

## **APPLICABILITY OF THE INTEGRATED OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT: RESPONDING TO DATA AND INFORMATION NEEDS**

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**KEYWORDS:** ocean observing, coastal management, data and information needs, regional associations

The Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) provides ocean and coastal data and information products to aid in the management of coastal resources at the local, state, regional, and national levels. This national IOOS capacity allows for the integration of existing federal, state and local capabilities into a coordinated network of observations, data management and communications, and the acquisition and dissemination of data and information as we develop effective ways to protect, restore, and sustain ocean and coastal ecosystems. At the regional and state level, coastal managers have access to IOOS through the Regional Associations (RAs).

The Coastal States Organization has sponsored workshops, funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to bring coastal managers together with ocean observing experts from the RA to educate coastal managers about the current activities and potential of ocean observing and to identify the information and data needs of coastal managers. Workshops have been held over the last eight years in the Southeast, Great Lakes, Mid Atlantic, California, Caribbean and most recently, Alaska. The first two workshops were information gathering sessions which identified data and information needs of importance to coastal managers. Subsequent workshops focused on selected issues of concern to managers for which IOOS data could be applied. Topics included coastal inundation due to sea level rise, water quality monitoring and use of regional scale oceanographic data to assist with monitoring the effectiveness of marine protected areas. These workshops developed specific user requirements for temporal and spatial resolution, data access, data format, reliability and interpreted products. While each workshop addressed the unique needs of the region, several common requirements emerged. The challenge remains to ensure that the IOOS has the requisite resources to be able to provide coastal managers with the information they need, in a format they can use, and on a timely and sustained basis.

The proposed panel will consist of two coastal managers, two RA representatives and the workshop coordinator. Panelists will address benefits of the workshops, work conducted after the workshop building upon identified needs and challenges faced or overcome in moving forward.

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*Proceedings of Coastal Zone 09  
Boston, Massachusetts  
July 19 to 23, 2009*

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