



FY2011: Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System Development

U.S. IOOS® is an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. NOAA continued a merit-based funding process in 2011 to further development of the IOOS regional network. IOOS regional partners provide coordination with regional stakeholders while contributing data and other outputs to the national system – supporting regional priorities while advancing national objectives.

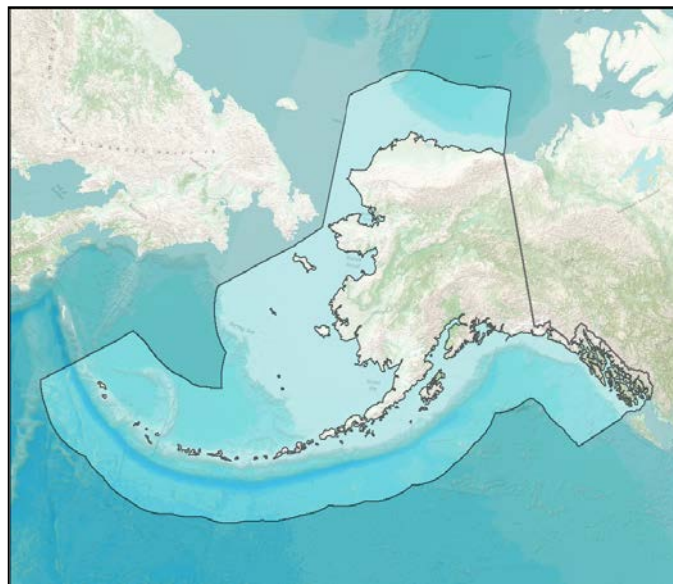
ALASKA REGION

The Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) is the regional association for the statewide coastal and ocean observing system and three regional observing systems (Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, and Arctic) that are being developed for the Alaska region as part of U.S. IOOS. The mission of AOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean information, gather specific data on key coastal and ocean variables, and ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data.

NOAA Funding:

Prior to FY 2011, IOOS regional partners received two awards – one for development of the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS), and one for planning and stakeholder engagement by a Regional Association (RA). In FY 2011, IOOS made a single award to each region for management of these activities. Funds awarded by NOAA since establishment of the U.S. IOOS Program Office are as follows:

FY 2011 - \$1,775,000
FY 2010 - \$1,400,000 RCOOS, \$399,985 RA
FY 2009 - \$1,000,000 RCOOS, \$399,969 RA
FY 2008 - \$1,000,000 RCOOS, \$399,976 RA



Regional Priorities:

AOOS works to support marine commerce; navigation safety; weather, climate, and marine forecasting; energy siting and production; economic development; ecosystem-based marine and coastal resource management; public safety; and public outreach training and education in the region.

Activities that AOOS will undertake in FY 2011 include:

- Maintain and expand data management services, data products, and archive
- Support weather stations in Prinec William Sound and Cook Inlet
- Test use of AIS system to increase access to weather information
- Plan for High-Frequency Radar siting
- Support weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) wind modeling for ocean models



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- Support Regional Ocean Modeling System (ROMS) circulation modeling
- Develop hydrologic model for Prince William Sound
- Maintain Cook Inlet wave buoy
- Develop electronic sea ice atlas
- Support Seward Line transect monitoring
- Increase ocean acidification monitoring
- Install tide station conductivity pilot
- Support marine animal tagging data acquisition
- Increase oceanographic measurements in Cook Inlet
- Conduct education & outreach activities
- Develop Alaska oceans and coasts report

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U.S. IOOS Program Office Contacts:

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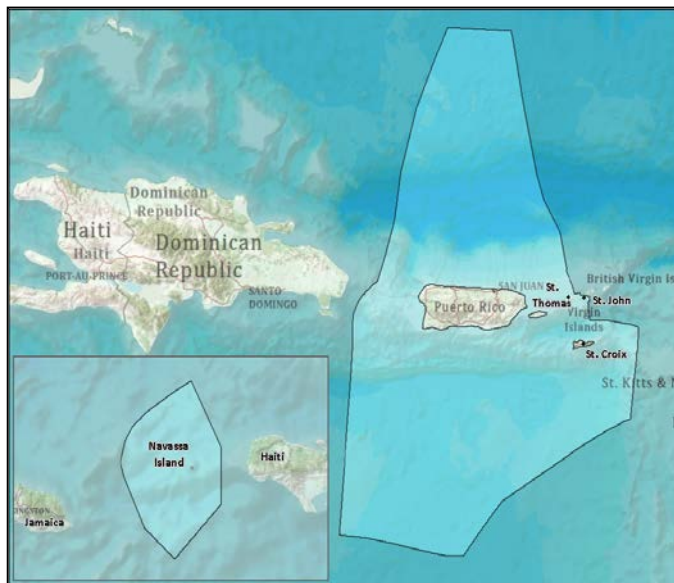
CARIBBEAN REGION

The Caribbean Regional Association (CaRA) is the regional association for coastal ocean observing being developed for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. CaRA is focused on meeting identified stakeholder needs for improved real time data products and forecasts of coastal weather (winds), currents, waves, water quality and hurricane-driven inundation for the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

NOAA Funding:

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FY 2011 - \$1,347,000
FY 2010 - \$1,000,000 RCOOS, \$399,824 RA
FY 2009 - \$527,016 RCOOS, \$399,826 RA
FY 2008 - \$499,999 RCOOS, \$399,699 RA



Regional Priorities:

CaRA has engaged stakeholders from the tourism and marine recreation, maritime transportation, security, and human and ecosystem health and economics sectors, who require coastal seas and weather information for their decision-making. To meet both stakeholder needs and national program requirements, CaRA is focused on the following activities:

- Enhancement or installation of essential in situ (in the water) observational assets;
- Operational implementation of modeling tools;
- Partnering with NOAA to produce regionally-focused remote sensing products;
- Ensuring IOOS-compliant data processing and archiving; and
- Disseminating data and products to agencies and stakeholders to ensure a user-responsive, operational regional observing system.



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In FY 2011, CaRA activities will include, among other things:

- Sustained operation and maintenance of all observational and modeling assets and sustained dissemination of data streams and data products;
- Completion of a coastal data buoy network;
- Enhancement of regional storm driven coastal inundation modeling efforts
- Installing and maintaining systems to provide real time data and model forecasts for waves, winds and currents;
- Providing rip current and beach safety interpretative maps for the swimming, surfing, fishing, diving and sailing communities; and
- Developing modeling and data products in support of port operations and recovery from operational disruption for the most important regional ports.

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CENTRAL AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

The Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) spans the coastal ocean from the California/Oregon border south to Point Conception. The CeNCOOS approach is to develop long-term monitoring of environmental conditions such as water quality, productivity, and connectivity in support of marine protected area management and climate change planning in central and northern California, and to provide a suite of products based on measurements and models to support marine operations, coastal hazard mitigation and response, and ecosystem-based management.

NOAA Funding:

Prior to FY 2011, IOOS regional partners received two awards – one for development of the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS), and one for planning and stakeholder engagement by a Regional Association (RA). In FY 2011, IOOS made a single award to each region for management of these activities. Funds awarded by NOAA since establishment of the U.S. IOOS Program Office are as follows:

FY 2011 - \$1,739,000
FY 2010 - \$1,402,000 RCOOS, \$399,619 RA
FY 2009 - \$1,281,529 RCOOS, \$397,308 RA
FY 2008 - \$1,000,000 RCOOS, \$395,763 RA



Regional Priorities:

For the period 2011-2016, CeNCOOS has established a multi-purpose observational scheme that collectively addresses user needs in the general categories of climate and ecosystem health, water quality, marine operations, and coastal hazards. A sampling of CeNCOOS products to address these issues includes:

- Long time series temperature and coastal sea level data to address global warming and sea level rise
- Sustained observations of carbon variables to assess ocean acidification
- Observations to predict and mitigate the impacts of harmful algal blooms (HABs)
- Harbor information pages for marine operators



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- Inundation warnings for coastal communities
- Real-time current data for search and rescue
- Movement and fate of harmful spills of all kinds
- Ocean data products for coastal and marine spatial planning

The core observation suite used to address these issues includes automated pier stations, coastal buoys, the HF radar surface current mapping network, and the use of autonomous vehicles. High resolution bottom maps from towed and autonomous vehicles also make a valuable contribution. The data are moved in real time to the CeNCOOS Data Management and Communications (DMAC) system and assimilated into numerical models for now-casts and forecasts of ocean conditions.

The CeNCOOS work plan for 2011 will focus on the following activities:

- Maintain automated coastal shore stations for water quality; long term trends in temperature, salinity, sea level, chlorophyll fluorescence, and ocean acidification; and HAB monitoring, forecasting, and mitigation.
- Continuously operate cross-shore glider transects to monitor temperature, salinity, chlorophyll fluorescence, dissolved oxygen, currents and acoustic backscatter. These will be used to track El Niño events and climate change, and to feed data-assimilating ocean circulation models.
- Maintain the HF radar surface current data for search and rescue, marine operations, and ecosystem forecasting.
- Run state-wide data assimilating atmospheric and oceanic circulation models to forecast currents, state variables, and eventually ecosystem parameters.
- Implement a data management and communications (DMAC) system to facilitate easy data access and use by researchers, modelers, product developers, managers, and the general public. An interoperable data system, both within the regional association and across RAs, is an integral and important part of the national IOOS process.

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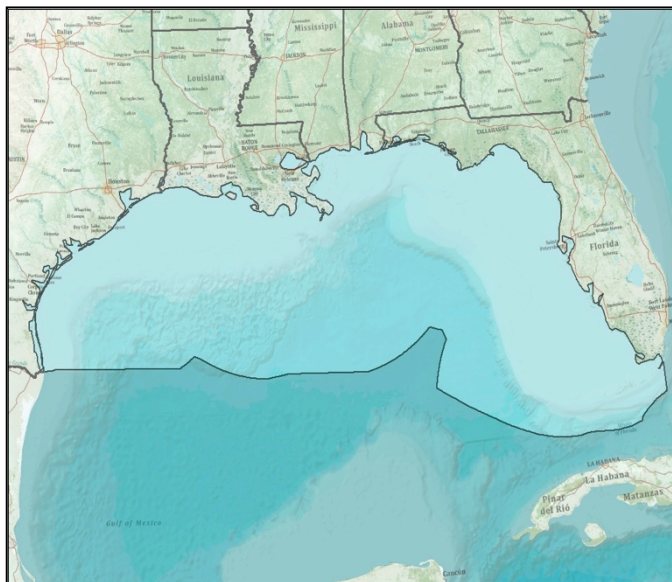
GULF OF MEXICO REGION

The Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System Regional Association (GCOOS-RA), established in January 2005, is building a sustained, integrated, operational observing system through a partnership of many organizations—from federal, state, and local governments to industry to NGOs to academia to educators—to provide data, information, and products on the marine, coastal, and estuarine systems of the Gulf of Mexico to a wide range of users. The region covers the entire U.S. Gulf of Mexico, extending from the Florida Keys westward to the southern tip of Texas and encompassing over 17,000 miles of tidal shoreline in five U.S. states—Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. It includes the coastal zone that extends inland to the end of tidal effects in estuaries, bays, and rivers, and offshore to the boundaries of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico.

NOAA Funding:

Prior to FY 2011, IOOS regional partners received at least two awards—including separate funding for development of the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS) and for planning and stakeholder engagement by a Regional Association (RA). In FY 2011, IOOS made a single award to each region for management of these activities. Funds awarded by NOAA since establishment of the U.S. IOOS Program Office are as follows:

FY 2011 - \$1,400,000
FY 2010 - \$1,000,000 RCOOS, \$399,960 RA
FY 2009 - \$573,085 RCOOS, \$399,998 RA
FY 2008 - \$573,085 RCOOS, \$399,986 RA



Regional Priorities:

The Gulf of Mexico region provides our Nation with many valuable resources: energy from oil, gas, wind and waves; abundant fish and shellfish resources; major transportation waterways and ports; beautiful beaches and extraordinary recreational activities; vibrant coastal communities; and a complex and diverse ecosystem with many unique habitats supporting a rich array of sea life. It has endured both natural and manmade catastrophes, including Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the Deepwater Horizon Macondo well blowout in 2010. Being a region of vital economic importance to our nation, a thriving Gulf Coast economy is critical for humans. However, if urban development and



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human growth and activities are not balanced by excellent environmental stewardship, the health of ecosystems, the quality of the water, and the effectiveness of the natural ecosystem functions will be compromised.

To empower people, communities, and businesses to improve decision making about their lives, work, and play along the Nation's Gulf Coast requires access to science-based information, including biological, chemical, physical, and geological data. It also requires tools to generate forecasts, graphics and products to inform the impacted stakeholder community. The GCOOS-RA worked over the past decade to identify the needs of the stakeholders for data, information, and products about the Gulf of Mexico, its resources, and its ecosystem. These results were used to identify the key elements to make up the observing system, the GCOOS. Ranging from vulnerability of community infrastructure to risks to life, property, and ecosystems, the major societal priorities of the GCOOS-RA are:

- Safe and Efficient Marine Operations,
- Mitigation of Effects of Coastal Hazards,
- Public Health and Safety, and
- Healthy Ecosystems and Water Quality

All include impacts from *Climate Change* as sea level rises and land subsides in the Gulf. The GCOOS is being developed to integrate the measurements already being made by the GCOOS-RA partners, to identify and fill gaps in observations where necessary to meet regional, as well as national, requirements, and to serve freely shared and easily accessed data, information, and products needed by Gulf communities and our Nation's people.

The efforts of the GCOOS-RA have had two major results. First is a growing partnership of interests in the Gulf of Mexico that focuses on jointly meeting regional challenges to the benefit of all. Second is the development of the GCOOS Data Portal that integrates resources to improve decision-making by partners and the public. For FY 2011, the GCOOS-RA will work to:

- Maintain RA governance and stakeholder engagement, including interactions with IOOS partners, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, and the Mexico/U.S. Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem project;
- Maintain data management and data/products portal capability;
- Maintain outreach and education capability;
- Maintain the flow of real-time data, currently being provided by non-Federal entities (local data nodes) into the IOOS data stream;
- Add new, non-Federal real-time data providers willing to provide their data and provide support to help them meet IOOS standards;
- Provide support for key regional real-time observation systems, including the High-Frequency Radar network, Water Level Monitoring Network, Harmful Algal Bloom Integrated Observing System, and Hypoxia Monitoring System;
- Identify and serve legacy (historical) data sets to stakeholders; and
- Perform other enhancements to the GCOOS as financially feasible.



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Sperm Whale Seismic Study, Gulf of Mexico, 2002

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U.S. IOOS Program Office Contacts:

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GREAT LAKES REGION

The Great Lakes Observing System provides coverage for the coastal zone within the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan, bordering on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

NOAA Funding:

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FY 2011 - \$1,400,000

FY 2010 - \$1,080,815 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA

(In FY 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency provided a total of \$3,000,000 for GLOS observing and modeling activities in support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Of this total, \$730,815 was included in the RCOOS award.)

FY 2009 - \$350,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA

FY 2008 - \$350,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA



Regional Priorities:

The only freshwater region of IOOS, the Great Lakes is home to over 40 million US and Canadian citizens, many tribal groups, eight states and two provinces. The region's coastline totals nearly 11,000 miles, and the Great Lakes and their connecting channels form the largest fresh surface water system on Earth, holding nine-tenths of the U.S. fresh surface water supply. The Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) was formed to coordinate the regional observing network that plays a critical role in the management of these valuable resources.

In addition to addressing issues similar to other IOOS regions (e.g., spill response, search and rescue, beach quality, and beach hazards such as rip and channel currents), GLOS is also positioned to address unique regional issues resulting from its freshwater composition and geography. These issues include source water protection; providing



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baseline data to managers of Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) and Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs); identifying, collecting and integrating key fishery and associated environmental (physical, chemical and biological) observations to support state and provincial fishery managers; understanding the impacts of climate change upon net basin water supplies; assisting municipal/regional planners in adapting to climate change; and prioritizing maintenance funds for key port and harbor infrastructure.

In 2011 GLOS will continue:

- Deployment and operation of observing system platforms, including buoys, autonomous underwater vehicles, gliders, and vessels of opportunity;
- Program management and partner coordination;
- Data Management and Communication activities to include identifying baseline information for measuring progress, continuing integration of existing priority data sets, and identifying priority opportunities for data standards, quality management system, and protocol development;
- Refining and enhancing existing tools as needed and identifying emerging opportunities for model and tool development;
- Facilitation of the Ecosystem Forecasting Modeling Framework pilot that has been proposed for Lake Michigan; and
- Outreach and education efforts including identifying priority targets for GLOS membership, initiating evaluation of existing tools, sustaining promotion and engagement activities, and maintaining website content, including quarterly newsletters, updates on meetings and events, and news stories as appropriate.

Regional Contact Information:

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Dave Easter (Dave.Easter@noaa.gov), Regional Coordination



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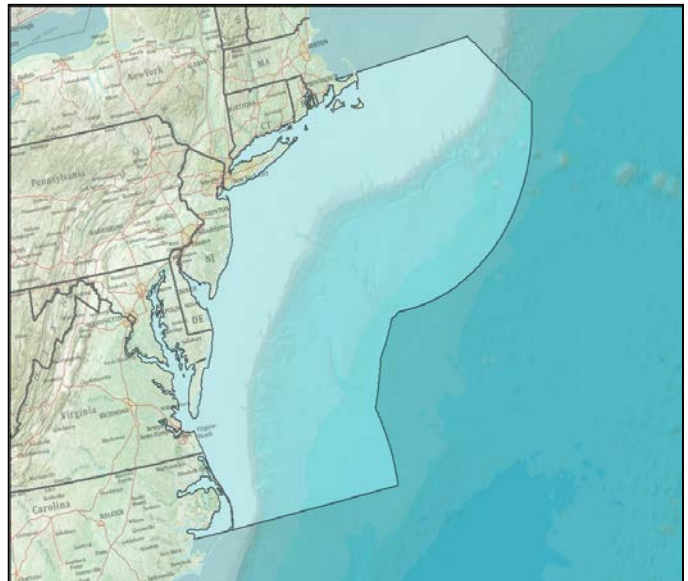
MID-ATLANTIC REGION

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS), extends 1,000 km alongshore from Cape Cod to Cape Hatteras. It comprises ten states and the District of Columbia, five major urban ports and estuaries, and a wide continental shelf cut by multiple deep shelf-break canyons. The region supports one quarter of the U.S. population, one quarter of U.S. Maritime commerce, and both commercial and recreational fisheries. A century of industrialization and a growing coastal population impact water quality. Damage from tropical storms and nor'easters are year-round threats. Climatic-scale warming trends are altering fish and shellfish habitats. Population density, reliable winds and shallow coastal zones combine to support the nation's first offshore wind development projects in response to the nation's most congested electrical power grid.

NOAA Funding

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- FY 2011 - \$2,070,000
- FY 2010 - \$1,700,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA
- FY 2009 - \$1,700,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA
- FY 2008 - \$1,700,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA
- FY 2007 - \$1,700,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA





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Regional Priorities:

MARACOOS's mission is to seek, discover, share, and apply new knowledge and understanding of our coastal ocean to help save lives and livelihoods, and maintain the quality of life in the Mid-Atlantic Region. To accomplish this, MARACOOS' membership has identified five high-priority regional themes:

- Maritime Safety
- Ecological Decision Support
- Water Quality
- Coastal Inundation
- Energy

MARACOOS includes diverse expertise, with its membership coming equally from academia, industry, and the non-profit/government sectors. MARACOOS has developed a collaborative network of scientific, business, non-profit and government leaders who are dedicated to combining expertise to address priority regional needs. Multiple federal agencies have recognized the expertise, operational capabilities, and opportunities in the Mid-Atlantic through investments in the region, including NOAA, the Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Homeland Security (including the U.S. Coast Guard), NASA, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

To address the primary regional themes, the MARACOOS implementation plan established six primary real-time observing and forecasting assets, including:

- An array of High-Frequency Surface Current Radars covering the entire Mid-Atlantic Bight (MAB)
- A fleet of underwater gliders able to adaptively sample the entire MAB
- A network of hardened meteorological stations distributed throughout the MAB
- Three satellite ground stations acquiring imagery of the ocean, atmosphere and land
- Coast Guard drifters used for SAR operations and to evaluate the skill of the forecasting systems
- An ensemble of both statistical and dynamical ocean forecast models that (a) assimilate spatial data from the satellites, the HF Radar network, and the fleet of autonomous ocean gliders, and (b) are forced by an ensemble of atmospheric models validated through the meteorological network

Initial MARACOOS successes have already been realized. MARACOOS' Regional HF Radar-derived surface current data, and the resulting short-term statistical forecasts, are now an operational component of the Coast Guard's Search And Rescue Optimal Planning System (SAROPS) that is saving lives at sea. Collaboration with NOAA Fisheries has developed observatory-based habitat models for critical species distributed throughout the MAB. Water quality efforts have demonstrated new products for floatables (oil, trash) and rainwater, and have developed regional plans for dissolved oxygen. Coastal inundation demonstration projects have been conducted in the region's bays. And, state support has enhanced regional activities to inform offshore wind energy development.

The 5-year vision for MARACOOS includes sustained operations of the regional network consisting of the Observing, Data Management, and Modeling & Analysis Subsystems, along with expansion of the Education & Outreach Subsystem activities to include new users. Specifically, MARACOOS is focusing on two primary goals:



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1. Maintain and fill gaps in the existing observing, data management and forecasting subsystems focused on the transition from data-generated products to model-generated ensemble forecast products that can be repurposed for multiple users.
2. Expand end-to-end operations across all five regional themes through: (a) broadening IOOS support and leveraging of non-IOOS activities, (b) enhancing the extension components of MARACOOS, and (c) developing and applying IOOS-endorsed metrics to measure and demonstrate success.

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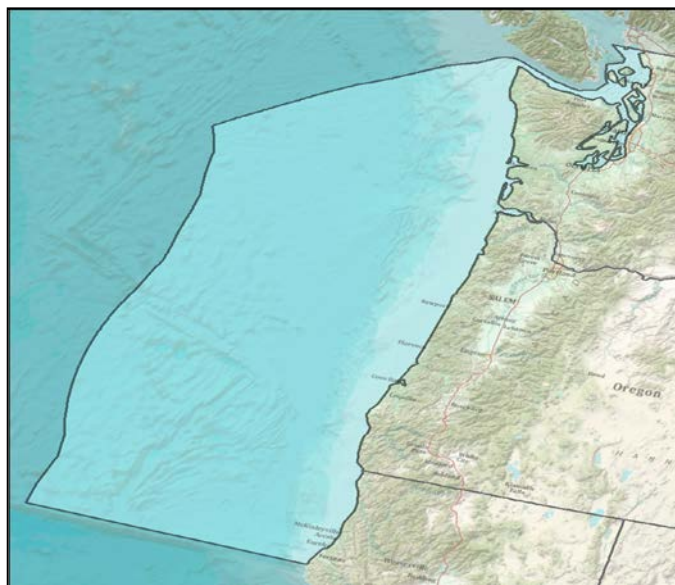
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

The Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) provides coverage for the Pacific Northwest (PNW), primarily Washington and Oregon. NANOOS has strong ties with other west coast observing systems, particularly the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS), the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) and observing programs in British Columbia (e.g., the Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea, or VENUS) through common purpose and the occasional overlap of data and products.

NOAA Funding:

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FY 2010 - \$1,700,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA.
FY 2009 - \$1,500,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA
FY 2008 - \$1,500,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA
FY 2007 - \$1,500,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA



Regional Priorities:

NANOOS is a partnership of over 40 entities, including industry, state agencies, local governments, tribes, non-government organizations, and educational institutions. Established in 2003, NANOOS has used results of nearly three years of NOAA-funded planning efforts and ongoing regional contributions to build RA partnerships in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) and to identify high priority user needs and requirements.

To progress on the NANOOS regional priorities of maritime operations, fisheries, ecosystem impacts, climate, and coastal hazards, this project will continue to develop the essential subcomponents of the Pacific Northwest RCOOS: observing systems, modeling and products, data management and communications (DMAC), and education and outreach. The work will be applied in four observational domains: coastal ocean shelf, coastal ocean surface currents, estuaries, and shorelines.



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NANOOS key activities for the FY11 project period are:

- Maintain NANOOS as the PNW IOOS Regional Association: Sustain its proven role for regional coordination, administrative infrastructure, and stakeholder engagement.
- Maintain surface current and wave mapping capability. Maintain existing HF-radar foundational capability, providing critical national capacity, and continue investment in wave mapping at a critical port.
- Sustain existing buoys and gliders in the PNW coastal ocean, in coordination with national programs. Maintain these essential assets providing regional observations, with focus on hypoxia, HABs, ocean acidification, climate change detection and modeling input.
- Maintain observation capabilities in PNW estuaries, in coordination with local and regional programs: Maintain these to aid sustainable resource management, water quality assessment and sub-regional climate change evaluation.
- Maintain core elements of beach and shoreline observing programs: Contribute to hazard mitigation by providing essential observations and better decision support tools for coastal managers, planners and engineers.
- Maintain NANOOS' Data Management and Communications (DMAC) system for routine operational distribution of data and information: Sustain, as feasible, the DMAC system NANOOS has built, including the NANOOS Visualization System (NVS), for dynamic and distributed data access and visualization for IOOS.
- Contribute to a community of complementary numerical regional models: Contribute to the operation of regional models, and the tools and products they support, covering the head of tide of estuaries to the outer edges of the EEZ in both Oregon and Washington.
- Deliver existing user-defined products and services for PNW stakeholders.
- Sustain NANOOS education and outreach efforts: Foster ocean literacy and facilitate use of NANOOS products for IOOS objectives, the core task for which the entire NANOOS RCOOS is constructed, via existing approaches for engaging users.

NANOOS places a priority on sustaining the leveraged coastal observations that its RCOOS has integrated and on developing the most informative and useful products for regional users, as advised by its Governing Council and its active Standing Committees (DMAC, User Products, Education & Outreach) that prioritize work efforts.

In late 2009, NANOOS launched its online system-wide data viewing and access tool, known as the NANOOS Visualization System (NVS). NVS, available at <http://www.nanoos.org/nvs>, allows easy access to ocean observing data in the Pacific Northwest. NVS gathers data across a wide range of sources (federal and non-federal) including buoys, shore and land-based stations throughout the NANOOS region. NVS is continually being improved and refined as new data streams are brought in and as the NVS development team receives feedback from users. Released in 2010, NVS 1.6 added access to surface currents from high frequency radars, temperature and ocean color from satellites, and improved filters, legends, and data plots. Users can also find data from research cruises and forecast information on water levels and waves for many locations.

NANOOS developed a wide variety of user products and educational materials centered on its regional priorities. Examples include on-line tsunami evacuation/inundation maps, forecast information products developed for commercial and recreational albacore tuna fishers, real-time water quality information optimized for shellfish growers, blended tide, current, weather conditions forecasts for mariners, and on-line "theme pages" for issues of



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regional interest, such as ocean acidification and hypoxia, with direct links to data, educational content, and regional activities. A variety of lesson plans, some using real-time data, and learning resources are available and being used and evaluated by teachers at various levels.

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U.S. IOOS Program Office Contacts:

Jenifer Rhoades (Jenifer.Rhoades@noaa.gov), Regional Coordination



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U.S. IOOS[®] is an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. NOAA continued a merit-based funding process in 2011 to further development of the IOOS regional network. IOOS regional partners provide coordination with regional stakeholders while contributing data and other outputs to the national system – supporting regional priorities while advancing national objectives.

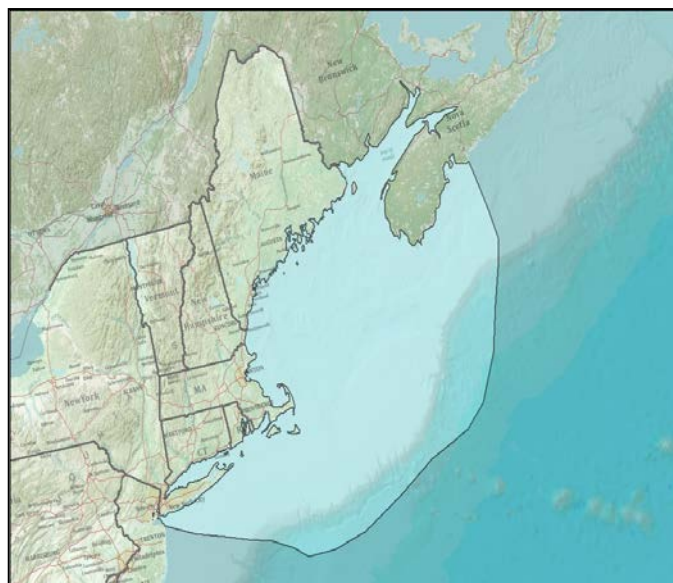
NORTHEAST ATLANTIC REGION

The Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) spans coastal waters from the Canadian Maritime Provinces to the New York Bight. NERACOOS provides weather and ocean data to fishers and commercial vessel operators for use in determining if conditions are safe for passage and to emergency managers issuing storm warnings. NERACOOS is also advancing efforts to use these data for water quality monitoring, harmful algal bloom predictions and warnings, coastal flooding and erosion forecasting, and coastal and marine spatial planning.

NOAA Funding:

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- FY 2011 - \$1,770,000
- FY 2010 - \$1,400,000 RCOOS (plus \$49,000 for High Frequency Radar support); \$400,000 RA
- FY 2009 - \$1,324,787 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA
- FY 2008 - \$1,200,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA
- FY 2007 - \$1,200,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA



Regional Priorities:

The Northeast region is geographically complex, with five states and two Canadian provinces, coastal waters and watersheds of the Scotian Shelf, Gulf of Maine, Southern New England Bight, and Long Island Sound. Regional user requirements identified marine operations, inundation, harmful algal blooms, water quality, coastal and offshore renewable energy development and living marine resources as specific concerns in the Northeastern Region.

In 2011, NERACOOS will continue the improvement and integration of the coastal ocean observing system through close collaboration with regional organizations, especially the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC). The



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NROC is a state-federal partnership that provides a forum for tackling and prioritizing regional scale problems. This collaboration helps to ensure that NERACOOS directly addresses pressing regional scale issues of societal benefit. To that end, NERACOOS adopted four NROC priority theme areas and formalized the collaboration with a Memorandum of Understanding.

The NROC and NERACOOS key themes– and the associated NERACOOS activities for 2011 - are as follows:

- Maritime Safety and Security – NERACOOS will provide real-time observations and forecasts directly for maritime operational safety, inform US and Canadian Coast Guard Search and Rescue Operations, and introduce new and enhance existing ocean forecast products.
- Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health – NERACOOS will improve harmful algal bloom monitoring and forecasting, enhance monitoring and integration of water quality information, enable ecosystem based fisheries management and marine spatial planning, and monitor ocean acidification.
- Ocean Energy – NERACOOS will provide the necessary oceanographic information to facilitate the renewable energy sector and the Data Integration Framework required for a regional approach to facilities siting.
- Coastal Hazards Resiliency – NERACOOS will enhance and evaluate street-level inundation forecasting, expand forecasts for coastal flooding and erosion, and support emergency spill response.

Additionally, climate change and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning are central and cross-cutting themes.

Finally, continued development and implementation of a Data Management and Communication system is central to the delivery of information and products to users of the system; performance and evaluation metrics will enable tracking the return on investment; and education and outreach will engage NERACOOS users to ensure information and products meet their needs.

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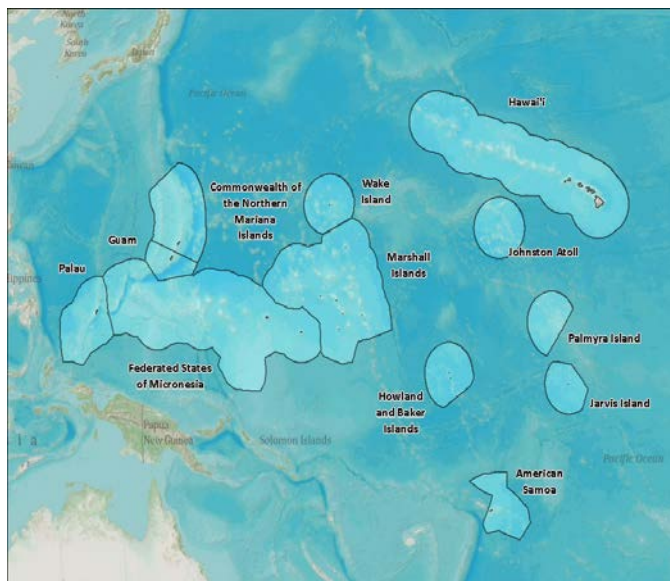
PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

The Pacific Islands (PacIOOS) region is defined as the State of Hawaii, the Commonwealth and Territories of the United States in the Pacific and the Freely Associated States in the Pacific. PacIOOS is a partnership of data providers and users working together to enhance ocean observations and develop, disseminate, evaluate and apply ocean data and information products designed to address the needs of stakeholders who call the Pacific Islands home.

NOAA Funding:

Prior to FY 2011, IOOS regional partners received two awards – one for development of the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS), and one for planning and stakeholder engagement by a Regional Association (RA). In FY 2011, IOOS made a single award to each region for management of these activities. Funds awarded by NOAA since establishment of the U.S. IOOS Program Office are as follows:

FY 2011 - \$2,065,000
FY 2010 - \$1,700,000 RCOOS, \$399,973 RA
FY 2009 - \$1,869,134 RCOOS, \$398,802 RA
FY 2008 - \$1,700,000 RCOOS, \$397,909 RA
FY 2007 - \$1,700,000 RCOOS



Regional Priorities and Objectives:

In 2011, PacIOOS is working to address:

- Coastal Hazards Resilience: Providing predictions of high water level and inundation events in coastal areas, developing maps of coastline change and identifying areas of vulnerability, and providing beach condition forecasts to users and lifeguards to promote public safety and community resilience.
- Maritime Safety and Security: Serving timely, reliable, real-time information on harbor conditions, coastal and open ocean currents, waves, and weather to improve search-and-rescue operations, spill response, optimize shipping routes, and develop better severe weather and event predictions.
- Coastal Water Quality: Supplying real-time observations of biological, chemical, and physical water parameters to improve the understanding of ocean acidification, more effectively protect healthy coastal



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marine ecosystems, and enhance the understanding of and response to marine events that impact human health.

- Ocean Planning and Management: Integrating information for effective coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP), measuring and modeling parameters necessary for the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, and collecting and serving necessary information for renewable energy development.
- Education and Outreach: Working to promote the understanding and stewardship of the Hawaiian and insular Pacific's coastal waters and build capacity for the continued expansion of ocean observations and informational products.

Present System

Initial PacIOOS observing efforts have focused on the development of an end-to-end observational system confined to the island of Oahu, Hawaii. This focused pilot-project is exploring the operability of various observational systems in an island setting to help determine the ideal design for a full PacIOOS observational network.

Data system development, modeling, education and outreach, and stakeholder engagement through a collaborative governance framework are focused not only on the Hawaiian Islands, but each of the PacIOOS jurisdictions through the Pacific. Targeted deployment of instrumentation to address local stakeholder needs has begun in the western and southern Pacific jurisdictions with deployments to expand under future funding cooperative agreements.

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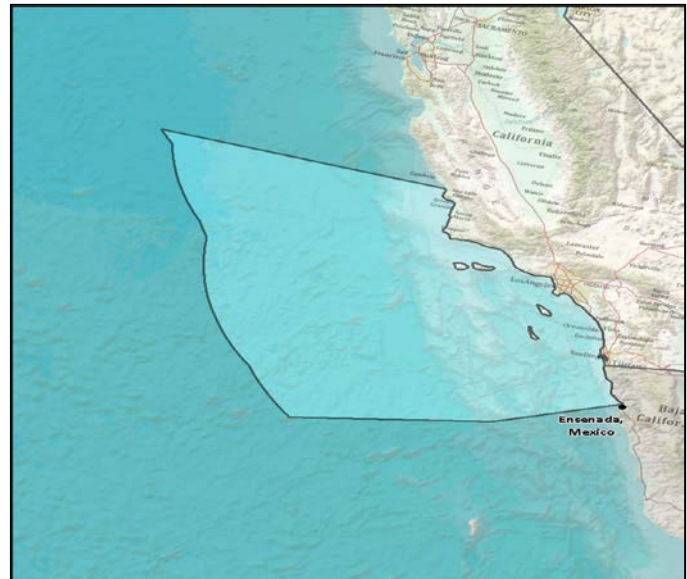
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

The Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) provides coverage from Point Conception south to the Mexico border. The principal goal of SCCOOS is to provide observations and data products to a diverse stakeholder community of managers and planners, operational decision makers, scientists, and the general public.

NOAA Funding:

Prior to FY 2011, IOOS regional partners received two awards – one for development of the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS), and one for planning and stakeholder engagement by a Regional Association (RA). In FY 2011, IOOS made a single award to each region for management of these activities. Funds awarded by NOAA since establishment of the U.S. IOOS Program Office are as follows:

FY 2011 - \$1,768,000
FY 2010 - \$1,400,000 RCOOS (plus \$11,900 for a shellfish industry ocean acidification workshop and \$510,000 to continue support for High Frequency Radar search-and-rescue operations), \$395,210 RA
FY 2009 - \$1,341,466 RCOOS (3 awards), \$393,093 RA
FY 2008 - \$500,000 RCOOS, \$353,785 RA



Regional Priorities:

As the regional ocean observing system for Southern California, SCCOOS has developed the capabilities to support short-term decision-making and long-term assessment by implementing and leveraging biological, chemical, and physical observations, many of which are available in near real-time.

SCCOOS has aligned its organizational priorities and objectives with the focus areas designated by the National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing:

- Ecosystems and Climate Trends: To monitor climate trends and environmental effects on the Southern California Bight by collecting physical, chemical, and biological time series.
- Water Quality: To provide monitoring, tracking, and prediction tools for harmful algal blooms, outfall and stormwater plumes, and surfzone contaminants.



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- Marine Operations: To advance integrated, customized products that are critical for safe and efficient navigation, search and rescue, and oil spill response.
- Coastal Hazards: To promote safe recreational use of beaches and provide warnings of wave and tide-induced coastal inundation.
- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: To work collaboratively to pursue a comprehensive, adaptive, ecosystem-based spatial planning process.

In FY11, SCCOOS will continue its work with local, state, and federal agencies, resource managers, industry, policy-makers, educators, scientists, non-governmental organizations, and the public to make ocean and coastal information more widely available in a variety of formats. These efforts will ensure that products are useful and easy to access, while preserving the necessary detail to support the scientific and education communities. SCCOOS continues to explore new visualizations and technologies to make data products more comprehensible and widely available. In order to achieve an effective outreach strategy, that fully engages a wide range of audiences, SCCOOS focuses on developing projects through partnerships on the local, regional, and national levels. SCCOOS collaborates with the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) on statewide issues and formed a Joint Strategic Advisory Committee, of users and stakeholders across the state, to create a unified and coordinated approach to ocean observing in California. SCCOOS is also committed to contributing to larger ocean observing efforts nationally and internationally.

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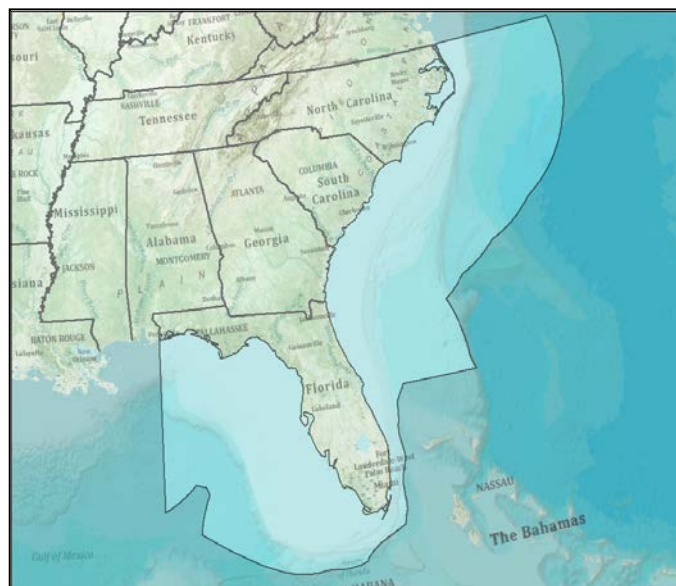
SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC REGION

The region serviced by the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) encompasses four states, over 42 million people and spans the coastal ocean from North Carolina to the west Coast of Florida. The region is vulnerable to hurricane hazards, potential impacts from oil drilling off Cuba and neighboring regions, and climate change because of low-lying coastal land and corals and other habitats that will be the first indicators of significant ecological impact. A regional observing system is critical to understanding risks and reducing impacts, as well as supporting the economy of the SE. SECOORA supports the need of the southeastern United States for real-time, or near real-time, marine information on coastal and ocean conditions that protects our people, environment and economy.

NOAA Funding:

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- FY 2011 - \$2,015,000
- FY 2010 - \$1,680,000, \$399,670 RA
- FY 2009 - \$500,000 RCOOS (plus 3 additional implementation awards totaling \$2,444,150), \$391,991 RA
- FY 2008 - \$400,000 RCOOS, \$384,535 RA



Regional Priorities:

The ocean and coastal waters of the southeastern United States support ecologically and economically significant ecosystems; provide tourism, boating, and other recreational opportunities; and generate over \$675 billion annually in economic impact within our region. SECOORA is working to integrate and augment existing observational, modeling, data management and education assets to provide lasting benefits in these areas and for the people, communities, and natural resources that make the Southeast unique, including:



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- Protection of people and communities through quantitative improvements in the forecast of potentially destructive winds, waves, and storm surges;
- Improved coastal and marine use decision-making through enhanced and more comprehensive characterization of the coastal and marine environment;
- Improvements to public safety through more timely and site-specific health advisories, storm surge and rip current warnings;
- Safer and more efficient marine operations and emergency response through enhanced coastal and marine situational awareness;
- Better-informed decision-making regarding commercial and recreational fisheries, and shoreline and climate change impacts.

Fisheries, coastal development and erosion, storms and coastal hazards, and water quality are all critical concerns that require informed management policy and strong science. Towards that end, in FY11 and for the next five years, SECOORA will work to achieve the following objectives:

- Ensure stakeholder needs are met through assessment and governance mechanisms that effectively prioritize the distribution of Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS)-related funding and other resources that are required to meet critical regional needs.
- Coordinate and begin to execute the build out plan for a fully instrumented RCOOS in the Southeast with defined service levels, commensurate with funding, that provides coordinated monitoring, assessment and prediction.
- Maintain an observing subsystem that includes moored and coastal stations, high frequency radars (HFR), gliders and storm event monitoring subcomponents.
- Support a multi-scale, multi-resolution modeling framework that includes shelf and estuarine circulation and surge/inundation prediction, and uses the observing subsystem for verification, assimilation, and operation.
- Build upon the Data Management and Communication (DMAC) infrastructure to optimize existing operations, facilitate technology evolution / transfer, and address structural / project management complexities.
- Support an education and outreach (E&O) program partnered with other RAs and other marine education organizations including SE Sea Grant offices and COSEE-Southeast that engages diverse education and stakeholder audiences to understand the benefits of ocean observing to society.

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THE ALLIANCE FOR COASTAL TECHNOLOGIES (ACT)

ACT is a partnership of research institutions, resource managers, and private sector companies dedicated to fostering the development and adoption of effective and reliable sensors and platforms for use in coastal, freshwater and ocean environments. ACT was established by NOAA in 2001 – and continues to be supported by NOAA through the U.S. IOOS Program – to bring about fundamental changes to technology transitioning and adoption practices in coastal and ocean monitoring.



NOAA Funding:

- FY 2011 - \$975,000
- FY 2010 - \$3,439,500
- FY 2009 - \$1,200,000
- FY 2008 - \$1,200,000
- FY 2007 - \$1,100,000



Project Priorities:

The public and private sectors have an increasing demand for accurate and reliable environmental observations, which allow for a better basic science understanding, forecasting abilities, and informed management decisions. To meet this demand, the federal government: (1) has established operational systems and services, which provide the basis for production and dissemination of official assessments, predictions, and warnings, and (2) supports technology and systems development to improve operational observation capabilities, such as higher quality data through the introduction of new or enhanced environmental sensors. By fostering the development and adoption of effective and reliable instrumentation for coastal, freshwater and ocean science, monitoring, and long-term environmental stewardship, ACT is a critical link between these two national priorities.

ACT’s goals are to: (a) Rapidly and effectively transition emerging technologies to operational use; (b) Maintain a dialogue among technology users, developers, and providers; (c) Identify technology needs and novel tools and approaches to meet those needs; (d) Document technology performance and potential; and (e) Provide U.S. IOOS with information required for the deployment of reliable and effective networks.



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ACT has made advancements in support of NOAA's efforts to validate and exploit new ocean observing approaches by serving as:

1. A third-party testbed for quantitatively evaluating the performance of new and existing coastal technologies, both in the laboratory and under diverse environmental conditions;
2. A forum for capacity-building through technology-specific workshops that review the current state of instrumentation, build consensus on identification of future trends, and enhance communications between users and developers; and;
3. An information clearinghouse, provided through a searchable, online database of environmental technologies and community discussion boards.

In FY 2011, ACT will continue work already begun on evaluation of in situ pCO₂ sensors (to address ocean acidification) and hydrocarbon sensors (to address oil spill detection and response). ACT will also begin work on an evaluation of pH sensors, as part of a consistent effort to support ocean acidification monitoring for a range of applications.

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U.S. IOOS Program Office Contacts:

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