

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:

- **FY11 Awards: No update**
- **Certification:** As a result of the information gathered during the RICE consultations, the joint recommendations are now more likely to be delivered to the IOOC in September or early October rather than August 2011. The RICE working group has agreed to pursue an aggressive schedule to incorporate and adjudicate the comments received.
- **Systems Advisory Committee: No update**

Observation Subsystem:

- **High Frequency Radar/Radio (HFR): For more information contact Jack Harlan, Jack.Harlan@noaa.gov - the US IOOS HFR Program Manager**
 - **New Alaska HFR Sites:** Two new Alaska long-range Codar sites are providing data to the IOOS National HF radar servers: HF Radars at Barrow and Wainwright, both operated by the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, often reach distances of 200 km offshore.
 - **National High Frequency Radar (HFR) Technical Steering Team Meeting (July 19 – 20)** Jack Harlan led the HFR Technical Steering Team meeting. The discussion topics covered HF Radar in freshwater environments, for wave measurements and in context of the President's proposed FY 2012 budget. When completed, the minutes of the meeting will be posted on the IOOS website
- **IOOS Non-Federal Observing Asset Inventory Status:** Thank you to the 7 RAs that have completed the request for input for phase 1a of the IOOS Obs Asset Inventory: CaRA, CeNCOOS, GLOS, NANOOS, NERACOOS, PacIOOS and SCCOOS. Completion of phase 1a slated for 30 August.

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).

- **DMAC Implementation Plan V1.0:** Over the past year the Operations Division has been laying out the activities and milestones supporting a national DMAC. The plan has been briefed to the regional DMAC coordinators and the IOOC DMAC Steering Team. Comments from those bodies have been incorporated into the plan and now version 1.0 is being published to the IOOS.gov web site. The document should be available on the site in a matter of days.

- **IOOS Data Catalog:** No update
- **Regional Priority Activities:**
 - THREDDDS was the focus of the RA DMAC Conference call (7/14) and the topic spawned discussion about communicating to Unidata the IOOS Regional DMAC efforts to encourage more support for the THREDDDS services. This led to Tom Cook, representing SCCOOS on the call, offering to discuss the RA DMAC efforts with Unidata's John Caron and Ethan Davis while attending a THREDDDS Workshop. He provided a list of issues from the Regional DMAC Coordinators to prime his discussion. John and Ethan acknowledged support for the IOOS RA DMAC efforts and suggested ways the IOOS RA DMAC Coordinators could encourage more Unidata support for THREDDDS development.
- **IOOS and NCCOS Water Quality Project:** Doug Pirhalla (NCCOS) reported that he is meeting with the FIU IMPACT Project PIs in Miami, FL on August 15th and will discuss the FIU water quality data set that will be distributed through an SOS server at UNCW.
- **IOOS Biological Data Project:** The Mid-Term Report, attached, has been shared with the NOAA Biodiversity Working Group, and JSOST interagency Biodiversity Working Group. The Data Project 2nd Workshop Report is also attached.
- **SOS Reference Implementation Tiger Team:** The team held the first teleconference last week to discuss issues related to the Sensor Observation Service deployment across all eleven regions. The team identified several technical issues that warranted further investigation and discussed a strategy to work through the issues. The team will meet approximately biweekly for at least the remainder of the summer.

Modeling and Analysis Subsystem: No update

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:** The draft project plan details were covered in a discussion with our EPA Project Partners. Overall the project was well received. In discussion, differences emerged on executing on task 1: to compare models/model development software developed in the SECOORA Region and by EPA. A follow-up call was scheduled so technical experts for the South Carolina beach water quality model and EPA's Virtual Beach software could discuss details of the tools they have employed. The objective was to reevaluate the approach, to compare modeling efforts, outlined in task one of the project plan. The new task will be redefined and reviewed by the group, but will still contain the element of comparing efforts.
- **IOOS and The National Science Foundation (NSF) - Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI):** No Update

Other:

- Coastal Zone 2011 - A Success:** US IOOS had a strong showing and support. On June 7, 2011 the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative (JOCI) released their report -“America’s Ocean Future: Ensuring Healthy Oceans to Support a Vibrant Economy,”www.jointoceancommission.org. During the first day’s luncheon, the Hon Norm Mineta and Mr. John Podesta (JOCI) provided the remarks and highlighted their latest report. Mr. Podesta specifically called out US IOOS which is a recommendation within the report (quoted from the JOCI report) "Congress and the administration should fund and implement the Integrated Ocean Observing System so that managers can understand how ocean ecosystem changes will affect ocean resources, ocean economies, and the communities that depend on them. They should also support the development of better models for forecasting ocean conditions under various management scenarios." (end quote) Dr. Lubchenco Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce and NOAA Administrator, and Mr. Terrance "Rock" Salt, Principal Deputy Assistant for the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Directorate toured the exhibit hall and we had a chance to talk with them at both the ACT and US IOOS booths. We had 4 excellent sessions/cafe talks and my thanks to the US IOOS team for their support to CZ 2011.
- Meeting at NANOOS:** Derrick (IOOS Program Office) visited NANOOS last week to meet the NANOOS DMAC team and discuss NANOOS regional products as well as issues related to building out the national infrastructure. Thanks very much to Emilio Mayorga and the entire DMAC team in the northwest for a productive visit.
- IOOS/SECOORA Partner - Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecasting Service, Inc. - Releases Information on Mississippi River Water in the Gulf of Mexico:** ROFFs has received numerous calls requesting information on the distribution and movements of the Mississippi River water in the open ocean and on coastal areas following the recent floods and resulting water discharge into the Gulf of Mexico. Several oceanographers from the private industry (Ken Schaudt of Schaudt.US), universities (Frank Muller-Karger: Univ. of South Florida Institute for Marine Remote Sensing, Nick Shay and Jerry Ault Univ. Miami RSMAS, George Maul, Florida Institute of Oceanography), and government (Gustavo Goni, Michelle Wood NOAA/AOML), who have been working in collaboration since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill incident last summer, are now working together to monitor the riverine water that has been moving into the offshore waters in the Gulf of Mexico. The investigation of the transport of the Mississippi river waters into the Gulf of Mexico and areas beyond is important because these river waters carry with them farm chemicals that may result in creating a large dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. These dead zones are induced by nitrogen and phosphorus from crop fertilizers, which fertilize algae once they reach the Gulf and create lack of oxygen, which may kill other living organisms. The collaborative work being carried by these scientists will allow for advances in many aspects related to mapping, monitoring, and modeling water flow and the possible fate of pollutants in the Gulf of Mexico and elsewhere, and to investigate possible links between extreme amounts of water river discharges and living organisms. ROFFS also continues to work with recreational and commercial fisheries on verifying the color, distribution, and flow of the river water and to provide on-site validation of what we are observing from the satellites. Similarly to what some members of this team did last summer, ROFFS is providing a satellite image

and a brief analysis of the upper ocean Gulf of Mexico conditions. For more information please contact Mitch Roffer, President, fish7@roffs.com

Congressional: No updates

Communications/Outreach and Website Updates:

- **PacIOOS Published in Oceanography:** Check out Oceanography - Vol 24/No2 for the PacIOOS article - "Characterizing the Effects of Two Storms on the Coastal Waters of Oahu, Hawaii, Using Data from the Pacific Island Ocean Observing System.

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:

- **MTS/IEEE Oceans 2011- Kona, Hawaii September 19-22, 2011:** For Oceans 2011, we are going to host two IOOS town hall panel sessions. The first will be focused on partnerships to integrate ocean observations to meet customer needs. We will be asking leaders from U.S. and other national ocean observing programs to highlight successful strategies. The second town hall will focus on Ocean Observing Technologies and the chain of marine technology development from new ideas to building systems. We will be asking experts to help us explore what's working and what could be improved within that chain of development. Both sessions will be designed to include significant question and answer discussions. We look forward to seeing you there. Carl Gouldman is the lead within my office for coordinating panel participation and preparation - Carl.Gouldman@noaa.gov.

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

Cheers,
Zdenka