



**INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM (ICOOS)  
ACT OF 2009  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**DOCUMENT INCLUDES 2 ACTIVITIES:**

1. *Committee Activity*
2. *Lead Federal Agency Activity (NOAA)*

**ACTIVITY:** “The Council shall establish or designate an Interagency Ocean Observation Committee which shall--develop contract certification standards and compliance procedures for all non-federal assets, including regional information coordination entities, to establish eligibility for integration into the System and to ensure compliance with all applicable standards and protocols established by the Council, and ensure that regional observations are integrated into the System on a sustained basis”.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall function as the lead Federal agency for the implementation and administration of the System, in consultation with the Council, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, other Federal agencies that maintain portions of the System, and the regional information coordination entities, and shall – promulgate program guidelines to certify and integrate non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities, into the System to provide regional coastal and ocean observation data that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions”.

**ICOOS ACT REFERENCE:** §12304 (c)(2)(E), §12304 (c)(3)(C)

**PLAN:**

- **Objectives/Milestones:**
  - a. Develop a process for designing certification standards. (Completed)
  - b. Implement the process and generate certification standards. (Completed)
- **Development of Certification Criteria Execution Plan (IOOC):**
  - a. Form certification subgroup composed of IOOC and IOOS Program Office representatives. (Completed)
  - b. Seek public input on designing certification standards. (Completed)
  - c. Develops proposed process for designing certification standards. (Completed)
  - d. IOOC approves and/or modify proposed process. (Completed)

- e. Implement process for designing certification standards. (Completed)
  - f. Establish working groups to draft recommended standards for data partners and Regional Information Coordination Entities (RICEs). (Completed)
  - g. Submit recommended standards to IOOC for approval. (Completed)
  - h. IOOC approves and/or modifies proposed certification standards. (Completed)
  - i. Seek public comments on proposed certification standards. (Completed)
  - j. Revise proposed certification standards after public comment period as appropriate. (Completed)
  - k. Submit proposed final certification standards to IOOC for approval (Completed)
  - l. IOOC approves and/or modify final certification standards (Completed)
  - m. IOOC announces final certification standards (Completed)
- **Development of Program Implementation Guidelines (NOAA):**
    - Establish working group of U.S. IOOS members to develop Draft Certification Program Implementation Guidelines. (Completed)
    - Develop Draft Program Implementation Guidelines (Completed)
    - Publish Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in Federal Register for Program Implementation Guidelines comment and review (January 2012)
    - Publish Notice of Final Rulemaking in Federal Register for Program Implementation Guidelines (March 2013)
    - Offer Certification opportunity to regions (April 2013)
  - **Dependent Activities:** The IOOC has responsibility for developing contract certification standards and the IOOS Program Office has responsibility for promulgating program guidelines to certify and integrate non-federal assets.
  - **Additional Needs:** N/A

**GROUP RESPONSIBLE:** Interagency Ocean Observation Committee/Certification Subgroup

**DELIVERABLES:** Draft process for defining, identifying, and certifying non-federal assets (completed - 6/11/2010), Federal Register Notice requesting input on certification criteria and process (completed - Fall 2010) revised standard development process (completed - October 2010); revise and approve process for certification standards development (completed - October 2010); draft certification standards (completed); federal register notice for proposed certification standards (completed - published November 2011); announcement of final certification standards (completed - May 2012); Publish Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in Federal Register (expected January 2013); Publish Notice of Final Rulemaking in Federal Register (expected March 2013)

**DUE DATE:** No legislated Due Date; final certification Standards (Criteria and Program Implementation Guidelines) are anticipated for release in Winter 2013.

**OUTSTANDING DECISIONS NEEDED:** N/A