

Bi-Weekly IOOS® Z-GRAM - 21 October 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

Governance and Management Subsystem:

- **Funding Opportunity:** Resource Conservation Special Solicitation Defense Coastal/Estuarine Research Program: On September 20, 2011, SERDP released a new solicitation for the Defense Coastal/Estuarine Research Program (DCERP). SERDP requests proposals to perform fundamental ecological research on estuarine, coastal, and associated terrestrial ecosystems that are necessary to sustain military readiness. The desired outcome of the requested research is to: (1) understand the effects of military activities and infrastructure on these ecosystems and (2) support their sustainable and adaptive management. The DCERP is an existing SERDP program that involves the execution of ecological research within the context of military land and other resource use. DCERP has been executed since late 2006 at Marine Corp Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. This call for research proposals is intended to fund a new DCERP effort for a period of five years and also provide new thematic directions to guide the research effort. Information on the extant DCERP effort can be found via the links below. Researchers from Federal organizations, universities, and the private sector can apply for SERDP funding by responding to the appropriate solicitation below. **PROPOSALS ARE DUE JANUARY 5, 2012. To view the announcement:** <http://www.serdp-estcp.org/content/download/11538/142301/version/1/file/EWG-Call-for-Proposal-DCERP-FY13.pdf>
- **Certification:** The IOOC was briefed on the RICE and Data Management working group results and decided on a path forward with regard to certification. The IOOC staff is now working to finalize the Federal Register Notice to promulgate the certification draft criteria for public comment. The goal is to publish the FRN by early November. The IOOC recognized the significant effort, thoroughness, and diligence of the 2 working groups and we are confident we have a path forward that will serve the US IOOS community and NOAA to meet the provisions of the ICOOS Act.

Observation Subsystem:

- **High Frequency Radar/Radio (HFR):** For more information contact Jack Harlan, Jack.Harlan@noaa.gov - the US IOOS HFR Project Manager - No updates

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) or Rob (Rob.Ragsdale@noaa.gov).

- **Source for information on US IOOS "how to archive" data:** NDBC has produced a report outlining the steps they followed to develop a submission agreement with NODC for archiving their data. The report, including example data files, gives a path forward for Regional Associations interested in archiving their data.
- **RA DMAC Reference Implementation Bi-Weekly Conference Call:** This group is led by Derrick, US IOOS Program Office as a result of the US IOOS RA DMAC meeting last march. One of the top priorities of this group was to be able to easily implement an agreed to Sensor Observation Service across all 11 Regions. When the group met, they started by reviewing the SOS available. The group continues to meet to discuss details related to deploying a reference implementation for the Sensor Observation Service. The group has received input from OGC and from NDBC and CO-OPS developers and is working toward documenting the pros and cons of the current services deployed in those organizations.
- **US IOOS Program Office Interaction with NOAA's Coastal Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Data and Tools Team Meeting:** Charly, US IOOS Program Office is assigned to this team with the purpose of bringing US IOOS DMAC efforts at the National and Regional level to our NOAA team. This update is provided for your information. Charly participated in the bi-weekly meeting which included four short briefs – progress/update on the emerging CMSP National Information System, progress on CMSP enablement on the USCG's Automated (Ship) Information System, a demo of the emerging ocean portion of Data.Gov, and a demo of an ESRI-developed grid-based widget for coastal wind energy planning.
- **Providing more visibility to the US IOOS/PacIOOS HI biological data management project:** Taxonomic Databases Working Group Meeting, New Orleans, LA: Hassan, US IOOS Program Office and Phillip Goldstein, US OBIS Program, attended the annual TDWG meeting, presenting a poster on the HI biological obs project and meeting with many other like-minded scientists about how to bring biological observations to more users. Now called Biodiversity Information Standards rather than TDWG, the principal mission is the development of standards for the exchange of biological/ biodiversity data.

Modeling and Analysis Subsystem: No updates

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:** No update
- **IOOS and Links to the National Water Quality Monitoring Network: Coordination with EPA:** No Update
- **IOOS and The National Science Foundation (NSF) - Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI):** No Update

Other:

- **SECOORA in Action - Success with South Carolina beach Managers:** SECCORA, member Dwayne Porter, provided the following success story from the use of the SECOORA based predictive model by South Carolina's Department of Health and Environmental Control's (SCDHEC). The SCDHEC, as a result of the predictive tool capabilities, made a decision to cease support of its rain gauge system that was costly and time consuming to maintain. Context: US IOOS - SECOORA products and services deliver better results while saving the State of South Carolina resources.
- **MARACOOS Fisheries Workshop:** MARACOOS held a workshop with the fisheries sector, with a focus on the commercial fishers. The workshop was held in Providence, RI on September 26. It was a very positive meeting that included a lively discussion and exchange of ideas. Workshop Goal: Develop an Ocean Observatory/ Fisheries Community Interactive Partnership; Objectives: (1) Determine what MARACOOS-derived information products can be supplied regularly to fishermen; (2) Complement what fishermen already know with new MARACOOS-derived information products; (3) Engage the fishing community in the design and conduct of fisheries research projects; and (4) Establish a process for regularized engagement of fisheries stakeholders with MARACOOS. The report and downloadable presentations are available at http://maracoos.org/events_archive. Here are some tidbits from the report that I hope will encourage you to read more (POC:Gerhard Kuska, MARACOOS Executive Director, kuska@maracoos.org):
 - A collaboration with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
 - MARACOOS activities, organization, and the major themes and focus areas for their work, including ecosystems and fisheries, search and rescue, coastal hazards, and water quality. MARACOOS described their extensive capabilities (e.g. HF radar, CODAR, gliders/ROV, satellites), and description of products developed from observation data.
 - Fisherman knew from experience that when there was an easterly wind it was made more difficult (in some cases fruitless) to catch scallops, but they were not sure why it happened. To what extent can observing data help to understand these phenomena?
 - Highlights of Commercial/Recreational Fishers Needs: Data and information related to safety, including wind speed and wave height; Need singular point of access to different information and data sources; Recognize that fishers currently seek out and tailor information from various sources to their particular needs. How can MARACOOS work more closely with fishers to enable to access and define the information needs?; Provide usable inputs into management process including Science and Statistical Committees and stock assessments. This will take close collaboration and focus on maintaining trust among fisher, observing, research and management sectors; Is important that MARACOOS and fisher work together to identify priority issues and be realistic about what can be achieved. Don't "bite off more than you can chew", or create unrealistic expectations.
 - Modeling Information / Resources, By-Catch Models -Butterfish Smackdown," the fisherman won every time. The groups then worked together to develop a consensus model.

- **US IOOS and National Marine Protected Area (MPA) Task Team Results:** We are pleased to announce that we have completed the Final Recommendations from the MPA and IOOS Task Team report. You can find the report "Building and Strengthening Linkages between the National System of Marine Protected Areas and the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)" at <http://www.mpa.gov/> . Overall recommendations focused around three main areas: identifying key end user products; key environmental parameters and processes; and expanding partnerships. Recommendations highlight the importance of using MPAs as platforms for ocean monitoring both inside and outside MPA boundaries. In addition, scientific and technical experts consulted in the process recommended the use of MPAs to monitor impacts of climate change. POC: Charly Alexander, US IOOS Program Office; Rondi Robison, MPA, rondi.robison@noaa.gov).

Congressional: This past week US IOOS Program Deputy - Suzanne Skelley; IOOC co-chair Bob Houtman and US IOOS Program Leg Affairs - April Donnelly spent 1.5 days on the Hill providing the quarterly update on the progress of the US IOOS. The highlights included discussion of the US IOOS Congressional report which we expect will be transmitted soonest by the National Ocean Council, the Regional Build out Plans, progress on the Independent Cost Estimate and Certification. The briefings were well received and it was stated that with the progress on the ICE and the regional build out plans, it changes the conversation with regard to US IOOS. 9 briefs were conducted that covered the House Natural Resources, Senate Commerce Committee, and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Sub Committee on Coast Guard & Maritime Commerce as well as a number of individual Member offices. Getting the Zgram, but not the quarterly update briefings and you would like to receive them, contact April Donnelly, April.Donnelly@noaa.gov

Communications/Outreach:

- **Web Update:** We added a new communications tab and are now including downloadable US IOOS powerpoint slides

IOOS Conference Involvement: This section will highlight those conferences where US IOOS is a sponsor/or has a major footprint.

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

Cheers,
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