

## **Z-GRAM 11 January 2008**

[www.IOOS.NOAA.gov](http://www.IOOS.NOAA.gov)

The Z-gram- IOOS is an informal way of keep you up on what's going on in our NOAA IOOS Office and NOAA IOOS activities. Please advise of additional addrees, 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.

Hope everyone's holidays were filled with friendship and family. For the IOOS team, we tried to take a short break from what we jokingly state - that we run a marathon at a sprint pace everyday - to spend time with our family and friends. I think I speak for all of us that it was just too short! Our resolution for 2008 is to continue to move the IOOS program forward. We hope to only have to run three quarters of a marathon each day at a sprint - but so far we have not lived up to that part of our resolution.

### **Organize for outcomes:**

- Program Office Stand up: We welcome Dr. Jeff de La Beaujardiere - Jeff DLB if you like, to our Operations/DIF division on 7 Jan. Jeff came to us from the Earth Sciences Division at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center where he had been for 13 years. He served as Portal Manager for the US Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Geospatial One-Stop Project, and as NASA representative to the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Technical Committee and the Unidata Policy Committee. He is the Editor of the OGC Web Map Service (WMS) specification and its International Standard version (ISO 19128), has contributed to several interoperability specifications and test beds, and has programmed WMS implementations for NASA's Modeling and Analysis Program and the inter-agency GLOBE Program. Jeff earned a Bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of California at Berkeley and a Doctorate in Astrophysics from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and held postdoctoral appointments in Hawaii and France. Jeff lives here in Silver Spring with his wife and three sons (ages 11, 9, and 5). Thank you to our NASA colleagues for sending a great guy to our IOOS team.
- FY08: Since my last Z-gram the President passed the Omnibus spending bill. As I reported before, I do not have the exact numbers of what will available to IOOS in FY08. We are working diligently on this matter and understand how important this information is.
  - Senate Reports: We continue to work on the 5 year implementation plan for IOOS that NOAA has been tasked to provide. Kim Cohen is my lead and working with our support contractor, LMI, we have been reviewing existing program plans, interviewing NOAA and interagency partners and reviewing the regional conceptual designs to put the report together. I will receive a draft of the report on 15 January, at which time, we will then work across our partners within the time limits we have to refine the draft. So you understand the timeline, the report is due to the Senate on 8 April, which means it needs to be in formal clearance no later than the end of

February. The timeline on the initial draft is so that we can work closely with NOAA CFO to ensure they agree with the approach we have taken.

- Competitive Process: We continue to move forward with plans to hold the panel review at the end of January.
- FY09: NOAA received their final pass back numbers from OMB at the end of last week. As you know, those numbers are not public until the President's roll out the first week in February. But what that meant to NOAA is that we were finalizing the narratives for the "Blue Book" - NOAA's explanation of what it will deliver based on the funds that the President will ask for. What this drives home again is how important metrics are. We have to articulate the rationale for all dollars and how they will be spent. For IOOS, like every other program, what is the return on investment to our nation for the tax payers dollars entrusted to us. This is not easy and within IOOS we continue to work at developing the right metrics that convey our progress. More work ahead for us in this area.
- FY10-14: On 17 January, the NOAA Executive Council (NEC), will receive the final Programming briefing which is prepared and given by Steve Austin, Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation (PA&E) and they will recommend the NOAA program to the leadership. Then we go into the budgeting phase, where dollars are assigned.
- FY11-15: The cycle continues, we start the Planning phase 1 February and internal to our office we are already evaluating strategies.

#### **Initial Operating Capability - Data Integration Framework (DIF)**

- Bumper sticker: Data Integration Framework - First 12 months effort focused on integrating core variables has begun. The clock started 1 Feb 2007.
- IOOS DMAC Standards Process: We did received 8 standards, 4 were passed to the submitted phase and you will see the Public Registry Notice for the public comment within the next week. Three were tabled because they dealt with QA/QC and we realized that we did not have the right mix of folks in the process. This is a topic that will be discussed and decided upon during the early May meeting. For a first go around we are really pleased with the submissions. Please continue to submit your standards for the next round. Remember, how this works is that you can submit standards anytime, but that the window will close in sufficient time that the review can happen for the May meeting. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT FOR THE LAST MINUTE. Please submit those standards now.
- What the DIF?: - **No update**

#### **IWGGO: Next meeting 30 January -**

- IWGGO IOOS Strategic Plan: We received 1 comment back from the ICOSRMI review and will now work to adjudicate that comment first at the IWGGO and then back up to the ICOSRMI. From there a public comment period is anticipated.
- OOI-IOOS white paper: **No update.**

### **Collaboration:(projects will stay on the email through to completion)**

- Bathymetric collection California and Interagency Partners: California Seafloor Mapping Program (CSMP), briefing will be held 14 January, 10am-12 Noon, SSMC3/Conference Room 6836. Sheila Semans [Project Manager, CSMP - California State Coastal Conservancy) and Sam Johnson [U.S. Geological Survey, Western Coastal and Marine Geology Team Chief Scientist] will present a comprehensive overview of the CSMP and its plans to create a comprehensive coastal/marine geologic and habitat base map series for all state waters (MHW out to 3 Nm). NOAA (Office of Coast Survey, National Marine Sanctuary Program, and Coastal Services Center) has been discussing a prospective partnership with the State of California to include managing a hydrographic services contract to support bathymetry data collection, archiving of data, and providing NMSP survey vessel(s) and personnel to support ground-truthing activities. NOAA Fisheries has also expressed an interest in participating in this multi-year project..
- Army Corps of Engineers collaboration on a National Waves Plan: **No change:** Revised version which will ask for IWGOO and NFRA comments will be out in Jan 08.
- NOAA-Navy collaboration on the GODAE server: **No change.** The GODAE server, located at the Navy's Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center, servers as 1 of two global ARGO sites and also as a conduit for Navy data and models to IOOS. This server was developed under the GODAE program through ONR. The time has come to determine the transition to this to operational system. NOAA, through the Office of Climate Observations, has agreed to provide the necessary costs to keep the GODAE server going through FY08 and the Navy has committed to meeting with NOAA to determine a longer term solution, [www.usgodae.org](http://www.usgodae.org).

### **Other:**

- Conception Designs: We received conceptual designs from each of the RA/RCOOS. These were an effort that the regions led to articulate their regional needs. I have only had a chance to scan the documents and will spend more time with them this week. They are already providing help to our Senate report effort - which is a National broad approach to IOOS, and will be used in the upcoming PPBES 11-14 process. Thank you for your efforts on that.
- NFRA, 20 November, letter to NOAA IOOS Program Office and Ocean. US. A draft was written to respond jointly from NOAA and Ocean. US. We and the NFRA board agreed that we will not actually send the response. We all felt we needed to read and digest the conceptual designs first and match that up with the regional study effort that LMI is doing for us. The LMI work is focusing on funding mechanisms and what we are calling a regional business model. We will meet with the NFRA executive boards, tentatively slated for 26 Feb, to talk about the preliminary results of the regional study and how to move forward with effective and required plans.

- 7 Jan: NOAA IOOS Program Office and CSC met to discuss upcoming NOAA's handling of the upcoming Regional Program Status meetings and the future Program Review of the FY07 FFO and NOAA wide BAA funded projects. The lead for the Regional Program Status meetings will be led by NOAA IOOS Program Office, Gabrielle Canonico; the Project Reviews will be lead by NOAA/CSC, Mary Culver, Geno Olmi lead. Details forthcoming. Timing for the Program Status is Spring, the Project Review - Fall. Details forthcoming.
- 9-10 Jan: NOAA IOOS mesh meeting. This is an internal NOAA meeting unique to IOOS. Since within the NOAA IOOS Program we are operating in three major areas: PPBES and program execution; Operations/DIF; Strategic Planning, Communications, Education and Outreach, and we all get very busy. We knew that our small team could not afford to diverge in its approach - this led to the term - Mesh meeting - which is a way to say - do we all know what each other is doing. Normally they are 1 day long. We decided that we would take 2 days in early Jan, figuring this would be the last 2 days we would be able to block, to get a handle on where we have been and where we need to go in FY08. It was a good time to get our new folks up to speed on how all of this came about. NOAA's - CSC, CO-OPS, NDBC, and NMFS Science and Technology offices were also able to join us.
- 10 January: My team took a briefing on the Meteorological Assimilation Data Ingest System (MADIS) . MADIS currently resides as a service to NOAA's Research Earth System Research Lab - Boulder, CO and is also in the process of being transitioned into operations by NOAA's National Weather Service. We received a briefing from Patty Miller and Mike Barth of ESRL who lead the development and current services associated with MADIS. We also received a briefing from Jim O'Sullivan, representing NOAA's Surface Weather Program and NOAA's NWS Office of Operational Systems.
  - The goal of MADIS is to integrate and quality control NOAA and other-agency observations and make them easily accessible and useable for operations, research and commercial purposes.
  - The briefing was enlightening and we plan to continue dialog with both ESRL and NWS as they transition this service.
  - The reason I use the word service (not the MADIS program) is that the premise of MADIS is to aggregate disparate formats of data in an automated QA,QC methodology. The service part comes in that since the providers of the data are not asked to comply with specific standards, data comes and goes as formats change - the ESRL MADIS team works hard to keep up with changes to data formats.
  - For more information please go to [Http://www.madis.noaa](http://www.madis.noaa) - don't be fooled by the M in MADIS, there are many ocean related databases as well.
  - Transition plans are early in the stage with a focus on a FY09 initial transition.
- 10 January: Chris, Suzanne, Carl and I met with Fred Toepfer - who has been named as Project Lead for NOAA's Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project. NOAA will brief this program at the upcoming AMS meeting and we will get a

- copy of the presentation, or point you to the location of the briefing. It is critical that since storm surge/inundation is a component of the HFIP we stay in the loop on this program. We are lucky that Fred is also the Environmental Modeling Program Manager so we participate in the PPBES program in the same sub-goal.
- 10 January: Chris, Marica, Jeff and I briefed the NOAA CIO - Joe Klimavicz and NOAA's and David Layton, NOAA's IT Architecture lead on our DIF and DMAC efforts. We were joined by Ken MacDonald, NOAA IT architecture. The purpose was to ensure we connect our efforts to NOAA's target architecture which is part of the Federal Enterprise Architecture. We want to ensure the efforts we are doing for IOOS is recognized a foundation for the movement of ocean observing information.

**Congressional:** Nothing to Report

**Communications:** Nothing to Report

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- 14-15 Jan: NOAA is hosting an Operational Oceanography Modeling meeting. Dr. Colton, NOS TD and Dr. Uccellini are leading this effort for NOAA, The NOAA Science Advisory Board on Ocean Modeling at NCEP provided a report to NOAA in July of 2004. In August 2005, NOAA responded to this report with a letter from Vice Admiral Lautenbacher to the Science Advisory Board, detailing NOAA's response to the findings of the board. In the report and the response, NCEP has been charged to become the "computational backbone" for operational ocean modeling within NOAA. In particularly from the response to the report states that the charge is *"to develop a national backbone capability for ocean, coastal ocean and Great Lakes modeling as part of an integrated operational Earth System Model ... [to] serve as the foundation for operational environmental prediction for a diverse array of customers and partners."* Within NOAA, the primary responsibility for basin-scale modeling resides with NCEP, whereas the responsibility for regional and coastal scales is shared by partners inside and outside NOAA (NOS, OAR, IOOS Regional Associations, etc.). The workshop has two goals : 1) to identify user needs from NOAA and outside partners for the development of models and potential products within NCEP. 2) To lay the foundation for establishing broad partnerships inside and outside of NOAA for providing ocean-related forecast products and services. Charly Alexander will represent the NOAA IOOS Program Office and Dr. Chris Mooers will be representing IOOS. In addition to NOAA participation, the United States Navy is also a full participant.
- 14-15 January: The Consortium for Ocean Leadership, under the auspices of the U.S. National Committee of the Census of Marine Life (COML), workshop will focus on the importance of incorporating biological data into IOOS. Many of our regional partners are coming in for this. Becky Shuford and Gabrielle Canonico will attend the full meeting. I will have a chance to get over to the meeting for the closing and then will meet with NFRA executive board and others who have traveled into town for this meeting.

- 16 January: NOAA and USGS meet quarterly and the 122nd meeting will take place during the morning of 16 January. This meeting is being extended to the afternoon to focus on specific IOOS discussions. In addition to my office we will have a number of representatives from across NOAA.
- 17 January: The State Coastal Conservancy's Ocean Science Applications, NOAA's IOOS Office, and CeNCOOS are hosting a discussion about SF Bay's COSCO BUSON oil spill focusing on how ocean observing data could be utilized to provide for more timely and accurate response efforts. The goal of the meeting is to understand what observing data was used during the recent spill and discuss strategies for working with state and federal agencies to assure that the state sponsored Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program as well as other ocean observations, are embedded in future response plans. Jack Harlan and I will attend this meeting, along with NOAA Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R). OR&R is the NOAA office responsible for the providing the trajectory forecasts and I look forward to working with NOAA OR&R to incorporate these important IOOS assets into their operating procedures.
- 21-25 January: The First Session of the IODE/JCOMM Forum on Oceanographic Data Management and Exchange Standards will be held at the IOC Project Office for IODE, Oostende, Belgium. The objective of this event is to get broad agreement and commitment to adopt a few standards related to ocean data management and exchange, thereby assembling not only the agreed conditions by which we operate, but in fact enact these agreements in our respective organizations. This idea came up last year when I represented the United States at the bi-annual IODE meeting and as the US adviser to an EU project called SeaDataNet - I did this under my previous position within NOAA - Director of NODC. The intent is to bring together projects working on ocean data management standards. The US is the main sponsor of this symposium and I will lead a US IOOS team. The team heading over to represent the US is Julie Bosch NOAA NCDDC - leading our participation, Dr. Jianping Mao- NASA, Dr. Margarita Gregg, Director NODC, Dr. Steve Hankin, NOAA, Dr. John Graybeal, MMI.
- 21-25 January: AMS - NOAA's booth will focus on GEOSS and IOOS is a prominent feature. A media round table has been scheduled which will also focus on IOOS. Three of our AA's will lead this round table - Jack Dunnigan, NOS; Rick Spinrad, OAR and Mary Kicza, NESDIS. Suzanne Skelley and Jennie Lyons have the lead on this event and will attend for NOAA IOOS Program Office.
- 27-29 May: Joint Assembly for AGU: As a NOAA rep to the US-GEO Outreach, Communications and Partnership group we submitted and it was accepted "GEOSS in the Americas: Coordinating Earth Observations and Earth Science in the Western Hemisphere" as a Union Session. We will seek to submit an IOOS related talk for that session. As well we are looking to have a town hall session titled "Development of the U.S. Integrated Earth Observation System."

Cheers,  
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