

Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM 16 October 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

Last week, NOAA bid Farewell to VADM Lautenbacher and his wife, Susan. An avid reader of the Z-gram, I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the ocean observing community to thank you for your tremendous support and vision for US IOOS and our role in GEOSS. You have been our champion as we began to implement US IOOS® - our Eyes On Our Oceans, Coasts and Great Lakes. We have forged a strong partnership across the Federal Agencies and with our Regional partners; we have taken the first steps in implementing a National IOOS program. Thank you for all that you have done for IOOS®, NOAA and our Nation. We wish you and Susan all the best.

Programmatics:

- Welcome Aboard: Jessica Geubtner, no stranger to you as she was part of the Ocean.US team, has joined the NOAA IOOS office. She will be our PPBES coordinator and continue to support all IWGOO members on the Ocean Societal Benefit Area on the US GEO-SAG. We are happy to have her aboard.
- Congressional Report: Progress has been made in clearing this through NOAA, our goal is to have the report cleared through NOAA and to DOC next week.
- FY09: **No Change**. IOOS does not plan to issue a Federal Funding Opportunity for FY09.
- FY10: **No change**.
- FY11-15: **No change**

Initial Operating Capability - DMAC subsystem of IOOS®

In FY09 we are focused on 6 areas for this subsystem: (1) 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) HFR – A National Network; and (6) Continue strong support, with the 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. Anne Ball met with Becky to discuss biological data and the DMAC Steering Team and Standards process. Anne is interested in developing a plan/project, for possible execution in the FY10 time frame, for how the Steering Team can more adequately handle and address issues relating to biology.
- What the DIF:

- **Ocean Color:** This is the final variable listed in the original NOAA IOOS DIF implementation. We are working closely with CoastWatch and status is as follows: 1) The new version of the THREDDS server is capable of providing 32-bit geoTIFF images. Thus CoastWatch will be able to make a real-number geoTIFF product available to the HAB-FS analysts; 2) At the moment the delivery of the operational THREDDS server is still on target for the week of Nov. 10. However, due to an unforeseen circumstance there may be an uncertain delay in its implementation. CoastWatch will keep us up to date.
- **Testing:** CSC has begun initial phase of testing (verification/validation) process of the DIF formats and services implemented at NDBC and CO-OPS.
- **Regional DIF Implementation:** Charly continued his briefings with RA leadership per Regional implementation. So far he's talked with AOOS, MACOORA, SECOORA, GCOOS, CenCOOS, SCCOOS, and CaRA. All have identified DMAC POCs, agreed with the general approach, and support the idea of an early 2009 workshop in Silver Spring. Phone calls are being scheduled with PacIOOS, NANOOS, GLOS, and NERACOOS.

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: Next version for comment will be ready by 15 November.
- NOAA-Navy collaboration on the GODAE server: **No Change**
- National Water Quality Monitoring Network: Ami and Rob (IOOS) have been in contact with representatives with USGS and EPA to become better informed about the National Water Quality Monitoring Network (NWQMN). Rob, Ami and Jeff DLB (NOAA IOOS) met via conf call with EPA's Dwayne Young and USGS's Jon Scott, David Briar, Nate Booth, and Dorrie Gellenbeck on Fri 10/17 for a very fruitful discussion. There are clearly linkages and areas of overlap that EPA, USGS and NOAA can leverage, but further discussion is needed to better identified, in more detail, exactly where we work together. There was a consensus from everyone on the call that this collaboration effort was worth supporting, but more education on each agencies data management effort was needed. This technical team agreed that taking time now to reach a better understanding of each agency's data management effort would provide for a more productive management level discussion.

Other:

- **Rutgers University - Across the Pond:** <http://rucool.marine.rutgers.edu/atlantic/> I took this from Josh Kohut's blog because it emphasizes one of the very important reasons that this mission is important and that is what the students are learning. Quote: "Our teams of

undergraduates are taking a leading role in the glider flight across the Atlantic. The clear focus now is to find the best way to get the glider and a team from Rutgers to the Azores for a glider “pit stop”. Katie and Emily have been organizing the great shore support we have been given in the Azores. There has been a great response from local scientists to help recover and inspect the glider. This week was another great milestone for our students. Shannon and Dakota walked into Scott Glenn’s office one afternoon. They said they were looking at the data, found a better way to the Azores, and they wanted to fly it there themselves. They were freshman when this flight started. Now they are sophomores, part of the experienced crew. They had been learning more about the flight characteristics of RU17 this past week, and they noticed its speed had suddenly increased - after all, it is the full moon. They figured they could use the new found speed to shoot the gap between two cold eddies, hugging the eddy to the northeast for a push to the east, but staying as far south as they could to catch the next set of warm eddies between 32-34 W. Instead of approaching Flores from the north, the long term plan, they would approach Flores from the south. The plan would cut weeks off the trip." End quote.

- **New Partnerships:** The Sonoma County Water Agency, a CeNCOOS signatory, is developing a coastal studies program, of focused monthly physical and biological snap-shot surveys to create products useful for salmon recovery, ocean energy planning and development, and climate change. These data, based on the long-term data sets of Bill Peterson's NMFS efforts in Newport Oregon. The plan, built on a ten year observation cycle, was created and fostered by the State Coastal Conservancy, PaCOOS and CeNCOOS in collaboration with the Sonoma County Water Agency with a goal for initial deployment in three or more California counties but with a vision, if appropriate partners can be recruited, for the entire West Coast including Alaska thus folding in four RAs and PaCOOS.
- **New Current Meter Aids Navigation Through Hazardous Bridge:** On October 15, the Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) installed a new current meter that will improve navigational safety through the Galveston Causeway Railroad Bridge in Texas, the most hazardous bridge along the Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW). The meter provides pilots with real-time data on strong cross-channel currents through the narrow bridge passage. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, navigation along this stretch of the ICWW grew even more difficult given changes in bathymetry and resultant hydrodynamic changes between Galveston Island and the Texas coast. CO-OPS sent a field team to install the meter in response to a U.S. Coast Guard request for current data to address safety concerns with increased groundings.
- **Australian Integrated Marine Observations System (IMOS):** Charly, Jeff and I met with Dr. Gary Meyers, Director of Australia’s IMOS. Dr. Meyers also met with Mike Johnson as the IMOS system has elements of both of the US IOOS - Global and Coastal component. We had a quick discussion on sensors, buoy placements, how to scope a project of this nature, sustainment funding and data management. It was great to discuss and commiserate together on some of the same issues. We agreed to exchange information and will have a chance to speak again at the Ocean Innovation Conference (see meetings below).

- At our request, CaRA is becoming involved in the NOS/NOAA draft strategic plan for "Development of an Integrated Caribbean Coastal and Ocean Observing Network to Promote Sustainability and Resilience to Hazards" Along with Becky and Gabrielle, NOAA IOOS, CaRA has been engaged in the development of the IOOS relevant U.S. Position Papers for the upcoming IOCARIBE meeting. At CaRA's request, this involvement has also been extended to Dr. Nowlin, GCOOS. Appreciate, CaRA becoming involved.

Congressional: No update

Communications:

- 14 October: NOAA Press Release: NOAA Ocean Temperature Forecasts Helps Recreational Tuna Fishers Find Catch, Conserve Fuel: Oregon State University supported the transition from research to operational status through the Cooperative Institute for Oceanographic Satellite Studies. It is funded through NOAA's Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics program and the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems through the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). See full release on [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)
- 16 October: ELLSWORTH AMERICAN - Shortage of Funding May Mean Cuts to Monitoring Buoys

Upcoming Meetings:

- 19-22 October, Zdenka will participate in Oceans Innovation 2008 World Summit - St Johns, Newfoundland, CA.
  - Jeff worked with NDBC, CO-OPS and Compusult to have IOOS SOS published in Registry for Oceans Innovation Conference 2008 demo. Publication was successful though the effort revealed some assumptions that the Registry was making about service metadata that conflict the needs of NOAA (in particular, the desire to offer data from individual stations that comprise several sensors). Jeff will participate in the OI2008 meeting via VTC on Wed 10/22 .
- 22-23 October: MACOORA Annual Meeting, UMass-Dartmouth - Zdenka will participate from NOAA IOOS Program.
- 20-24 October: NWS National Marine Program Managers Meeting. Marcia Weeks will present and IOOS briefing focused on NWS support. NMSP and CO-OPS will join as other NOS offices to support this meeting.
- 29-30 Oct, Frequency Management for Developing Countries – Jack Harlan

Cheers,  
Zdenka