

Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM 19 September 2008

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The Z-gram is an informal way of keeping you up to date on 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. If you want to see previous Z-grams go to the IOOS website under program updates.

Programmatic: **No Change**

- Congressional Report: Continues through the formal NOAA administrative system.
- FY08: Like all we are working hard to close out FY08.
- FY09: **No Change**
- FY10: **No change.**
- FY11-15: **No change**

Initial Operating Capability - DMAC subsystem of IOOS®

- IOOS DMAC Standards Process: Next DMAC Steering Team meeting now scheduled for 8-10 December.
- What the DIF?: IPT Conference Call – 8/21: The IPT held its 9th monthly conference on Thurs 8/21. The focus was discussion on a single topic – converging DIF and DMAC planning per developing an “IOOS 1.0” offering in early 2009 and clarifying how DIF can incrementally contribute towards a National DMAC capability. Discussion was generally very positive per those who were on the call though a number of important questions and issues were raised.
  - Ocean Color: CoastWatch reported in the monthly conference call that the project is progressing on schedule except for the delivery of operational ocean color products. Ocean color products, for the Gulf of Mexico, will be available from the THREDDS server the week of Nov. 10 - this is change due to IT issues in the installation of the THREDDS server.
- Regional DIF Implementation – An initial conference call was held on Thursday, September 10th to follow-up with those RAs that responded to inquiry on willingness/ ability to implement DIF schema (MACOORA – Eoin Howlett, SECOORA – Jeremy Cothran, PacIOOS – Jim Potemra, GCOOS – Matt Howard, SCOOS – Lisa Hazard, CenCOOS – Steve Li). Following reports on data management status from each participant, we agreed to move forward with additional conf. calls that would be expanded to include all of the regions and lead towards a workshop in early 2009.

Interagency Project Collaboration: (New section to replace the IWGOO section. The IWGOO is an important working group that gets together monthly to discuss interagency activities in the realm of ocean observing but instead of focusing on the what happens at the specific meetings I thought it would be better to discuss how we as partners are working together on a number of efforts). While I will not report on each of these

weekly, the below are the areas where the Federal and Regional Associations have been already working and we want to strengthen these ties and move to integration across these projects. 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: I approved the final changes for to the next version of the National Waves Plan. After the next version is completed, we will circulate the plan back through the IWGOO, NOAA Councils, HSRP FACA and NFRA with matrix of how we treated the comments.
- NOAA-Navy collaboration on the GODAE server: MOU is being worked between NOAA and Navy and is on track. **No Change**
- IOOS® and OOI: See visit with Rich (USGS) below.

Other:

- **Rutgers University - Across the Pond:** <http://rucool.marine.rutgers.edu/atlantic/> RU17 just flew east of the 40 W longitude line. Our longitudes started in the 70's, and now we are in the 30's. We are 115 days into the mission, and have traveled 4800 km. But alas after several days of favorable currents, RU17 has run into a counter current. As always keep up with Scarlet Knight's progress on the blog. Dr. Spinrad and I visited Rutgers, see below, to get an update on Scarlet Knight and to explore what our next challenge should be. We discussed the possibility of replicating the Challenger mission, we asked Scott, Oscar and Josh to provide us an exciting project that will stretch the limits of science and engineering. Scott, Oscar and Josh tell me the Z-gram gets the word out - so at the risk of inundating them - we ask the community (international) to come up with an exciting project that can highlight the importance of ocean observing, its importance to understanding climate variability (we all know the ocean is a key element), and will excite the public to mysteries of the ocean!
- Visit to Rutgers: Dr. Spinrad, AA- NOAA/OAR, and I visited Rutgers University. We had a chance to interact with the students who build, planned and are now executing the Glider (Scarlet Knight) across the Atlantic. We had a chance to interact with the students, always great and get a briefing on Rutgers' COOL room. Further, I had the chance to talk with John Manderson, NOAA/NMFS Behavioral Ecology Branch (Sandy Hook), and was briefed on exciting working between NOAA NMFS and MARCOOS in syncing up IOOS glider missions and NMFS underway time, the importance of IOOS efforts to NMFS efforts and even joint proposals between MARCOOS and NMFS. I am no longer surprised, but always impresses, on the cooperation between the IOOS RAs and Federal Partners.
- **Regional Metrics Efforts continues:** Timi Vann has been leading a critical effort to develop outcome metrics for our Regional Enterprise. She has been leading a focused working group so that we have draft initial metrics for our

- upcoming Annual Workshop in December. I can not emphasize how important this effort is as we continue to move to a National program. The goal of this effort is to complete development of initial draft metrics and overall objectives/approach for metrics session at the Annual Workshop in December.
- **MTS/IEEE Oceans 2008:** Jeff DLB and I represented NOAA IOOS Program at this meeting. We were joined by Larry Atkinson, MACOORA. Both Jeff and I were able to provide an update on the U.S IOOS front and DIF. We also attended the GEOSS IEEE Technical meeting and learned of the wonderful work IEEE has done in the area of providing collaboration across data management. We had a very fruitful discussions with Jay Pearlman has led an impressive effort in data management in GEOSS. Next week's meetings in Denver - where Jeff DLB will participate - we will register DIF so that it can be extended into the GEOSS efforts. We had very productive meetings with Dr. Martin Taylor, President and CEO of Ocean Networks Canada, responsible for both Neptune and Venus. We discussed data issues with him, one of the biggest issues he faces is the AMOUNT of data. Mark your calenders for Oct 26-29 2009 - Biloxi, MS - to show case the IOOS accomplishments and information products. Last but not least - Donna Kocak, Harris Corps, lead a lively discussion on setting up and Ocean Observing System Committee. There was great interest across the industry and ocean observing programs. As we know no committee survives without participation - so I urge all to participate both with Jay -through is IEEE GEOSS technical committee and Donna through the MTS committee on Ocean Observing Systems.
  - **NOAA Storm Surge Transition Team:** Marcia, NOAA IOOS, continues to participate with the NOAA Storm Surge Transition Team. Final edits for the compiled requirements document are in process, from Mark Erickson, John Kuhn (OST) and Marcia Weaks. CSC is preparing a NOPP BAA with USGS focusing on coastal inundation. For NOAA, Dave Eslinger (NOAA CSC), is the lead. Dave is also working with the RA Coastal Inundation projects to organize a possible session in conjunction with the Regional Coordination Workshop in December 2008.
  - Rich Signell (USGS) visited with the NOAA IOOS Program to discuss possible approaches for implementing standards for model products/information as presented at the July MAST meeting (and incorporated into nine priority findings/recommendations). Rich has been working with our team to better connect with OOI and we had the chance to discuss with OOI/CI's Matthew Arrot about DIF/OOI-CI/Scripps collaboration.
  - NowCOAST: CSDL's staff, led by Mary Erickson and John Kelley, briefed the NOAA IOOS Program and invited partners on NowCOAST, a geospatial, web-based tool that integrates data from across disciplines from Federal, State and Regional Partners and provides a visual display of that data in a timely manner in support of coastal managers, emergency responders and the maritime community.

Congressional:

- Jack Dunnigan and Bill Birkemeier (USACE, Interim Director of Ocean.US), along with April Black, briefed staff from the House Natural Resources and Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committees on the status of Ocean.US and next steps. Committee staff appreciated the briefing and asked to be kept in the loop as the transition progresses.

Communications:

- Check out the TV news story out of Baltimore CBS affiliate about the new NOAA smart buoy deployed Saturday at the mouth of the Susquehanna River .  
[Http://wjz.com/local/smart.buoy.2.816919.html](http://wjz.com/local/smart.buoy.2.816919.html)

Upcoming Meetings:

- 22-24 Sep: Becky Shuford will represent IOOS Program at the Census of Marine Life US National Committee Meeting and OBIS USA Advisory Committee meeting
- 16-20 Sep: Jack Harlan will represent US IOOS at the WMO-JCOMM-WIGOS Meeting to provide provide HFR data standard guidance to international community, Geneva. He will be joined by Ken Casey of NODC.
- 21-26 Sep: Jeff DLP will attend the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Meeting, Boulder as the DIF has been submitted as a contribution to the GEO Architecture Implementation Pilot.
- 19-22 October, Zdenka and Jeff DLB will participate in Oceans Innovation 2008 World Summit - St Johns, Newfoundland, CA.
- 22-23 October: MACOORA Annual Meeting, UMass-Darthmouth - Zdenka will participate from NOAA IOOS Program.

Cheers,  
Zdenka