

Z-GRAM 21 December 2007

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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.

Organize for outcomes:

- Program Office Stand up: **No change**
- FY08: **Under CR though 31 December.**
 - The House cleared the omnibus spending bill after voting 272-142 to concur with Senate language that provides a total of \$70 billion in unrestricted funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The omnibus that includes the 11 remaining spending bills, totaling \$473.5 billion for FY2008 has gone to the President for signature. Many of you have seen the numbers for IOOS and ACT but these are not our final budget numbers. The bill passes back through OMB, DOC, NOAA, NOS to the IOOS Program and this will take atleast 1 month before we know our final allocation. While I know that there has been much speculation on how the money will be spent I have not put out any official figures. Please refer back to the letter we signed out indicated our priorities. I spoke with the NFRA Executive Board on 20 December and promised them I would keep them informed as we proceed.
 - Senate Reports: Continue working on this report. The omnibus contains language that reporting requirements remain.
 - Competitive Process: **No change.**
- FY09: **No Change.**
- FY10-14: No Change.

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: Preliminary results - final tally after the new year. We were able to have quorum by phone to advance **FOR THE FIRST TIME**, DMAC standards. Unofficial results: 4 standards passed from submitted to proposed; 3 will go back to submitters for additional work and 1 was tabled. Official results at the New Year.
 - On a related note, Ann Ball (DMAC ST chair); Julie Bosch (NOAA/NCDDC) and Kurt Schnebele (LMI) met with Daniel Jacobs, NASA Earth Science Data Systems to look at collaboration between the DMAC and NASA standards process.
- What the DIF?: -
 - IEAs (Integrated Ecosystem Assessments) – Tues 12/11 - DIF team participated in a series of virtual briefings on the progress of the NOAA

IOOS Program-funded IEA development project being developed by a cross-NOAA led by the National Marine Fisheries Service and including the National Marine Sanctuary Program, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle and the National Coastal Data Development Center in Mississippi. NMFS partners at Oregon State University also participated. Kristin Koch from NOAA's Ecosystem Goal Team also joined in.

The IEA team participating included Jonathan Phinney, Frank Schwing, and Roy Mendelssohn from the SW Fisheries Science Center, Liz Clarke and Bob Gref from the NF Fisheries Science Center; Bob Pavia and Chad King from Sanctuaries, Steve Hankin from PMEL, Sharon Mesick from NCDDC, and Chris Goldfinger and Chris Romsos from OSU. The briefings, conducted virtually via the internet, included presentations on a web-based system for discovery, access, transport and analysis of NOAA IOOS 5-core variables (Mendelssohn, Hankin, Mesick), development of a West Coast Obs Data Portal (Mesick, King, Pavia), and development of a habitat data portal (Clarke, Gref, Goldfinger, Romsos). The briefings demonstrated significant technical progress towards establishing the foundation for a prototype IEA based on the California Current.

- NWS Telecommunications Gateway – Fri 12/14 - The DIF team met with the NWS's Walter Smith, a member of the DIF Integrated Products Team and a senior manager at what many simply call the "GTS" but which is more officially known as the NWS's Telecommunications Gateway. The Gateway operates and ensures continuous acquisition and dissemination of NWS and other domestic and foreign hydrometeorological data and products (www.nws.noaa.gov/tg/). The purpose of this meeting was to develop a better understanding of how the Gateway works including accessing/using data from the Gateway. The Gateway was a significant topic of discussion as a potential source of data for DIF "customers" during our 12/10-11 DIF planning meeting.
- Coastal Coastal Inundation – Tues 12/18 - The DIF team met with Steve Baig, a senior scientist and modeler at NWS's Tropical Prediction Center in Miami and a member of the DIF Integrated Products Team. The purpose was to review data priorities – particularly water level data - for DIF support to coastal inundation decision support tools. We agreed to a series of follow-up discussions in January to lead towards a work plan for next steps.
- NOAA/NOS Coast and Oceanographic Assessment, Status & Trends (COAST) – Wed 12/18 - The DIF team met with John Christensen, Rick Stumpf and Gunnar Lauenstein of NOS National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science COAST Team to provide this team with a briefing on the NOAA IOOS Program and the DIF project, to learn more about COAST activities, and identify candidate areas of potential collaboration (note – the DIF team is currently working with Rick Stumpf and others in NOS on HABs). The COAST team's portfolio includes managing/conducting NOAA's Mussel Watch National Status and Trends Program – one of

nation's longest running contaminants monitoring programs, in operation since 1984 with over 250 stations across the US coastal regions. A candidate area of collaboration is IEAs. For example, the COAST team is currently working closely with others in NCCOS (Mark Monaco – Biogeography Team) on data synthesis/analysis of various West Coast data to support regional biogeographic analysis. These activities may lead to a more direct partnership with NOAA Fisheries in support of IEAs. We agreed to follow-up with additional discussions and perhaps a set of more formal shared briefings in January.

- HAB - HABs – Thurs 12/20 - The DIF team met with Rebecca Love (NOAA/NOS Coastal Services Center), Katie Fisher (NOAA/NOS CO-OPS), and Shelly Tomlinson (NOAA/NOS NCCOS) – all members of the DIF Integrated Products Team – to review data priorities, particularly for ocean currents and ocean color, for DIF support to HABs decision support tools. Follow-up discussions in January will lead to development of a work plan for HABs.
- IPT Conference Call – Thurs 12/20 - DIF Team conducted its third monthly Integrated Products Team conference call on Thurs 12/20. Over 20 scientists and managers from across NOAA participated. Agenda items included review of the current draft Concept of Operations Plan, initiating the “design” phase of the DIF project, and planning for a series of customer implementations for HABs, Integrated Ecosystem Assessments, and Coastal Inundation. The next conference call is scheduled for Thursday January 17th.

IWGGO: Next meeting 30 January - **No change**

- Dr. Spinrad has stepped down as chair of the IWGGO and Mr. John H. Dunnigan has assumed the chair of the IWGGO. I have been asked to be the NOAA rep for the IWGGO and Mike Johnson will remain as the NOAA alternate. We had a principals only meeting on 10 December.
- The IWGGO Strategic Plan is still under review by ICOSRMI.
- OOI-IOOS white paper - NOAA has approved the handling of the comments provide back from the ICOSRMI review. All agencies of the IWGGO are similarly reporting their concurrence.

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.
 - **** Correction **** 7 December: Last Z-gram reported that CREIOS had not been successful getting sensors in U.S.V.I or Puerto Rico. I received the following correction from several folks - NOAA has been operating at Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve in St. Croix since 2001. Besides all the meteorology readings, the Corals program also measures sea temperature, salinity, tide level and the underwater light field at two depths, and have even published a paper on coral bleaching there using those data. Those data have also been used in a general paper on coral reef data published by NOS's Biogeography program for St. Croix, and the data are used frequently by the National Weather Service.
 - 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.

Other:

- 18-19 December: Zdenka Willis and Timi Vann traveled to Stennis Space Center and met with NDBC, NCDDC, EPA. Zdenka attended the Navy Change of Command and I was honored to give a short speech at the National Data Buoy Center's 40th Birthday celebration and ribbon cutting for their new buoy production facility.
 - NDBC meeting focused on programmatics as NDBC is part of our PPBES program
 - Shell Oil - meet on technical and collaborative efforts with NDBC that are ongoing in the Gulf of Mexico
 - NCDDC, we were updated on a number of projects in work to include the EDAC work with the Northern Gulf of Mexico, work with GCOOS on their adoption of the West Coast Obs schema and CSIDE efforts as a starting point, and efforts in support of PACOOS.
 - EPA - Many thanks to Bryon Griffith, EPA Director; Gloria Car Deputy Director for their time. We talked about how IOOS enables efforts in the Gulf. We talked about the two RA FFO projects and the RA interaction

within the GOMEX alliance. They emphasized the execution of IOOS and in our discussion of the upcoming Senate report, endorsed the declarative statements on HAB and CI and then work back from the known problem to identify what elements are needed.

- NDBC 40th Birthday and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: I shared the stage with Dr. Bob Cabana, Director Stennis Space Center; Frank Culbertson, Senior Vice President of SAIC, John McNulty – NWS. The National Data Buoy Development Program (today's NDBC) was created by the United States Coast Guard on December 19, 1967. When NOAA was formed in 1970 the NOAA Data Buoy Office was created within the National Ocean Service and located in Mississippi. In 1982, NDBO was renamed NDBC and placed under NOAA's National Weather Service. NDBC operates and maintains NOAA's real-time ocean observing systems: 161 coastal weather buoys and automated stations; 55 equatorial Pacific climate buoys; and a worldwide network of 38 tsunami detection systems. Additionally, NDBC is being recognized as a leader in quality control and processing of real time atmospheric and oceanographic observations; over 7,000,000 per year from many different NOAA and non-NOAA sources. WELL DONE.
- 20 December: Zdenka, Timi and Gabrielle met with Kristen Fletcher and Kate Zultner of Coastal States Organization. Joining us was Joelle Gore, NOAA/NOS/OCRM - our lead with CSO and Josie Quintrell, NFRA on the renewal of a cooperative agreement with NOAA that can include additional workshops like the very successful MACORA and California workshops of 2006 and 2007. We were flattered that Kristen visited with us in her first 11 days and appreciate Joelle setting this up.
- 20 December: Zdenka, Gabrielle and Tom Crowley (LMI) had a telecon with the NFRA Executive board to discuss my desires to conduct Program Assessments at the Regional level and the ongoing work by LMI on regional funding/business models. THANK YOU to each of you for sending in your Conceptual Designs by 20 December - I think my Christmas reading will be "How to design a RCOOS" - seriously, I appreciate the effort you have put toward these.
- 20 December: On the last day of the National Federal Regional Association meeting (Oct 07), NOAA was asked about our observation and modeling capabilities. We were asked specifically about existing assets and planned enhancements. Attached are two summary reports that present an overview of NOAA's major marine-based operational observations systems and marine-based operational models. The purpose for compiling this information is to provide you with an improved understanding of the basic characterizations of specific observation programs and models and, where available, information on proposed or planned enhancements/expansion. We have also included web links and points of contact for additional information. This list of observation systems are a subset of the 104 observation systems from NOAA's observation requirements database known as CasaNOSA. I included the systems I felt most relevant to our IOOS discussion. The focus on the modeling summary are those models, that we (NOAA) consider as the baseline operational models.

Congressional: Nothing to Report
Communications: Nothing to Report

Upcoming Meetings:

- 17 January (still working agenda/invites): NOAA and CA will review HF radar use to support oil spill response
- 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."

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas.

Zdenka

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