



FY2012: Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System Development

U.S. IOOS[®] is envisioned to be 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 2012 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). Starting 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 2012 - \$2,014,766
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.

Based on stakeholder input, AOOS priorities include:

1. Increase access to existing coastal and ocean data;
2. Package information and data in useful ways to meet the needs of stakeholders; and
3. Increase observing and forecasting capacity in all regions of the state, with a priority on the Arctic and the northern Gulf of Alaska.

Activities that AOOS will undertake in FY 2012 include:

- Providing funding to maintain the most critical SnoTel stations in Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet providing real-time web accessible data
- Partnering with the Marine Exchange of Alaska to equip two Automatic Identification System transmitters to disseminate real-time weather data, buoy data, and weather forecasts to vessels
- Increasing public access to real-time data through user-friendly tools, including a real-time sensor map, web cam maps, and smart phone applications using emerging communications technologies
- Continuing to monitor development of the Alaska Harbor Observation Network pilot projects in Seward and Kodiak
- Maintaining the WaveRider buoy installed in Cook Inlet as part of implementing the IOOS National Operational Waves Observation Plan in Alaska.
- Partnering with the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy to produce an atlas consisting of digitally stored sea ice concentration data covering all Alaska coastal waters to a distance of approximately 300 nm from shore
- Partnering with others to maintain long time series:
 - Sampling along the Seward Line, the longest multidisciplinary time series in Alaska
 - Observing the through-flow of water between the northern Bering Sea and the interior Arctic
 - OA sampling in the northern Gulf of Alaska, Chukchi Sea, and Bering Sea
 - Sentinel monitoring in Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet
- Funding mooring turnovers for biological monitoring by the Ocean Tracking Network and Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking network
- Developing data integration and visualization tools for the Arctic in anticipation of potential commercial fishery development
- Ingesting prioritized datasets, warehouse, archive and provide access through query and mapping tools
- Partnering with the ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries to establish a data-serving node feeding into the AOOS system
- Expanding the AOOS Model Explorer
- Collaborating with COSEE Alaska on a teacher workshop and in hosting the National Marine Educators Association annual conference in Anchorage
- Supporting Operations & Maintenance costs for High Frequency radar sites along the Chukchi Sea
- Collaborating to support a glider line in the Chukchi Sea, taking oceanographic measurements
- Collaborating to support the Distributed Biological Observatory (DBO) sampling in the Chukchi Sea

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