



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

**ACTIVITY:** Identify gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of both Federal assets and non-Federal assets;

Formulate an annual process by which gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System are identified by the regional information coordination entities, the Administrator, or other members of the System and transmitted to the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee;

Identify gaps in observation coverage needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System, or other recommendations to assist in the development of the annual and long-term plans created pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(A)(i) and transmit such information to the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee via the Program Office;

**ICOOS ACT REFERENCE:** § 12304(c)(2)(F), § 12304(c)(3)(I), § 12304(c)(4)(A)(ii)

**PLAN:**

- **Objectives/Milestones:**
  - a. Develop and approve *U.S. IOOS – A Blueprint for Full Capability*. (Completed)
  - b. Conduct an assessment of federal agency and non-federal partner capabilities with respect to the US IOOS Blueprint definitions. Identify the current capability status for the IOOS agencies and non-federal partners and what is needed to achieve full capability for IOOS. (Completed)
  - c. Inventory of current assets and quantification of cost to sustain operations and maintenance of current assets. (Underway)
  - d. Identify needs for capital improvements. (Underway)
  - e. Undertake coordinated review with federal and regional asset managers to synthesize the gap analysis annual process and results.
  - f. Establish a repeatable process for annual gap analysis
  - g. Produce a report for Congress and IOOS Agencies and Regions illustrating current and anticipated gaps.
  
- **Execution Plan:**

- Define what physical and technological assets comprise the Integrated Ocean Observing System. (Completed)
  - Organize and support a system inventory to identify Federal and non-Federal assets. (Completed)
  - Develop a prioritization methodology and identify gaps and capital improvements. (Underway)
  - Complete an inventory of operational ocean observations assets for all U.S. IOOS Regional Associations through the following sub-tasks:
    - i. Evaluate existing asset inventory (Complete)
    - ii. Execute inventory strategy in coordination with IOOS DMAC Team, NOAA NGDC, and IOOS Regions (Spring 2013)
    - iii. Publish a summary report that includes recommendations for next steps and contribution to the process for conducting a gaps analysis (Spring 2013).
  - Designate status of assets and identify high-priority assets that need capital improvement. (Underway)
  - Support the IOOC in producing a gaps analysis of current and anticipated asset needs
    - i. Develop an initial process for conducting a gaps analysis to document priority spatial, temporal, and thematic priority system gaps (Fall 2012)
  - Convene a meeting with select federal and regional asset managers to conduct the final gap analysis.
  - Develop a report on findings.
- **Dependent Activities:** This activity requires information provided by the ICOOS Act Lead Federal Agency and the RICE's as defined under § 12304(c)(3)(I) and § 12304(c)(4)(A)(ii), respectively, and the results of the Blueprint Assessment.
  - **Additional Needs:** The Independent Cost Estimate (§ 12309) and the Comprehensive, Coordinated Budget (§12304(c)(2)(B)) may inform what assets shall be inventoried for the gap analysis. The IOOS Summit (November 2012) and its resulting white papers and final report will also help inform priority gaps to be filled.

**GROUP RESPONSIBLE:** Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, Lead Federal Agency, Regional Information Coordination Entities.

**DELIVERABLES:** Annual process to determine gaps (Lead Federal Agency); Complete inventory of U.S. IOOS non-federal ocean observing assets (Lead Federal Agency; Needs and/or Recommendations for gaps and capital improvements (RICEs); Final report on ocean observing asset gaps and capital improvements (IOOC).

**DUE DATE:** N/A

**OUTSTANDING DECISIONS NEEDED:** Approval by the IOOC on process to identify gaps.