



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.

CENTRAL AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

The Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) spans the coastal ocean from the California/Oregon border south to Point Conception. The fundamental CeNCOOS approach is to develop long-term monitoring of environmental conditions such as water quality, productivity, and connectivity in support of marine protected area management in central and northern California.

Funding:

The 2010 RCOOS award to CeNCOOS is \$1,402,000. The 2010 Regional Association (RA) Planning Grant award is \$399,619.

FY 2009 - \$1,281,529 RCOOS, \$397,308

FY 2008 - \$1,000,000 RCOOS, \$395,763

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Regional Priorities and Objectives:

The CeNCOOS proposal for 2008-2010 outlined the following goals:

- Monitor the water quality, productivity, and population connectivity in the coastal ocean from Point Conception to the Oregon border out to 200 km offshore;
- Implement data-assimilating numerical forecast models to act as dynamical interpolators of sparse ocean data sets and allow prediction of ocean properties from days to decades;
- Develop a Data Management and Communications (DMAC) system to move data seamlessly from the sensor to the product developer and allow easy access to the data and products for all CeNCOOS partners and end-users; and
- Develop information products specifically targeted to support management decisions in state and federal marine protected areas within the region, defined here to include National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) designated by the State of California under the Marine Life Protection Act.

This proposal, originally written for \$3.5M per year for three years, was funded at lower levels than anticipated. In coordination with stakeholders, in response to lower funding levels, and still in keeping with the original CeNCOOS objectives, the revised work plan and priorities for 2010 will focus as follows:

- Top priority will be given to maintaining the pan-regional backbone (PRB), data management and communications (DMAC), and data products;
- The Marine Protected Areas focus should be maintained;
- The money allocated specifically to high frequency radar support during 2009 (\$282K) will be continued; and

- Investment will be made in numerical modeling and prediction, with an eye on starting work that CeNCOOS can build upon with future funding.
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