

Bi-Weekly IOOS® Z-GRAM - 9 March 2012

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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

New Splash: New Map Tracks Underwater Robotic Vehicles and Delivers Historical Marine Data: Want to take a virtual ride in our oceans with an underwater robot, known as a glider? There is a new map for that. This week, the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) launched a new asset map that displays where partner gliders are currently patrolling and where they've been. That means users can get one-stop access to a current snapshot of where gliders are at sea. Once returned from a mission, users can scroll over visualizations of collected data. Additionally, users can retrieve an historical collection of data from previous missions, reaching back to 2005. http://www.ioos.gov/observing/observing_assets/glider_asset_map.html

Governance and Management Subsystem:

- **New Program Assistant in US IOOS front office:** We wished Sarah Fahmy a fond farewell this past Tuesday, as she left US IOOS to pursue her interests in education programs. And, filling the vacancy created by Sarah, we welcome Laura Griesbauer as our new Program Assistant. Laura joined ERT and NOS as the Executive Assistant to the NOS AA, Dave Kennedy, in November of 2010 and handled Dave's scheduling and supported the NOS HQ office with administrative tasks. Prior to coming to work as a contractor for NOAA, Laura worked for 6 years in the private sector in the Editorial Department of ProQuest, LLC as the Supervising Editor of Aquatic Sciences. At ProQuest she oversaw the production of 7 online research databases and provided editorial oversight for the Discovery Guide Series. Laura earned a B.S. in Marine Biology from the University of Maryland in 2005 and also studied Environmental Science and Geology. In her spare time she serves as the Alumni Advisor to the Alpha Beta Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi at the University of Maryland and enjoys volunteering with the group. Her interests include running, cooking and watching college basketball.
- **Want to know who does what in the US IOOS Program Office?** Check out: <http://www.ioos.gov/about/contact.html>
- **Navy MOA:** Amendments to existing agreements with the Naval Postgraduate School and the Naval Research Laboratory, in Monterey, have been drafted to support work for CeNCOOS and the Climate Observation Division (COD). NPS is providing HFR support for CeNCOOS and NRL is supporting the GODAE Server and Argo GDAC for the COD and the COAMPS Model work for CeNCOOS. Preliminary review by CeNCOOS and COD is underway.
- **CaRA - NWS San Juan, Puerto Rico MOA:** The agreement was forwarded to the NWS's Office of General Counsel.

Observation Subsystem:

- **High Frequency Radar/Radio (HFR):** For more information contact the US IOOS HFR Project Manager, Jack Harlan, Jack.Harlan@noaa.gov No update
- **Long-term Observing Assets Removed from Florida Keys:** The SEAKEYS network along the 220 mile Florida Keys has been operational for over 20 years and has provided a long time series of oceanographic and meteorological observations. These observations provided the framework for long-term monitoring, research, management, and recreational use along the 220 mile Florida coral reef tract and in Florida Bay. Over the last several years, dwindling

availability of funding to operate and maintain the network has become a significant challenge. Compounding the problem of limited funding, the instruments are primarily on a series of stationary platforms (lighthouses, towers), the structural integrity of which has now becoming questionable due to age. To address the future of SEAKEYS and its infrastructure and funding, the Florida Institute of Oceanography (FIO) held a meeting at the Keys Marine Lab in November 2011. The user community was invited to the November meeting and included representatives from many areas of NOAA (Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; National Weather Service; Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory; Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory), the National Park Service, the Ocean Reef and Gun Club, and FIO. The NOAA/National Data Buoy Center, Coast Guard, FL Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, and representatives from Audubon, the dive and fishing communities, and staff from a local legislative office were unable to attend, but some sent letters of support. Following the meeting other funding sources were sought but were not successfully identified. At the end of 2011, due to a lack of financial support, FIO made the difficult decision to terminate the SEAKEYS program. FIO is in the process of withdrawing all FIO assets from the water. NOAA/AOML, with assistance from NOAA/FKNMS, has agreed to take over maintenance of one station (FIO is loaning an instrument to NOAA/AOML for this purpose) and a limited subset of meteorological sensors will be visited every two years by NOAA/NDBC, with no SEAKEYS maintenance support between visits.

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 Planning and Implementation:**

- **IOOS Registry, Catalog, Viewer (RCV) Development:** Presently, teams from Axiom, ASA, NDBC, CO-OPS, NGDC, and GMRI are developing tools for harvesting data and metadata from various web services for the IOOS Data Portal.
- **IOOS Reference Implementation Update:** The SWE Common templates that describe the format of the data schema are developing. Mohamed Chaouchi (CO-OPS) has taken the SWE templates, an outcome of the Reference Implementation Workshop, and created sample data files using in situ current data from an ADCP as an example. The templates are being reviewed and discussed by the reference implementation team.
- **IOOS QARTOD:** The final QARTOD work plan has been distributed to the IOOC and, with a detailed adjudication matrix, to NFRA, the Regional IOOS Executive Directors, ACT, USACE and CO-OPS. The QARTOD project team is now meeting to refine specific activities for the next 90 days. Completion of a cross-sector Board of Advisors is set for March 14th. This will be followed by a series of activities to select the next core variable to focus on and move existing QARTOD QA/QC procedures for waves and currents towards final publication.

- **IOOS BIOLOGICAL Data Activities: 2nd Workshop on Establishing a National Animal Telemetry Observing Network:** Hassan continued preparations for the second workshop scheduled for March 15-16 at COL including finalizing the agenda and list of participants and invited stakeholders. At least 9 of the 12 member steering team will be attending as well as over 20 invited stakeholders. Dr. Richard Merrick, NOAA Fisheries Director of Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor will give a keynote address.

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

- **Model Testbed Activities: Bi-weekly Meeting with NCEP/OPC (3/9):** At NCEP this time with Ming Ji and Rich Signell (by phone). Progress continued on defining both the Testbed

foundation and the potential role for NCEP's Ocean Prediction Center. Ming also showed Becky the floor plans for the National Center for Weather and Climate Prediction building on the University of Maryland/College Park campus that NCEP will begin moving to this spring (see images at: <http://www.ncep.noaa.gov/news/ncwcp/>). The floor plan includes notional space for the US IOOS Modeling Testbed!

- **NCEP Meeting and MARACOOS Meeting:** Becky, Zdenka and Gabrielle (US IOOS Program Office) met with NCEP (Louis Uccellini, Ming Ji, and Tony Siebers) and MARACOOS to discuss opportunities for collaboration and data exchange. An in-person meeting with members from MARACOOS, (with invites to NERACOOS and SECOORA), NCEP, CSDL, and the IOOS program office will be scheduled for mid-April.

Interagency Collaboration:

- **DMAC Steering Team:** The IOOC accepted Charly Alexander's nomination as the permanent chair of the DMAC Steering Team. Congrats Charly! Charly gave a short presentation on the results of the Jan 18-19 DMAC ST including anticipated next steps and a list of recommended IOOC actions. The IOOC agreed to all recommendations including revising Charly's status from Acting Chair to Chair of the ST and requesting a member of the DMAC ST participate in planning for the upcoming IOOS Summit.
- **USACE in Action:**
 - GCOOS Annual Parties Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting: DrSusan Rees, Program Manager, Mobile District Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program (MsCIP), and Jennifer Wozencraft, Director, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) Joint Airborne Lidar Bathymetry Technical Center of Expertise (JALBTCX), and USACE representative to the GCOOS Board of Directors, will participate in the GCOOS Board of Directors meeting to be held 14-15 March in Gulfport, MS. Dr Rees will present the USACE missions relevant to IOOS and GCOOS and discuss USACE projects, data, and tools in an effort to improve collaboration and partnerships with the USACE and GCOOS.
 - CariCOOS multi agency workshop, 29-30 March: ERDC and the USACE Jacksonville District representatives will participate in the CariCOOS multi-agency workshop that will focus on development of a testbed for simulation of Hurricane wave, surge, and runoff for Puerto Rico. The USACE will present the SWIMS (Surge and Wave Island Studies) work conducted in Hawaii combined with other modeling efforts.
 - Dena Dickerson, ERDC Environmental Laboratory, will participate in the upcoming US IOOS Animal Telemetry Network Steering Committee Meeting this week.
 - CenNCOOS/SCCOOS Joint Advisory Steering Committee meeting in June: Representatives from the USACE Los Angeles and San Francisco Districts will participate in the upcoming the JSCAC
 - Bill Birkemeier and Linda Lillycrop continued to represent the USACE at the IOOC Bi-monthly meetings.
- **IOOS and Links to the National Water Quality Monitoring Network:** Information for EPA to incorporate into an Interagency Agreement (IA) was sent to EPA on 3/1. The IA being drafted by EPA will be sent back to IOOS on Monday (3/12) for review and prep to send to NOS Agreements/OGC Office for approval.
- **IOOS and The National Science Foundation (NSF) - Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI):**
No update

Other:

- **IOOS Regional Association and ACT Annual Review Meeting:** We hosted the Regions and ACT for an annual review. The first day the Regions provided an update on their successes over the past year and challenges they are facing. The second day, we had the chance to discuss a myriad issues and opportunities facing US IOOS. The meeting was extremely

successful and I thank Gabrielle, Dave, Jenifer, and Scott on my team and each of the Regions and ACT for all their work and productive discussions.

- **Consortium of Ocean Leadership Public Policy Forum:** I attended the Policy Forum. US IOOS and Regional Ocean Observing was recognized in the morning in remarks by Senator Murkowski, AK and Representative Caster, FL-11. The theme of the forum was The Science of Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Restoration. Nancy Rabalais chaired the session on the role of science for restoration. Panelist Steve Murawski, Bob Haddad and Bill Boicourt all discussed the importance of Integrated Ocean Observing to restoration.
- **International Council for the Exploration of the Sea:** Hassan recently attended two ICES meetings, one via WebEx and one in person. ICES coordinates and promotes marine research on oceanography, the marine environment, the marine ecosystem and on living marine resources in the North Atlantic. ICES is a network of more than 1600 scientists from 200 institutes linked by an intergovernmental agreement to add value to national research efforts. For more info go to: <http://www.ices.dk/indexfla.asp>
 - **ICES Workshop to Define Ocean Observing Needs (2/29-3/2 – Copenhagen):** Hassan attended via WebEx and provided an overview of US IOOS including efforts to date on biological observations. The aim of the workshop was to better coordinate ocean observations contributions.
 - **ICES Working Group on NW Atlantic Regional Sea (3/6-8 – Falmouth, MA):** Hassan coordinated an informal joint US IOOS presentation to the working group in collaborations with Josh Kohut (MARACOOS) and Ru Morrison (NERACOOS). This meeting was a follow-up to a 2011 workshop on establishing a NW Atlantic integrated ecosystem assessment. The working group serves stakeholder needs of intergovernmental, federal, state, and provincial management agencies, which include NERACOOS, MARACOOS, the Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System, and NOAA and Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Supporting ecosystem approaches to fisheries management and ecosystem assessments in the region is a primary goal. Participants continued their principal task of developing scientific support to an integrated assessment of the NW Atlantic to support ecosystem-based management approaches
- **GODAE Marine Ecosystem Prediction Workshop, Exeter, UK (2/28-29/2012):** Hassan participated via WebEx. A review of progress made in various groups over the past 3 – 5 years in operational biogeochemistry/ecosystem modeling, monitoring and prediction was the objective. Members from the GODAE OceanView (GOV) Marine Ecosystem Prediction – Task Team (GOV MEP-TT) and other Task Team representatives, especially the Observing System Evaluation Task Team were in attendance. Some background: the GOV MEP-TT was established to bridge the gap between GODAE's capabilities and new applications in fisheries, marine pollution, carbon cycle monitoring and water quality, and to coordinate between the operational systems and the modeling and observing expertise.
- **NOS Sentinel Sites workshop (3/5-6):** Charly attended Day 2 of the NOS Sentinel Sites workshop in Silver Spring (Aligning Local and NOAA Capacities at Selected Sentinel Site Cooperatives to Address Sea Level Change Issues) to participate in round-table discussions on how various NOAA programs (inc. US IOOS) can potentially contribute to this effort (included preparing a short template on US IOOS). The is ambitious, place-based program is moving into its initial execution phase and Charly has agreed to ensure leads from each of the five regional teams (Chesapeake Bay, Hawaii, North Carolina, Northern Gulf of Mexico and San Francisco Bay) will get connected to the associated Regional IOOS program leadership.

Congressional: No update

Communications/Outreach:

- Collaborative data collection makes seas safer for fishermen, others: <http://knox.villagesoup.com/news/story/collaborative-data-collection-makes-seas-safer-for-fishermen-others/488692>. On March 2, the 2012 Maine Fishermen's Forum held a session on forecasting and predicting marine weather and ocean conditions, to offer insights into the

tools that are available. Hosted by fisherman Steve Train, presenters included Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS)

- What's new on the US IOOS Web Site:
 - [Home Page](#) - 1 new feature: Glider asset Map
 - [News Splash](#) – 4 briefs: Regional Reviews, and CaRA, GCOOS and GLOS meetings were featured
 - [Glider Asset Map](#) – made available from [Observing](#) and [Glider Fleet](#) sections
 - Feature Story: [Glider Asset Map](#)
 - Regional/[AOOS](#) – page redesigned to allow better visibility for regional News and Highlights. Other regional pages will be redesigned in same manner
 - IOOS Program Office [Organization, Roles and Responsibilities](#)

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.usnra.org/calendar.html> or <http://www.ioos.gov/about/calendar.html>

Cheers,
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