

Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM 21 Aug 2008

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

Programmatics:

- Congressional Report: Continues through the formal NOAA administrative system.
- FY09: **No Change**
- FY10: **No Change.**
- FY11-15: This time of year the NOAA Line Office, Regional Collaboration Teams, and NOAA councils have a chance to weigh in on an integrated priorities lists. We will coordinate across NOAA to gain visibility for IOOS alternatives.

Initial Operating Capability - DMAC subsystem of IOOS®

- IOOS DMAC Standards Process: Anne Ball, DMAC steering team, gave an outstanding briefing to the IWGOO and garnered continued support from the interagency partners. Not only for the US DMAC standards process but for all the contributions from the partner agencies - both NSF, through MMI and NASA through GCMD and a number of other data management activities are the reasons we will prevail in serving up ocean data in a consistent and usable format.
- What the DIF?: The FIRST milestone has been reached - INTEGRATED variables as the product: What does this mean, Simply - for the first time ocean information (variables) in a consistent format across MAJOR data providers in NOAA. My sincere appreciation to the DIF IPT, NOAA (CO-OPS) and NOAA (NDBC). CO-OPS is now serving ocean currents – profiles and real time bin, salinity, conductivity, preliminary water level, water temperature, air temperature, barometric pressure and winds all in the DIF 0.6.1 schema and available at the CO-OPS web site: <http://opendap.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/ioos-dif-sos/>. NDBC is now serving ocean currents, salinity, water level, water temperature, waves and winds all in the 0.6.1 schema available on their SOS web site: <http://sdf.ndbc.noaa.gov/sos/>. This did not happen without a tremendous effort by a cross agency IPT, a very dedicated IOOS team in the NOAA IOOS office, and partnership with our Regional Associations. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.
  - We are also very excited that we are also gaining endorsement from other interagency partners and very gladly are opening up the IPT to our interagency partners.

- We are equally excited about the participation from the Regional Associations as they are also providing feedback and working with us to implement the DIF

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.

- IOOS and MPAs: Brian Melzian (EPA, IWGOO Rep) and I participated in the MPA FACA Scientific and Technical Subcommittee meeting on 19-20 Aug. I had the chance to talk about both IOOS and OOI activities; Heather Kerkering represented the regional associations in stellar fashion. The dialog was great on understanding how the MPA "system" will be linked with IOOS/OOI activities. MPA system has roots in an Executive Order 131580 signed by President Clinton in May 2000 and endorsed by President Bush. The DOC/NOAA and DOI are co-leads in this effort. The purpose is to implement scientifically based, comprehensive MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystem, and the Nation's natural and cultural resources. For me it was a treat to be with yet another group of outstanding professionals all concerned about the issues we face along our coasts, oceans and Great Lakes. The dialog was productive and I know that we the ocean observing community (IOOS/OOI) will be able to support the MPA structure of the United States through our efforts in observations and data management and through our governance structure that includes both Federal Agencies and our Regional Associations. It was great to team up with Brian and Heather to ensure that all aspects of IOOS were covered.
- Army Corps of Engineers collaboration on a National Waves Plan: **No change**
- NOAA-Navy collaboration on the GODAE server: MOU is being worked between NOAA and Navy and is on track. **No Change**
- **EPA supports NERACOOS:** I am very pleased to report that EPA, through its US GEO activities, will be providing funding for an Environmental Sample Processors (ESPs) sensor and 5 nutrient sensors in NERACOOS to support Harmful Algal Bloom forecasting. A coordinated effort by NERACOOS to provide the proposal, and endorsement by NOAA (NCCOS and IOOS) and strong endorsement by Brian Melzian, EPA IWGOO member, helped in EPA to make this decision to provide the funding. Brian has outlined how we all need to move forward to execute this effort and I thank him for taking the lead. I also credit the US GEO process that brings the interagency partners together for this success.

Other:

- **Rutgers University - Across the Pond - Nearing Halfway -** <http://rucool.marine.rutgers.edu/atlantic/> Scarlet Knight is HALF WAY across. On Wednesday, August 20, RU17 crossed 42 degrees West longitude - the half way point. Thursday, August 21, was exactly 3 months after RU17 was deployed on the New Jersey shelf on May 21 and during that time RU17 has flown 4470 km.
- **SECOORA works with NWS to launch the Southeast Marine Weather:** <Http://forecast.weather.gov/mwp/>. This grew out of an experimental Carolinas Coast Marine Weather Portal that was developed by forecasters, web designers, data managers, and outreach personnel working with CORMP, Caro-COOPS, and NWS WFOs in Wilmington, NC and Charleston, SC. The Carolinas Coast site has been well received by the marine community and the NWS; therefore, the team that created the Carolinas Coast has partnered with the NWS – Southern Region Headquarters and WFOs to expand the Carolinas Coast marine portal into Florida, thereby creating a standardized Southeast Marine Weather Portal that covers the entire Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) domain. The Southeast Marine Weather Portal will provide 24/7 access to critical marine information for the commercial and recreational marine communities within the SECOORA region; and, will support the transfer of the developed information technology product to NOAA NWS Weather Forecast Offices with marine forecasting responsibilities. To achieve the project goals the following objectives will be met: 1) expand the Carolinas Coast template into Florida; 2) provide data management capabilities to ensure 24/7 marine weather portal accessibility; 3) develop appropriate documentation and provide workshops to ensure the transfer of the marine weather portal over to the NWS; and, 4) provide outreach within the SECOORA region to inform the NWS-WFO constituents and other identified marine organizations and individuals about the improved NWS marine weather information portal. This effort shows a great cooperation across all of the SECOORA partners - BRAVO ZULU.
- **IOOS Glider:** RU-22 part of MARCOOS continues on its mission. You can follow along via the blog.
- **12-13 Aug: NERACOOS meeting and site visit to WHOI:** I was joined both days by Betsy Nicholson, NOAA CSC, who provides coordination across NOAA activities in the New England area and no stranger to IOOS. I had the opportunity to participate in the first NERACOOS meeting. The NERACOOS board elect met with the NERACOOS executive committee that has done a great deal of work to set up the NERACOOS board. The NERACOOS board is comprised of 21 members, 7 from the academia; 7 appointed by the NROC that represent the State's interests and 7 that represent users and industry which are being appointed by SeaGrant. The morning was devoted general IOOS briefings. Evan Richert (GOMOOS) – NERACOOS executive committee, give a very nice high level IOOS briefing. I followed with a more detailed program outline, Josie Quintrell provided a NFRA briefing, and the final briefing was provided by John Trowbridge and Jim O'Donnell on NERACOOS/RCOOS activities. During the afternoon, the board elects members wrestled with setting up the NERACOOS RA. I want to recognize Jennifer Levin who did an outstanding job of

coordinating this first meeting and providing an outstanding set of read ahead material so that the meeting was very productive. On 13 August, I was again shown tremendous hospitality at WHOI. We started out on underway on the WHOI ship Tioga Dive operations were performed to fix and underwater cable and a visit to the air/sea interaction tower. I had a chance to speak with Janet Fredericks on her funded project which is aimed at continuing the QA/QC efforts that were begun in the 05/06 timeframe. From there I met with Hauke Kite-Powell to discuss his efforts on continuing to understand the return on investment of IOOS. We discussed the recent business case that NOAA IOOS was asked to complete and have agreed to follow on meetings to ensure that both activities remain in sync. We then met with Don Anderson, who briefed us on the use of the Alexandrium Population Dynamic Model, coupled with ROMS to predict HAB outbreak in the New England region. We discussed the criticality of observed data to the ability to predict HAB events. We talked about the funding difficulty in funding for the ESP sensor. See blurb under interagency for a recent success in this area. We then met with Bob Beardsley who briefed us on NECOFS, FVCOM, the importance of unstructured grids for modeling efforts and their work with NWS Taunton on coastal inundation efforts. As you can appreciate I was exhilarated by the end of the day keeping up with all the wonderful work that is being done under the IOOS® program. I was also hosted by the President of WHOI, Susan Avery and we had a chance to talk about ocean observing and keeping this activity relevant through the change of administration, and ocean observing support to climate change. Thank you to John Trowbridge for all the logistical efforts to set up a great visit.

- IOOS, Caribbean Regional Association for Coastal Ocean Observing ocean (CaRA), the Coast States Organization (CSO) and NOAA (OCRM) working together on a workshop on **Ocean Observing in Support of Coastal Zone Management**. This workshop will determine how ocean observing can assist coastal managers to address the issues of coastal inundation and erosion from extreme storms and sea level rise in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The workshop will be held on **Tuesday, September 30 and Wednesday, October 1 2008 in San Juan PR**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday and concluding by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

Congressional: **No Update**

Communications:

- 19 Aug: NOAA Press Release: NOAA Announces New Southeast Marine Weather Web Site
- 18 Aug: Honolulu Star-Bulletin: Vol 13, Issue 231 -Seaglidiers swim for data - includes a quote from Brian Taylor - PacIOOS
- 21 Aug:Federal Computer News, Doug Beizer, NOAA launches maritime weather Web site

Upcoming Meetings:

Cheers,  
Zdenka