

Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM - 13 November 2009

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The Z-Gram is an informal way of keeping you up-to-date on IOOS® activities. Please advise of additional addressees, or if you are receiving and no longer want to receive. If you think others could benefit from the Z-Gram please pass it on. To see previous Z-Grams go the IOOS website and view under 'program updates.'

IOOS® - Our Eyes On Our Oceans, Coasts, and Great Lakes.

Programmatic:

- **Congressional Report:** In review but making progress.
- **FY10:** CR until 18 December 2009. The full Senate has passed the Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations bill. The next step is for the House and Senate to conference.

Initial Operating Capability - Data Management and Communications (DMAC) subsystem of IOOS®

- **What the DIF:** For all documents and information, please visit the www.ioos.gov website.
- **IOOS DMAC ENHANCEMENTS and TECHNICAL EFFORTS:**
 - **IOOS Registry:** Planning continues for an IOOS Registry/Catalog/Viewer (RCV) component(s). Step one of the planning sequence: developing a draft list of requirements for the RCV component(s) has been completed by John Ulmer, Jeff de La Beaujardiere, and Hassan Moustahfid. The requirements list has been circulated for comment to the IOOS DIF Web services working group, Integrated Products Team and Regional DMAC Implementation Team. The University of South Florida (USF) has agreed to host the IOOS Observation Registry. We are working with USF and the Marine Sanctuaries Office to transfer this information. THANKS to our colleagues at USF.
- **IOOS DMAC CUSTOMERS - We always welcome your participation. If these projects intersect with what you are doing and you want to be a part of the action, please contact Charly Alexander - charles.alexander@noaa.gov**
 - **Coastal Inundation:** Hurricane season will come to a close on December 1. The enhanced SLOSH Display Program, with IOOS features, was used for a second time during Tropical Storm Ida (Nov. 9) in the Gulf Coast Region. Initial feedback received from the SLOSH Display Program users during this event has been positive. We also received word that the new SLOSH display was used during the past week with east coast nor'easter last week. See attached PDF
 - **Coastal Inundation - FY10:** In the CI arena, several ideas for follow-on CI work are being pursued by leads Jamie Rhome (NHC Storm Surge Team Lead) and Dave Eslinger (CSC). Guidance for the IOOS project was sent to the leads and several conversations held to clarify that we will support efforts to build out IOOS, leverage existing IOOS-funded efforts, and advance the NOAA Storm Surge Road Map. Several other NOAA surge experts have inquired about submitting a proposal but were told to coordinate with the current CI leads. The

- IOOS Regional Association (RA) Executive Directors from SECOORA, NERACOOS, MARCOOS, and GCOOS were called and we discussed this effort.
- **IOOS Biological Data Project:** Charly and Hassan led a conference call with the following two objectives: 1) to generate a list of candidate questions for IOOS biological data standards in the Pacific region and 2) to agree on the logistics for a proposed meeting in Hawaii. The goal for the meeting in Hawaii is to have generated a solid list of candidate questions and other considerations that we can discuss and prioritize in order to zero in on one or two top candidates. Rusty Brainard (NOAA/Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center [PIFSC]) has agreed to organize the meeting to be held at PIFSC, in Hawaii, on December 9th.

Interagency Project Collaboration: The Z-Grams are certainly focused on providing information on IOOS® connections to these projects and it is not intended to provide programmatic updates of these specific projects because they all have project leads.

- **IOOS and Links to the National Water Quality Monitoring Network:** The multi-regional, multi-agency water quality workshop will be held January 25-26, 2010 in Baltimore, Maryland. Final outcomes and setup for the workshop were developed through a healthy email discussion last week. The next NOAA/EPA/USGS/Regional Water Quality meeting will take place on December 14 from 2-4pm. Details to follow.
- **IOOS and National Science Foundation (NSF) - Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI):** No update.
- **Interagency Working Group on Ocean Observations held 13 November- SUCCESS:** We had a very positive meeting in our second Industry outreach workshop. The caliber of briefers was superb and the audience truly appreciated their briefs. We will post the briefs on the COL website soon. We had almost 60 participants, including participants from the oil and gas sector, utilities sector, and state and local government. Thank you to Exxon-Mobile, our host and sponsor, to Ralph Rayner and the IWGOO staff for their hard work, and GCOOS, our local IOOS Regional Association, for making this event such a success.
- **Interagency modeling activity:** No update.

Other:

- **VICTORY The Scarlet Knight (RU27):** Scarlet surfaced inside Spanish waters on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 8:17 GMT (3:17 am EST). This statement says it all. A great accomplishment for Ocean Observing. Bravo Zulu to Rutgers and our partners in both Spain and Portugal. The Rutgers teams are now concentrating on picking up the glider, which will happen the first week of December. On 9 December we will mark this historic event. Launched from New Jersey in April, Scarlet Knight will land in the beautiful Village of Baiona, Spain, where Europe learned first about the existence of America in 1493, with the arrival of the first ship from Colon where we will mark this historic event. This is scheduled for 9 December and I will provide details as they firm up. <http://www.i-cool.org/?cat=38>.
- **IOOS and U.S. Army Corps Regional Sediment Managers meet to discuss partnerships:** Linda Lillycrop (USACE and IOOS Program Office), Molly McCammon (NFRA and AOOS), Julie Thomas (SCCOOS) and I participated in a dialog with the

USACE Regional Sediment Managers. There were representatives from almost all the USACE districts. We had a chance to brief them on IOOS and they had a chance to brief us on their data needs. As a result we will be setting up IOOS/USACE dialogs with each of the USACE regions. It was a WONDERFUL exchange of information. Thank you to Bill Birkemeier and Linda Lillycrop for setting this up.

- **National Ocean Service/Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) Releases and Welcomes Feedback on a New Web-based Tool Called “NOAA Tide Predictions:”** NOAA released a new web-based tool called “NOAA Tide Predictions” (http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/tide_predictions.shtml). NOAA Tide Predictions provides U.S. tide predictions for nearly 3,000 locations along with a powerful array of new features and is the official U.S. source for reliable and accurate tide predictions for professional and recreational mariners. Some of the new features include: easy access to accurate, official NOAA Tide predictions via the Web; user-friendly options to customize text and/or graphical displays of tidal predictions for a selected day, week, month or year; enhanced options to provide predictions relative to a variety of tidal datums, and user selections for height units, time zones, and threshold values. For more information and to provide feedback on this new web-based tool, please contact Pat.Burke@noaa.gov.
- **Cooperative Institute for Oceanographic Satellite Studies (CIOSS) Meeting:** Carl Gouldman and Rob Ragsdale attended a meeting with Ted Straub, CIOSS Director, Eric Baylor, and Paul DiGiacomo from NESDIS that was an introduction to CIOSS. The meeting was a good exchange of information between IOOS and CIOSS and a start toward identifying ways to interact in the future. CIOSS is a NESDIS Co-Operative Institute (CI), but has direct ties to the IOOS NANOOS RA that focuses on coastal regions aimed at improving remote sensing technologies and coastal ocean models.
- **AOOS in Action - 2010 Alaska Marine Science Symposium:** A great reason to come to Anchorage in January - Scientists from Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, the nation, and beyond will gather in Anchorage to inform each other about their research in the marine ecosystems of the Arctic, the Bering Sea, and the Gulf of Alaska. A special session on PWS Field Experiment will be held. The 2010 Alaska Marine Science Symposium is scheduled for January 18-22. Submit an abstract (online only; no e-mail) October 28 - November 20 at <http://abstract.alaskamarinescience.org>. Register Online (free) October 28, 2009 - January 5, 2010 at: <http://register.alaskamarinescience.org>.
- **CeNCOOS Harmful Algal Bloom Education:** Taryn Takahashi (Stanford Senior) used feedback from science teachers to create algal bloom education web pages on the CeNCOOS website for students to learn about this issue and potential impacts. The material is aimed at middle- and high school-level students and includes descriptions of blooms, how they have been studied, and activities using real-time data.
- **GLOS: Update on St. Clair River Dye Study:** GLOS partnered with NOAA’s Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) and Applied Science Inc. (ASI) to carry out three dye release experiments in the St. Clair River. The goal of the experiments was to provide data for calibration of the Huron-Erie Connecting Waterways Forecasting System (HECWFS), a hydrodynamic model developed by Dr. David Schwab (GLERL) and Dr. Eric Anderson (CILER – U. of Michigan). Initial comparisons show a strong agreement with the observed dye pathway for each release. However, scenario testing with the model indicates that there may be significant variation in the shape and travel

time of the dye plume depending on the initial release conditions, such as the volume and duration of the release. Currently, adjustments to the model diffusion are being made to calibrate the predictions of dye concentration with the observed values. The calibrated model will provide improved real-time forecasts of currents and water levels in the corridor and will advance search and rescue efforts, aid in water quality assessment, and reduce public health risks. For more information contact Eric Anderson (eric.j.anderson@noaa.gov).

- **NANOOS has released their NANOOS Visualization System (NVS):** Users can now select locations on the map-based interface to get ocean observing data that includes real-time and near real-time observations from buoys, shore stations, and coastal land based stations; model forecast and satellite data; and ship-board cruise data.
- **PacIOOS supporting NOAA Hazmat:** PacIOOS is now serving ROMS data to the NOAA Hazmat office for inclusion in their modeling systems for spill analysis.
- **SCCOOS: Programming Interface for Surface Currents:** The Coastal Observing Research and Development Center (CORDC), part of the SCCOOS is providing a portable application programming interface (API) for access to HF radar derived surface currents from the National Network. The interface allows web programmers to integrate a standard, interactive Google Maps display into any web page: <http://cordc.ucsd.edu/projects/mapping/api/>. Visual display and functionality are subject to expansion with code revisions. The API is fully customizable for any web template. Please direct questions regarding the interface to info@sccoos.org.
- **SECOORA co-Sponsored Southeast Marine Spatial Planning Workshop:** The Nature Conservancy, in coordination with NOAA, Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, and SECOORA, sponsored a Southeast Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Workshop. The meeting was funded through the Packard Foundation and was designed to bring together a variety of regional stakeholders to discuss marine spatial planning and opportunities for the SE. Over 50 representatives from federal and state government, fisheries, non-governmental organizations, and private business attended. Participants discussed data and analysis used in MSP and concluded with breakout groups talking about how MSP could potentially be used in offshore energy decisions in the southeast. Emphasis was placed on implementation mechanisms, data needs, and communication. Meeting outcomes included: 1) overall agreement amongst participants that MSP could be a effective tool for coastal and ocean management in the South Atlantic, 2) identification of drivers and principles related to MSP, and 3) development of recommendations for engagement in the southeast, including regional coordination through the South Atlantic Alliance, data availability and needs, and stakeholder identification and messaging. Meeting materials will be made available online in the upcoming weeks via the Nature Conservancy's South Carolina Marine Web site.

Congressional:

- There are two meetings scheduled with Congressional staff on 11/19 as a part of an effort to provide consistent quarterly NOAA updates on the ICOOS Act implementation process. These meetings are scheduled with House Natural Resources Majority Staff (Dave Jansen) and Senate Commerce Minority Staff (Mike Conathan). Suzanne Skelley and April Black will provide the IOOS update.

Communications:

- Scarlet Knight coverage: http://www.elpais.com/articulo/Galicia/submarino/directo/Baiona/elpepiautgal/20091111elpgal_19/Tes "El Pais" is the newspaper with wider distribution in Spain. Another story: http://www.lavozdegalicia.es/vigo/2009/11/12/0003_8101106.htm

Upcoming Meetings: For more detail go to: <http://www.usnfra.org/calendar.html>.

- November 17-18: MACOORA annual conference, "Understanding the Coastal Ocean: Partnerships for a Changing World" www.macoora.org (Jack Dunnigan participating, as will the NOAA IOOS office)
- November 17-18: ORRAP meeting, Charly Alexander (NOAA IOOS) will participate
- November 17-18: GEO VI Plenary - Washington DC; IOOS will have a demonstration and will be featured in the US booth on November 17
- November 30: SCCOOS Board of Governors and Executive Steering Committee Meeting at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA
- December 1: CaRA General Assembly
- December 2-3: DMAC ST Review Meeting - Washington, DC

Cheers,
Zdenka

SLOSH with IOOS Observations

