short-term projects was discussed. Several projects currently underway within NERACOOS, MACOORA, and SECOORA were talked about as examples of activities that could be leveraged. The next group call will be in mid-September.
- **IOOS and National Science Foundation (NSF) - Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI):** Charly and Jeff had a conference call with the OOI-CI collaboration project team to discuss progress on the OOI/IOOS use case. Jeff will attend the upcoming OOI-CI planning meeting in San Diego (August 24-26).
- **DMAC Steering Team:** No Update.

#### Other:

- **Response to Deepwater Horizon:** Sam Walker was asked by NOAA (Dave Kennedy) to lead NOAA's work on a final response report or plan describing the recommended next steps for documenting the overall status of any remaining oil in the Gulf of Mexico, particularly below the surface. This report is due to be completed by August 28. Sam and OpsDiv's Doug Levin traveled to LA on August 14 to work together on this report. They are scheduled to return to Silver Spring this Saturday, August 28. Jack Harlan will also be contributing to this report. Jennie Lyons went on detail for one week at the NOAA Deep Water Horizon "war room" at the request of Justin Kenney, NOAA's Communications Officer.
- **USACE and AOOS meeting:** Linda Lillycrop, the USACE rep in the IOOS office, organized and Dave Easter attended the Army Corps of Engineers and AOOS meeting in Anchorage, AK, August 10-11. The meeting provided a good overview of the working structure of USACE in Alaska and identified some potential areas for collaboration with AOOS (e.g. current modeling in Cook Inlet, supporting installation of water level gauges along the west coast of AK [help w/validation of existing storm surge models], and installation of additional Harboret locations to provide baseline climate data).
- **AGU Meeting of the Americas in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, August 8-12:** Jack Harlan and I represented the National U.S. IOOS Program, while Julio Morell and Jorge Capella (of CaRA) represented the regional component of U.S. IOOS, and together we were able to tell an effective story. I co-chaired the session on the GOOS Regional Alliances, put together by Keith Alverson (IOC-GOOS), while Jack Harlan and Don Barrick (CODAR) put together a session that focused on the use of HFR currents in modeling. Julio and Jorge really exemplified what we are aiming for in building the IOOS regional associations, and we also achieved a good understanding of the progress around the

GOOS world. I particularly enjoyed the talks on the promise of how HFR currents can be used in modeling and the examples of where the data is improving the models and the potential efforts for support to MPAs and the transport of water through MPAs. There were over 2,000 scientists in attendance, so we had the chance to renew contacts, meet new folks, and continue to discuss how we can make IOOS work together.

- **IOOS - Operations Visit with NOAA's Coastal Services Center, Charleston, SC (August 17):** Highlights include:
  - Charly and Rob met with a small group at CSC (Miki Schmidt, Tony Lavoie, Cindy Fowler, Kirk Waters, and David Stein) and NGDC (Susan McLean on the phone) to discuss the data management components of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) and Digital Coast -- an online tool to assist coastal managers in addressing resource management needs.
  - They learned about a project in Massachusetts -- the Massachusetts Mapping Project -- that is serving as a pilot project for CMSP and CSC work to develop a product line for Automatic Identification System (AIS) data, which can be used to track vessel traffic.
  - Rob gave a "What's New in IOOS?" brief for a brown-bag lunch. A number of the questions fielded were predominately in regards to the IOOS Data Catalog and how the catalog be linked to [Digital Coast](#).
  - There seems to be a number of good opportunities on which to collaborate in the months ahead. We thank CSC for giving us the opportunity to talk.
  - The trip was to also include a visit with CSC's Jim Boyd on the development of NOAA's Climate Portal, and Paul Scholtz on technical planning to support the emerging Climate Service's sea-level rise priority. Instead, Charly met in Silver Spring with Jim on August 4 and Paul on August 16.
- **Congrats to CODAR:** CODAR Ocean Sensors was awarded a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant to use for an Automatic Identification System (AIS) for passive CODAR antenna pattern measurements. The first working meeting of awardees will be held on August 25.
- **Another Buoy for the Chesapeake Bay:** On July 27, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources buoy tender M/V, John C. Widener, placed NOAA's latest Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy in 37' of water at the Gooses Reef site near buoy 78 in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay. This Gooses Buoy is the ninth in the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS). It was funded by the Dominion Resources Foundation through the Coastal Conservation/Maryland and the Maryland Artificial Reef Initiative (MARI).

**Congressional:** No Update.

#### **Communications and Outreach:**

- **August 19:** Washington Post - Christy Goodman, "[Chesapeake buoys provide data on the bay.](#)"
- **August 16:** Chicago Tribune - Deirdre Lockwood, "[Sink or Source? Figuring Great Lakes' Role in Climate Change.](#)" This work is being done by GLOS members of their open lakes team from the University of Milwaukee.

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

- **New: Announcing Gulf of Mexico LME Conference:** Dr. Porfirio Alvarez-Torres, Project Coordinator, "Integrated Assessment and Management of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem," United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is planning a meeting in late September in Mexico City "[\*From the River Basins to the Gulf of Mexico.\*](#)" dealing with watersheds, integrated management, hypoxia, dead zones, and eutrophication. This is being planned with GCOOS - Dr. Ann Jochens and Dr. Nancy Rabalais. Dr. Bonnie Ponwith (NOAA Director of the SEFSC-NMFS) had confirmed her participation as well. Please see the attached event flyer and consider supporting this important event, and for more information please contact, Dr. Alvarez-Torres at [alvarez.porfirio@gmail.com](mailto:alvarez.porfirio@gmail.com)
- **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 your attendance. The deadline for both abstract submission and early registration is **October 11**. 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, [nidrissi@uvi.edu](mailto:nidrissi@uvi.edu); Simon Pittman, NOAA Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment, [simon.pittman@noaa.gov](mailto:simon.pittman@noaa.gov); and Zdenka Willis, NOAA IOOS Program, [zdenka.s.willis@noaa.gov](mailto: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 September 19:** 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 2010 in Seattle, WA. **When:** September 19, 2010 - 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 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 for NOAA's OAR. It is no-cost but we ask that you to register at: <http://www.oceans10mtsieeseattle.org/main.cfm/CID/35/>.
- **New - NERACOOS 2010 Ocean Literacy Summit Information:** New England Ocean Sciences Education Collaboration (NEOSEC) is a collaboration of institutions from across New England, with the goal of promoting Ocean Literacy. This year's Ocean Literacy Summit, which is being held on November 11, 12 and 13, is our third biennial event and will feature discussions of the findings of the Census of Marine Life in the Gulf of Maine. In addition to a keynote address by Dr. Paul Snelgrove and evening lecture by Dr. Sylvia Earle, the Summit will provide scientists and educators opportunities to network and connect, perhaps opening new means for scientists to meet broader impact requirements and strengthen and expand educational components of their own research. NERACOOS is working with NEOSEC to promote ocean literacy through ocean observations. NERACOOS will be hosting the session below: "From Intertidal to Deep

Sea: Monitoring Ecosystem Diversity." NERACOOS, the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, will showcase how ocean observing is being used in both formal and informal education. Participants will see how the Earth as a System is Essential (EaSiE) project of the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance and the Seasons of the Sea exhibit at the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, NH has utilized the dynamic nature of ocean observing information. Participants will take home lesson plans and explore the valuable resources of ocean observing systems, including NERACOOS' real-time buoy data, and learn how to engage audiences in understanding the interactions between the Earth's land, oceans, atmosphere, and living world. By looking at the sea's seasonal patterns through ocean observing information, individuals can better understand their vital connections to the ocean and the diversity of life within it. For more info, please visit <http://www.neosec.org>.

**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/>

- **IOOS MPA Task Team Workshop:** Charles Alexander, week of August 30, 2010, Monterey, CA
- **Blue Ocean Film Festival:** August 26-29, Monterey, CA - Zdenka to attend
- **CA World Ocean Conference:** September 7-10: U.S. IOOS/CeNCOOS, SCCOOS and NANOOS - Bronze Sponsor - a number of papers, sessions and a booth display
- **IOOS Biological Data Workshop:** Hassan and Charly to attend, September 20-22, Honolulu, HI
- **OOI-CI Architectural Review:** Jeff, August 24-26; San Diego, CA
- **MTS/IEEE Oceans 2010:** Seattle, WA, September 21-23; Zdenka Willis, Carl Gouldman, April Black, and Jack Harlan to attend

Cheers,  
Zdenka

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