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NOAA Announces Funding to Support Ocean Observing in Alaska

NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) is awarding over \$1.39 million in competitive grant funding to support ocean observing efforts in Alaska.

The grant was made to the Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science for the Alaska Ocean Observing System, led by director Molly McCammon. Funding will be used to better manage regional ocean and coastal data, and continue development of a comprehensive ocean observing system in Alaska using Prince William Sound as a test bed.

The system is one recipient in a series of nationwide IOOS grant-funded projects, totaling \$21 million this year. The goal of each regional observing system is to maintain and enhance ocean and coastal observations in the area, making data easier to access and giving planners and policymakers the information needed to improve safety, enhance the economy, and protect the environment. Data from each region will also be available to researchers throughout the country via the national IOOS.

"This award represents NOAA's commitment to implementing the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation Act of 2009 which recognizes the IOOS regional systems as key components of the national effort," said Zdenka Willis, NOAA IOOS program director. "These projects are crafted to meet local customer needs while also contributing to the success of the national effort."

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

On the Web:

NOAA IOOS: <http://www.ioos.gov>

Alaska Ocean Observing System: <http://www.aos.org>