



# FY2013: Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) Development

U.S. IOOS is an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. NOAA continued to provide merit-based funding in 2013 to further develop the IOOS regional network. IOOS regional partners provide coordination with regional stakeholders while contributing data and other outputs to the national system – supporting regional priorities while advancing national objectives.

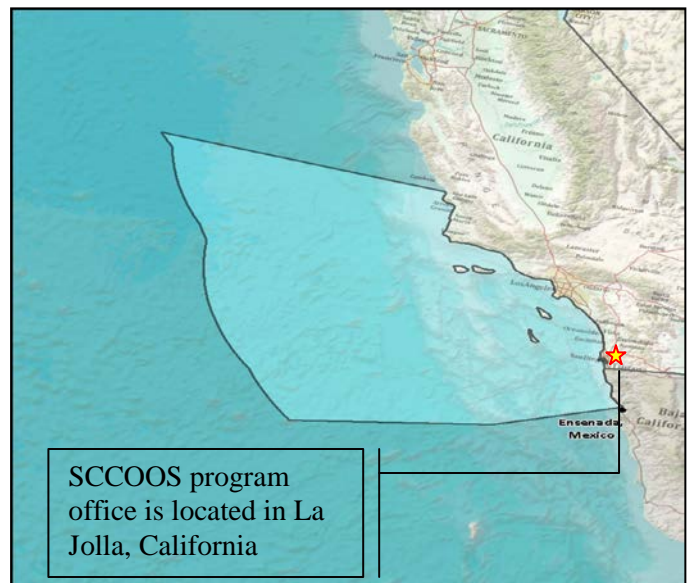
## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

The Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) provides coastal observations for the Southern California Bight. The primary goal of SCCOOS is to provide the scientific data and information needed to inform decision-making and better understand the changing conditions of the coastal ocean in Southern California. SCCOOS has aligned its priorities and objectives with the focus areas designated by U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®), as identified by users and stakeholders throughout the nation.

### NOAA Funding:

Prior to FY 2011, IOOS regional partners received two awards – one for development of the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS), and one for planning and stakeholder engagement by a Regional Association (RA). Starting in FY 2011, IOOS made a single multi-year award to each region for management of these activities. Funds awarded by NOAA since establishment of the U.S. IOOS Program Office are as follows:

FY 2013 - \$2,276,758  
FY 2012 - \$2,157,214  
FY 2011 - \$1,768,000  
FY 2010 - \$1,400,000 RCOOS - \$395,210 RA  
FY 2009 - \$1,341,466 RCOOS - \$393,093 RA  
FY 2008 - \$500,000 RCOOS - \$353,785 RA



### Regional Priorities:

As the regional ocean observing system for Southern California, SCCOOS has developed the capabilities to support short-term decision-making and long-term assessment by implementing and leveraging biological, chemical, and physical observations, many of which are available in near real-time.

SCCOOS has aligned its organizational priorities and objectives with the focus areas designated by the IOOS Association for Coastal and Ocean Observing:

- **Ecosystems and Climate Trends:** To monitor climate trends and environmental effects on the Southern California Bight by collecting physical, chemical, and biological time series.

- **Water Quality:** To provide monitoring, tracking, and prediction tools for harmful algal blooms, outfall and storm water plumes, and surf zone contaminants.
- **Marine Operations:** To advance integrated, customized products that are critical for safe and efficient navigation, search and rescue, and oil spill response.
- **Coastal Hazards:** To promote safe recreational use of beaches and provide warnings of wave and tide-induced coastal inundation.

SCCOOS continues its work with local, state, and federal agencies, resource managers, industry, policy-makers, educators, scientists, non-governmental organizations, and the public to make ocean and coastal information more widely available in a variety of formats. These efforts will ensure that products are useful and easy to access, while preserving the necessary detail to support the scientific and education communities. SCCOOS continues to explore new visualizations and technologies to make data products more comprehensible and widely available.

In order to achieve an effective outreach strategy that fully engages a wide range of audiences, SCCOOS focuses on developing projects through partnerships on the local, regional, and national levels. SCCOOS collaborates with the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) on statewide issues and formed a Joint Strategic Advisory Committee, of users and stakeholders across the state, to create a unified and coordinated approach to ocean observing in California.

The U.S. West Coast OOSes (Ocean Observing Systems - SCCOOS, CeNCOOS, and NANOOS – Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems) aim to promote clean coastal waters and beaches, healthy ocean and coastal habitats, effective ecosystem-based management, reduced impacts of offshore development, increased ocean awareness and literacy among the region's citizens, sustainable economic development of coastal communities, and expanded ocean and coastal scientific information, research, and monitoring.

Two recent examples on how these goals have been carried out are:

- SCCOOS, CeNCOOS, and NANOOS have formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work cooperatively with governmental and non-governmental entities in identifying and providing ocean and coastal information products that inform a broad range of scientific, economic and management activities in fisheries and water quality, climate variability and change, coastal hazards, marine commerce and safety, and other priorities identified by regional management groups.
- The West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health (WCGA) and the West Coast OOSes signed a two-year agreement in October of 2012 to advance effective management of coastal and ocean resources for the benefit of current and future generations, with a specific focus on using ocean observing systems to help address harmful algal blooms and ocean acidification as well as advancing surface current mapping and a regional data framework.

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