

Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM 12 December 2008

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The Z-gram is an informal way of keeping you up-to-date 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 under program updates

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

Programmatics:

- Congressional Report: NOAA Administrator signed the report on 9 December and it has now been submitted to the Department of Commerce
- FY09: **No Change.**
- FY10: **No change.**
- FY11-15: **No Change**

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

In FY09 we are focused on 6 areas for this subsystem: (1) Data Integration Framework (DIF) support to Customer Applications: Harmful Algal Blooms forecast system; Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs); Coastal Inundation; Hurricane Intensity; (2) DIF Regional Implementation; (3) DIF Evolution & Enhancements; (4) Development of the best approach to DMAC (5) High Frequency Radar (HFR) – A National Network; and (6) Continue strong support, with the Inter Agency Working Group on Ocean Observations (IWGOO), to the IOOS DMAC Standards Process and working with the DMAC Steering team and the first 5 areas

- IOOS DMAC Standards Process: DMAC Steering Team meeting 8-10 December.  
**Get Involved:**  
<http://ioosdmac.fedworx.org/ioos/dmac.nsf/WhatsNew?OpenForm>
- What the DIF: For all documents and information, please visit the [www.ioos.noaa.gov](http://www.ioos.noaa.gov) website and hit the button that says **IOOS Data**.
  - Ocean Color Implementation Update: Target date for the implementation of the THREDDS server in NESDIS OSDPD to provide access to ocean color products from SeaWiFS and MODIS using DIF services is now the end of December.
  - Hurricane Intensity Project Update: Project members met via telecon on 11 December. Project members include Avichal Mehra (NOAA's National Center for Environmental Prediction), Gustavo Goni (NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory), Carmel Ortiz and Alex Birger (Skjei Telecom- IOOS Program systems engineering support) and Marcia Weeks, project manager. Pedro DiNezio from the Cooperative Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Studies (CIMAS) at the University of

Miami is producing salinity profiles for the 3 test cases (hurricanes) involved in the project. They have completed the temperature profiles for the test cases. There will be about a 2 week extension of the first milestone to provide the temperature/salinity profiles for the 3 test cases. NOAA CoastWatch's Joaquin Trinanes is starting to convert this profile data into DIF standards. His next task will be to provide a decoder for the DIF data into BUFR (Binary Universal Form for the Representation of Meteorological Data). This decoder will be a valuable "reference implementation" for future DIF datasets to be accepted into NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) operational data stream.

- Harmful Algal Blooms - NOAA IOOS Project: Steady progress continues on the HAB-FS project. Team has run a series of tests to identify the most effective average current time interval to use. With this decision now made, NOAA's Coastal Survey Development Lab (CSDL) can begin to run the NGOM/NWFS model to generate the monthly current fields (to ultimately cover the entire 14 month study period of November 1, 2004 to January 31, 2006). As these monthly files are generated they will be provided to NCCOS to use in the GNOME transport model to forecast bloom movement.
- **DIF Testing:** Jeff received the interoperability testing report from NOAA's Coastal Services Center (CSC) concerning NOAA's National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) and NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products (CO-OPS) SOS implementations. Overall good, but some changes in content (not schema) needed at each site. Prioritized fixes in discussion with NDBC & CO-OPS.
- Regional DIF Implementation Monthly Conference Call (12/12): Second monthly call with regional DMAC leads. Good discussion on 1) steering team/working group to guide March 2009 workshop agenda and 2) characterizing current state of each region's DMAC functionality. Matt Howard (GCOOS), Sam Walker (SECOORA) and Rob Cermak (AOOS) have graciously agreed to lead this workshop working group. Group also agreed on improved approach for representing regional assets. Next conference call is scheduled for Friday Jan 9th at 1pm.
- **DMAC Steering Team Meeting – Dec 9-11 at Consortium for Ocean Leadership:** 18 of 22 members were present and meeting goals/objectives were achieved. **3 of the submitted standards were approved as “recommended”** and all standards in the “submitted” category were approved to move up to “proposed.” Thank you to Jack Dunnigan, NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) - Assistant Administrator (AA) who spend 1.5 hours with the team talking about the importance of IOOS and answering questions. Charly and Jeff presented a summary of NOAA IOOS Program progress on the DIF project and planning work preceding per National DMAC. Their presentation included a proposal to the Steering Team for their direct assistance/guidance with National DMAC planning. This proposal provoked significant discussion and a request for more details on what exactly the DMAC ST was being asked to provide. Charly agreed to provide more details to DMAC ST Chair Anne Ball by mid/late-January

2009 for the ST's consideration. Well done to Anne Ball - DMAC ST chair and support from Consortium for Ocean Leadership - IWGOO staff support.

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 all of them have project leads.

- **Army Corps of Engineers collaboration on a National Waves Plan:** A revised version was distributed back out to the Hydrographic Services Requirements Panel (HSRP), Interagency Working Group on Ocean Observing (IWGOO), NOAA's Ocean Council and Observing Councils, NOAA's Commerce and Transportation Goal Team and NOAA's COOPS for a final review. Additional comments were requested back to NOAA IOOS Program/ USACE by December 17, 2008. The goal is to have a final version of this plan by January 10, 2009.

Other:

- **IOOS Regional Coordination Workshop:** The workshop was a HUGE success. Jack Dunnigan, NOS AA; Steve Gallagher, NOAA Budget Director set the stage by provided outstanding discussions on IOOS in a strategic context and the critical role that metrics plays within developing a program. Both Jack and Steve hit home runs with their presentations and both participated in a lively question and answer session. The workshop was also attended by all of the Regional Associations, the Alliance for Coastal Technologies; and Southeaster Universities Research Association (SURA) as well as a number of offices across NOAA and IWGOO members from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps (USACE). The workshop has a dual focus; first was the development of the outcome metrics and the second a project review of all funded IOOS projects. The metrics discussion was superb and this was due to the exceptionally hard work by the steering team that gave us a great draft to work with. The results of the discussion groups is now being folded into a next draft. Secondly the discussion of the projects underway across the Regional enterprise was IMPRESSIVE. The presentations are now available on the workshop web site at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/IRCW>. To view the presentations, use the link titled "Workshop Agenda and Presentations." This opens a pdf version of the agenda with a link to each presentation built into the agenda.
- **Caribbean Regional Association (CaRA) Stakeholders Council Meeting - 9 December; visits with CaRA stakeholders 10 December:** Jack Harlan and I participated in the Stakeholder's meeting, which was fabulous. Bravo Zulu to CaRA for reaching out to their stakeholders, it was evident throughout the meeting that CaRA has connected well and is on their way to developing a strong RA and Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS). Thanks to Scott Glenn (MACOORA), Ann Jochens (GCOOS) and Josie Quintrell (NFRA) who also attended and have provided valuable assistance to CaRA. CaRA will begin to put observing systems in place this year, with 2 buoys and a number of meteorological stations. I was excited to see CaRA's inclusion of interns within

the program - it is great to see the student involvement. Coastal Integration is working in this region - CaRA, Sea Grant and Coastal Zone Management Program are all working together on a number of high priority issues that affect both Puerto Rico and United States Virgin Islands. We heard from key stakeholders, NOAA's National Weather Service and United States Coast Guard about their needs on INCREASED OBSERVATIONS. The modeling efforts within the region are focused on coastal inundation, coastal winds, coastal waves and coastal currents. On the second day we met with Sea Grant, Coastal Zone Management Program, NOAA's NWS and USGC to further discuss partnerships which I know will produce lasting results. Jack Harlan stayed on to evaluate site locations for HFR. CaRA will be working with Stevens Institute and Rutgers on a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center of Excellence on Maritime Security. My sincere appreciation for the outstanding effort by Roy Watlington, Jorge Corredor and Julio Morell. Once again, the hospitality within the Region extended to Jack and I was super - THANK YOU.

- **The NOAA Science Advisory Board is soliciting nominations** for members to its Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) which will advise NOAA on information service issues. All nominations are due by 23 January 2009. The Federal Register Notice of this solicitation, which contains instructions for providing nominations, may be viewed here: [http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Working\\_Groups/standing/docs/2008/EISWG\\_FRN\\_for\\_membership\\_11\\_25\\_08.pdf](http://www.sab.noaa.gov/Working_Groups/standing/docs/2008/EISWG_FRN_for_membership_11_25_08.pdf)
- **Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment:** The U.S. Ocean Observing Initiatives' Paper, authored by members of the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Observing and our industry partners, has been posted on the GODEA website. Look under Section 6. <http://www.godae.org/Invited-papers.html>.
- **IOOS-Funded Coastal Inundation Project Workshop (12/4):** Thank you to all who participated in this workshop. I understand there were great ideas and discussions. Special thanks to Dave Eslinger, NOAA CSC; Mary Erickson, NOAA CSDL; Liz Smith, Chesapeake Bay Observing System; Barry Stamey, NOBLIS; and Marcia Weeks, NOAA IOOS Program for putting this together. I was pleased to see many parts of NOAA, and our Federal Agency partners - United States Geological Survey, United States Army Corps, Office of Naval Research along with the IOOS Principle Investigators, associated Federal and private sector partners, along with Regional Association and NFRA. The meeting focused on commonalities across the IOOS coastal inundation projects and priority areas/issues of concern to the Federal agencies and RA's. A report is in preparation and will distributed as soon as it is completed.
- **IOOS and Google Earth:** NOAA IOOS Program (Charly, Jeff, Rich, Suzanne, Carl and Zdenka) met with NOAA's Oceans and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Alan Leonardi to discuss possible IOOS data "links" to Google Earth where Alan is currently doing a 6 month detail. We agreed to several follow-up items as this may present a unique opportunity for visibility and collaboration and to facilitate discussions between the Regional Associations and Google Earth.
- **Fisheries Information; Management Council – Dec 11:** Becky Shuford (NOAA IOOS) briefed a presentation on the Data Integration Framework to the

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) Fisheries Information Management Council (FIMAC). The presentation was very well received, and a number of really good comments and questions were made by various council members. This was the beginning of hopefully an ongoing relationship and collaboration between the two groups that will help to move forward our two efforts in a synergistic fashion. NOAA IOOS very much appreciated the opportunity to meet with the FIMAC and is really looking forward to continued discussions.

Congressional: **No update**

Communications:

- Check out the article written by Chris Simoniello and Ali Hudon - The Global Ocean Observing System that appeared in SouthWinds, a local sailing publication. The article is well written and the picture of the whale sharks is also impressive. The full publication is at <http://www.southwindsmagazine.com/currentissue.html>

Upcoming Meetings:

- 10-11 March: NOAA IOOS Regional DMAC Workshop, Silver Spring, MD
- 12 March: IOOS Industry Day - Silver Spring, MD
- 14 April: Small Sea Change: Big Business Impacts - IWGOO IOOS sponsored workshop. Silver Spring - A workshop to explore how enhanced understanding of the oceans improves weather and climate prediction enabling better informed business decisions. For more information: <http://www.oceanleadership.org/iwgoo>

Cheers,  
Zdenka