



FY2010: Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System Development

NOAA continued a merit-based funding process in 2010 to enhance regional coastal ocean observing systems (RCOOS) and achieve three long-term outcomes: establishing coordinated regional observing and data management infrastructures, developing applications and products for regional stakeholders, and crafting regional and national data management and communications protocols. In addition, regional associations received planning grant awards designed to assist them in stakeholder engagement, education and outreach, and long-range planning activities.

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 the national Integrated Ocean Observation System (IOOS®). The AOOS proposal to IOOS was endorsed by the AOOS Board, which includes representatives of nearly all federal agencies in Alaska, the three State of Alaska resource agencies, and the major research institutes in Alaska including the University of Alaska.

Funding:

The FY 2010 RCOOS award to AOOS is \$1,400,000. The 2010 Regional Association (RA) Planning Grant award is \$399,985.

FY 2009 - \$1,000,000 RCOOS, \$399,969 RA

FY 2008 - \$1,000,000 RCOOS, \$399,976 RA

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Regional Priorities and Objectives:

The Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS) is focused on four key issues:

- Climate change and its impacts;
- Sustainability of fisheries and marine ecosystems;
- Mitigation of natural hazards, especially coastal erosion; and
- Safety of marine operations and health of coastal communities.

Regional IOOS objectives are developed through close engagement with stakeholders. Key AOOS Board objectives for 2010 are identified as follows:

- Establish the AOOS data and web portal as the regional coastal and ocean information system for Alaska, increasing statewide capacity in data management, modeling and product visualization;
- Expand ocean literacy in Alaska and stakeholder use of ocean observing products, including specific tools for educators, by leveraging other coastal and ocean education and outreach activities in Alaska;

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- Continue to test and assess enhanced observations and a suite of regional ocean, wave and weather forecast models as a demonstration of an end-to-end observing system in Alaska's Prince William Sound;
- Improve regional forecasts in Cook Inlet and Resurrection Bay by adding new observing platforms and expanding models established in PWS to the northern Gulf of Alaska (GOA) and continue long time series ocean monitoring in the Gulf of Alaska, including monitoring for ocean acidification;
- Continue testing a prototype ocean and weather station for use at Alaska harbors and add two new locations to improve safety at sea; and
- Provide real-time information on Arctic Ocean conditions (physical, biological and chemical) with the addition of new observing platforms to develop near-shore weather and ocean forecasts and monitor climate change impacts.

Limited funding has precluded a number of components originally proposed by AOOS, specifically: major expansion of AOOS in Cook Inlet, contributions to Southeast Alaska and Bering Sea ocean circulation models, passive acoustic monitoring in the Bering Sea and sea ice thickness and motion measurements in the Arctic.

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