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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® - A Partnership supporting Lives and Livelihoods

Governance and Management Subsystem:

- **Certification Criteria Approved by IOOC:** The National Science Foundation, on behalf of the IOOC, will publish the criteria in the Federal Register Notice. Links to the criteria will be provided when they are posted.
- **Program Environmental Assessment (PEA):** The IOOS Program Office provided comments on the preliminary draft of the PEA. The consolidated response was submitted to the contractor, EA Engineering. The next draft PEA will be submitted to the IOOS Program Office on April 13.
- **What's the IOOS Program Office working on in FY12?** See Attached PDF for our activities in DMAC, biological observing and gliders. This is a subset of activities within the office, go to <http://www.ioos.gov/about/contact.html> for our full range of responsibilities.
- **MOUs with USGS, Naval Postgraduate School and NRL:** The MOUs with the Naval Postgraduate School and Naval Research Laboratory support CeNCOOS and NOAA/Climate Program Office/Climate Observation Division. The MOU with USGS supports their continued participation in the IOOS biological data management efforts. MOUs were submitted to NOS Agreements for clearance.

Observation Subsystem:

- **High Frequency Radar/Radio:** For more information contact the US IOOS HFR Project Manager, Jack Harlan, Jack.Harlan@noaa.gov: Jack is finalizing the summary of the Feb 21 informal meeting of the National HFR Technical Steering Team at the AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting and should be available for website this week.
 - **SECOORA HF Radar Stations data online:** Surface current data from the recently installed HF Radar stations in Long Bay are now available via the [SECOORA data portal](#) as well as the [National HF Radar Network](#) and the [University of South Carolina](#). One station is located on the Hobcaw Barony in Georgetown, SC while the other station is located at Fort Caswell, NC on properties managed by the

Belle W. Baruch Foundation and the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, respectively. Work is also underway to provide dynamic real-time displays and outreach information (posters) specifically designed for the site hosts (Hobcaw Barony, Belle W. Baruch Foundation and North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell) and their visitors.

- **POST – NANOOS-IOOS Project Involving NERACOOS, MARACOOS and GLOS DATA Managers Kick-Off Meeting (3/26):** Emilio Mayorga (NANOOS), John Payne (POST) and Hassan Moustahfid (IOOS Program Office) successfully led the project kickoff meeting held at the University of Washington (Seattle, WA). Twenty-two people attended in person or via phone/webex from NOAA/NWFSC, State (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)), tribal (Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC)), Ocean Tracking Network (OTN), and the Hydrophone Data Repository (HYDRA). In the next 60 days, Steering, Technical and Customer Committees will finalize the requirements and move into the design phase.

Data Management and Communications (DMAC) Subsystem: To be added to the IOOS System Status list which announces service changes, please contact Derrick (Derrick.Snowden@noaa.gov) or Rob (Rob.Ragsdale@noaa.gov).

- **DMAC Planning and Implementation:**
 - **Archiving:** The IOOS Program Office and several of the RA's have begun work with the National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC) to set up automatic archiving of the IOOS Regional Data. This topic will be covered in an upcoming monthly NFRA call.
- **IOOS Biological Data Activities:**
 - **Implementation of IOOS DMAC biological services in SECOORA and GCOOS-RA:** Kick off meeting will be held the week of April 6. Hassan Moustahfid (IOOS Program Office), Vembu Subramanian (SECOORA) and Matt Howard (GCOOS-RA), and partners from the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC/FWRI), NOAA National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC), National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC), NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) headquarters in Miami and laboratories in Beaufort, NC and Pascagoula, MS, and the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission (ASFMC) held a telecon to calibrate everyone on IOOS DMAC biological services implementation in SECOORA and GCOOS.
 - **IOOS Animal Telemetry Observations: TOPP-ONR-IOOS Project:** The effort to serve real-time data from Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) CTD tags in elephant seals has begun with the TOPP team automatically ingesting the real time data into the ERDDAP server and also making data available through the GTS WMO format.
- **AOOS Research Asset Map:** [The Research Asset Map](#) is a first step towards developing data-sharing agreements between different parties, including industry in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. The Research Asset Map was developed and is maintained by the AOOS Data Team. Thanks to NOAA, the University of Alaska, the University of

Washington, the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the National Science Foundation, ConocoPhillips, Shell Oil, and others for contributing information on their instruments. Contact AOOS (<http://www.aos.org/arctic-assets-registration/>) to add your instruments and monitoring sites. The Research Asset Map displays:

- **In place hardware** such as acoustic recorders, Argo floats, buoys, ice profilers, meteorological stations, and moorings
- **Transects** for Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), HF radar, planes, ships, and tide gauges
- **Asset details** such as instrument type, measurements, geospatial locations (lat/long), depth, operation start/end dates, owner and contact information, websites, and funding sources
- **QARTOD Board of Advisors Meeting:** NDBC's Dick Crout led this first meeting of the new BOA. The discussion focused on introductions and discussion of the roles of the board. The board will review the results of the previous QARTODs and 1) determine whether surface waves and ocean currents can move forward to be finalized, and 2) provide suggestions on the next one or two core variables that should be provided to the project coordinator to move forward in selection of subject matter experts. The Project Manager will provide the outline of a "virtual" QA/QC manual for review by the Board.

Modeling and Analysis Subsystem: For information on the US IOOS Modeling Testbed, please contact the US IOOS Modeling Testbed Project Manager, Becky Baltes, Becky.Baltes@noaa.gov

- **IOOS Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed:** A document outlining the structure needed to maintain a sustainable Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed (COMT) has been posted on the testbed website at <http://testbed.sura.org/node/595>. This document is intended as an overview to ensure all COMT stakeholders are in agreement about what this Testbed will encompass.
- **CariCOOS Workshop on Simulation and Model Testbed of Hurricane Wave, Surge and Rainfall Runoff Events for Puerto Rico (3/29-30; University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez):**
 - Goal: Inform participants about the progress and role of the U.S. IOOS Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed (COMT). An outcome of the workshop will be a white paper initiated in the workshop and will be completed in full detail and vetted over the next month. The stakeholders that participated included CariCOOS, USACE, Operational Centers (NCEP, NOS, local WFO), and the US IOOS Testbed.
 - There was discussion about having a joint IOOS Islands initiative. PacIOOS has made a lot of progress in development of models, especially USACE's Surge and Wave Island Modeling Studies (SWIMS), but they do not have enough data for a thorough analysis. CariCOOS can augment the studies with additional data. The results can ultimately help both regions so there is an opportunity for valuable collaboration.

Interagency Collaboration:

- **IOOS Summit 2012 - A new Decade of Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observing, 13-16 November, Herndon, VA:** The 2002 Workshop, *Building Consensus: Toward an Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observing System*, set the stage for the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). Ten years later, IOOS has moved from concept to reality, though much work remains to meet the nation's ocean observing needs. Today, changes in congressional and executive leadership, new research and technologies, a challenging economic and funding environment, and diverse institutional mandates all influence the future growth and implementation of IOOS. In light of this new environment, the 2012 Summit will give voice to ocean observers, researchers, scientists, and policy experts charged with identifying practical solutions to refocus and enhance IOOS capabilities over the next decade. **WE NEED YOUR HELP** - Please visit <http://www.iooc.us/summit/ioos-summit/> to see how.
- **DMAC Steering Team:** The monthly call focused on reviewing the actions briefed to the IOOC and a prioritization of the action items. All ST materials are posted to the IOOC web site at <http://www.iooc.us/>.
- **USACE in Action:** Representatives from the USACE Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory (CHL), and the Jacksonville District (SAJ) participated in the CariCOOS Workshop (see above). Along with Jose Sanchez (Deputy Director, CHL), Stan Boc and Jane Smith (CHL), and Jason Engle (SAJ), workshop participants included representatives from CariCOOS, UPR, Sea Grant, U.S. IOOS, NOAA/NWS, NOAA/NOS, and University of Notre Dame. Sanchez, Boc and Smith also presented a half-day short course on Coastal Hydrodynamics and Structures for UPR students and faculty and Notre Dame students.
- **IOOS and Links to the National Water Quality Monitoring Network: Eye on Earth Project:** A meeting is being coordinated to understand the requirements for integrating U.S. IOOS ocean and coastal data with the European Environmental Agency (EEA) Eye on Earth portal. Participants on the call will include the IOOS Regional Associations (NANOOS and SECOORA), EPA, the EEA, ESRI and Microsoft.
- **IOOS and The National Science Foundation (NSF) - Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI):** No update

Other:

- **IOOS Program Office met with OR&R regarding ERMA and IOOS Regional Data Management:** Suzanne, Charly and Scott met with OR&R Deputy Brian Julius and Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) Manager Amy Merten to review IOOS regional data portals and the ERMA (ERMA is a data integration/access tool developed by OR&R to support emergency response). The first meeting was a very useful calibration of mutual program missions and background. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for April 23rd.
- **Interested in seeing deepwater biodiversity?:** Follow the NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* in the northern Gulf of Mexico in real time. There are 3 video streams, one from the ROV, one from the associated tow body, and a navigation feed from the ship. http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/okeanos/media/exstream/exstream_04.html

- **SECOORA in action: USF Optical Oceanography - Ocean Color Index:** The USF Optical Oceanography Lab has created and made available a customized color index (CI) data product online in near real-time for the eastern Gulf of Mexico and NW Atlantic. The product is nearly immune to sun glint contamination and therefore useful to trace differences in ocean color features in all seasons. The near real-time, Google-Earth compatible images are [available online](#). Choose a date, time, and find the "CI L3D_RRC" image.

Congressional: No update

Communications/Outreach:

- NERACOOS in the news: Gulf of Maine ocean temperatures above normal:
<http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120404/GJLIFESTYLES/120339954/-1/SANNEWS>
- New online portal, app provide information on tsunami zones in the Northwest – NOAA press release -
http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120405_tsunami_app.html. Picked up by FireEngineering® and Government Security News:-
http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/26053?c=disaster_preparedness_emergency_response; Occupational Health and Safety Online:
<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2012/04/07/new-app-provides-information-on-tsunami-zones-in-the-northwest.aspx?admgarea=news>

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

- **OCEANS 2012 MTS/IEEE Abstracts close 18 May 2012: “Harnessing the Power of the Ocean”** A Unique Opportunity for Users of the Oceans: OCEANS 2012 MTS/IEEE will be held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, Hampton Roads, VA, October 14-19. OCEANS 2012’s theme, Harnessing the Power of the Ocean, has as its foundation a conceptual National Ocean Enterprise and its seven societal benefits as identified by the National Ocean Partnership Program’s legislation in 1999, followed by President’s Bush’s Ocean Action Plan and President Obama’s Ocean Science Policy. US IOOS will have a strong showing - in addition to papers US IOOS will feature three items:
 - A US IOOS booth in conjunction with NOAA, MARACOOS, NERACOOS and SECOORA at the entrance to the Exhibit Hall
 - A new event called IGNITE which will be held Tues afternoon (Oct 16) just before the technical exhibits are officially opened
 - Town Hall currently planned for Wed (Oct 17) that will be focused on the US IOOS Summit scheduled for Nov 2012

- **Please consider a talk at AMS 2013:** Dr. Louis Uccellini, NOAA National Center for Environmental Prediction, asked me to be on his steering team for the upcoming AMS meeting to attract a more interdisciplinary theme. He very much understands the importance of the oceans, coasts, Great Lakes and their impact on our Earth's resources. Quoted from Louis "The theme this year is "Taking Predictions to the Next Level: Expanding Beyond Today's Weather, Water and Climate Forecasts and Projections", is one that is very relevant, given the opportunities we have as a weather, water and climate enterprise, to impact decision makers and our varied and important stakeholder who increasingly require more accurate, relevant, and value-added data, products, applications and services. They look to the academic, public, and private sector members of the AMS as leaders in this area. To increase our relevance and connectedness I also want to attract professionals of other fields (e.g., social scientists, geographers, health professionals) who don't normally attend the AMS annual meeting to join us in this worthwhile endeavor." Please consider submitting an abstract by August 1: <http://ams.confex.com/ams/>.

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

Cheers,

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Zdenka Willis

Director, US IOOS Program Office

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