

Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM - 25 June 2010

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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. To see previous Z-Grams go the IOOS website and view under 'program updates.

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

Programmatics:

- Personnel Updates:
 - CAPT Jamie Verlaque is retiring from the NOAA Corps and he will begin "transition leave" on 1 July. I promised Jamie I would keep this simple, so let me just say publicly, thank you from a grateful nation for your outstanding service. Thank you from the IOOS community for your superb efforts as we have strategically grown our Regional and External Affairs Division (READ). Personally I thank you for your dedication, insights, frank discussions, and friendship. The best to you, Robin, and your family as you embark on this new chapter of your lives.
 - Other READ Division changes: Dave Easter will take over as Acting Division Chief of READ on 1 July. Within NOAA, we encourage our folks to take rotations so they have a chance to expand beyond a single program, Gabrielle will begin a 4-month detail with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service - Office of Habitat in mid-July but will be back just as the IOOS proposals are turned in. Deanna Eastman has also let us know that she will not be returning after maternity leave but will pursue other options. We thank Deanna for her efforts, first through Ocean.US and then with the IOOS office, and we wish her and her new growing family (twins in April) all the best.
- FY10 RCOOS Awards: MARCOOS, GCOOS (actually a while ago) and PacIOOS awards have been accepted by the recipients. Congrats. The Remainder are going through Legislative Affairs approval and should be available soon. Those that use the NOAA Cooperative Institute as their award mechanisms still need to be processed by OAR.

Initial Operating Capability - Data Management and Communications (DMAC) Subsystem of IOOS® http://ioos.gov/library/dmac_implementation_2010.pdf

- **Customer Projects:** **Contact Charly Alexander** at Charles.Alexander@noaa.gov if you want to be part of the action.
 - Biological Observations Project: The workshop to conclude phase I of the biological project and kick-off phase II will be held in Honolulu, HI, September

20-22, 2010 at the NOAA Papaha-naumokua-kea Marine National Monument. An agenda has been drafted and will be distributed to the project team.

- USACE – IOOS Water Level Project: The statement of work for the water level project was revised by Jeff and funds are ready to be transferred to NDBC. These funds (\$65K) will support a pilot project for establishing data representation standards and web services to expose USACE water level data in the Mobile District.
- Climate Project with NCCOS/National Marine Sanctuaries: An SOW/Project Plan was finalized for phase I of the project. In phase I, \$35K will be transferred to NCCOS to support planning for data access of a long-term water quality monitoring data set held at Florida International University (FIU).
- Marine Metadata Interoperability: \$10K has been committed to MMI's John Graybeal to provide labor support for continued efforts on the interoperability of marine metadata vocabularies. This important activity intersects several important aspects of DMAC development, including the successful implementation of the IOOS Data Catalog. The funds will be transferred as a supplemental addition to the existing CenCOOS grant to MBARI. For more information about MMI: <http://marinemetadata.org>
- **Technical Updates:**
 - **NDBC**: The new IOOS NDBC SOS server code has been implemented and includes options for new data formats such as comma-separated value (.csv) and tab-separated value (.tsv). The new file format and code enhancements and information on all changes can be found on www.ioos.gov under the Special Note Section and on the NDBC production server located at: <http://sdf.ndbc.noaa.gov/sos/>.
- **IOOS Data Catalog and Viewer**: On schedule for a 30 June release of V1.
- **IOOS Regional DMAC Team Efforts:**
 - OGC Specification Testing: Paul Daisey (Image Matters) and Alex Birger are making modifications and enhancements (if time allows) to the OGC specification test engine. The Regional Association (RA) DMAC SOS testing revealed concerns with the "rigidness" required by OGC, but unnecessary for the RA SOS testing needs. The test engine modifications will allow for a less demanding test. The first round of tests will focus on the NDBC SOS servers and then, secondly, on the RA servers.
 - Regional Water Quality Project: Rob coordinated with Ru Morrison and Dwayne Porter to discuss a Water Quality Project and proposed to facilitate a conference call with members of the water quality working group. A conference is planned for the week of July 5 or 12 (exact day/time TBD). The objective of the call will be to review the project concepts that have been generated and decide on the

project to develop the implementation approach. Invited members will be from USGS, NOAA, and the IOOS Regional Associations.

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 they all have project leads.

- **IWGOO to IOOC Transition:** The JSOST has signed the charter for the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee as outlined in the ICOOS Act. The IWGOO met for the final time on 24 June. Member agencies of the JSOST have nominated members and alternates for the IOOC and we are in the process of selecting co-chairs for the committee. The IWGOO staff, soon to be the IOOC staff, is handling this transition. The plan is for the co-chairs to be elected in early July and meet during July to kick off the IOOC in August. This is GREAT step forward.
- **High Frequency Radar/Radio (HFR):**
 - Jack met with and briefed a delegation from the Korean Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration (KHOA) on the IOOS HF Radar network at a meeting in the San Francisco Bay Area.
 - HF Radar Technical Steering Team: KICK-OFF meeting will be held 28 July at the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL) in Washington, D.C.
- **IOOS and Links to the National Water Quality Monitoring Network:** No update.
- **IOOS and National Science Foundation (NSF) - Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI):** No update.
- **DMAC Steering Team:** No update.

Other:

- **Response to Deepwater Horizon:** Under the subsurface observing team, a Joint Analysis Group was formed to analyze the data collected. The first report was released this week:
http://www.noaa.gov/sciencemissions/PDFs/JAG_Report_1_BrooksMcCall_Final_June20.pdf. Keep up with the action by visiting <http://rucool.marine.rutgers.edu/deepwater> for IOOS support. Participate in the planning process by logging into the following wiki site: <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/confluence/display/OOP/Home>. If you are in NOAA, use your NOAA LDAP credentials to access the site. Partners please use: Username: oilspill.response; P-word: WikiWelcome!
- **Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc. (OGC) Technical Meeting and NOAA – OGC "Interoperability Day" (June 14 – 18, Silver Spring, MD):** Jeff and Alex attended numerous sessions of the OGC meeting. The last day of the meeting was held for NOAA-OGC "Interoperability Day." In this part of the meeting, Jeff presented a live demonstration of the IOOS Data Catalog. The demonstration went very well. The OGC is

an international standards body with over 350 industry members, government agencies, and universities participating in the development of open source standards.

- **President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) – Biodiversity Preservation and Ecosystem Sustainability Working Group (June 25, AAAS, Washington, D.C.):** Charly represented IOOS as an invited panelist and presenter to the Working Group. The other panelists (Ecological Observatories) were Dave Stimel (NCAR, Boulder, CO and NEON CEO) on NEON (National Ecological Observatory Network) and NASA's Woody Turner on GEO BON (Group on Earth Observations – Biological Observing Network). Panelists made short (10-minute) presentations and then fielded questions from the working group for about an hour. The IOOS brief provided a quick overview of IOOS and examples of biological observing activities and support and was well received and a nice complement to NEON (research focus) and GEO BON (a global program just getting started).
- **Super-Regional Testbed to Improve Models in Environmental Processes on the US Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Coasts:** A \$4 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) lead is helping to evaluate the readiness of marine forecasts, such as flooding from storm surge or seasonal dead zones. Focused along the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts, the effort will improve those forecasts for use by emergency managers, scientific researchers, and the general public. IOOS announced the award on June 11 for fiscal year 2010. SURA is working with government agencies and researchers to advance information technology and improve understanding of coastal, ocean, and environmental phenomena. Scientists will work to improve the precision of computer models that forecast chronic issues of high relevance in the Atlantic and Gulf regions – such as flooding from storm surge and seasonal depletion of oxygen in shallow waters. They will also explore methods for effectively delivering model results to regional centers, scientists, and managers relying on IOOS. The project is intended to identify the most useful models, as well as methods to translate the resulting information to the public. Super-Regional Modeling Testbed concept follows recommendations from the IOOS Modeling and Analysis Steering Team (MAST) calling for improving the cyberinfrastructure to support development of community models and transition new models to operations. The testbed must support all aspects of the end-to-end modeling process including: (1) data ingestion; (2) model coupling; (3) data assimilation; (4) performance metrics; (5) skill assessment metrics; and (6) toolkits for data communication and analysis. The stage will be set for a long-term super-regional testbed approach by conducting prototype demonstrations, developing multi-sector protocols for collaboration (e.g., skill assessment teams, system performance metrics), and producing a long-term testbed design. The short-term vision includes assessing skill of models in transition to operations with comparison to observed data and predecessor models. We held the kick-off meeting on 23 and 24 June with nearly 80 participants. Jerry Draayer, SURA President; Carolyn Thoroughgood, Chair, SURA Coastal and Environmental

Research Committee, Don Wright, SURA Principle Investigator, and I kicked off the project and each of us discussed how this project exemplified IOOS with the Federal, Academic, and Industry Partnerships and challenged this extremely bright and talented group to make a difference in coastal modeling for the nation. I was gratified to see participation from our Federal Partners: NOAA (NOS and NWS), United States Navy, USGS, USACE and EPA. We had an extremely impressive list of academic partners that spanned the entire United States. We had several industries represented as well as Canadian institutions. For more information please contact Doug Levin, IOOS Modeling Testbed Program Manager: doug.levin@noaa.gov

- **Coastal America - Senator John H. Chafee Coastal Stewardship Award and Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership 10th Anniversary Celebration:** I was privileged to be invited to attend this wonderful event. The recipient for this award this year was Senator John Kerry (D-MA). The evening was highlighted by talks by CIA Director Panetta, an award recipient himself, and Senator Whitehouse, who talked about the importance of our oceans and coasts and the tireless effort that Senator Kerry has put forth on environmental issues. Senator Kerry reinforced the continued need for all environmental protections for our atmosphere, oceans, coasts and Great Lakes. Dr. Robinson, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, Department of Commerce - NOAA actually presented the award to Senator Kerry. I was able to meet and chat with Ted Diers, Manager of the Coastal Program for New Hampshire and Northeast Regional Ocean Council Chair, and we discussed the importance of the MOU between NROC and NERACOOS. I also chatted with Ian Dutton, Alaska Sea Life Center and Andy Rossiter of the Waikiki Aquarium, on the partnership and efforts to work together between AOOS and PaCIOOS and the Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center.
- **Ocean Acidification:** Charly and Carl G. held a conference call with PMEL's Steve Hankin to discuss strategy per possible IOOS assistance with data management for this NOAA initiative. Carl will be attending a related meeting in California the week of July 5th in California that will also include senior NOAA scientists who are developing the OA project and discussions may include options for data management. In a related activity, the National Research Council has just released its own report on ocean acidification, which includes suggestions on data management (www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12904).
- **Meeting with Compusult (6/22):** Charly met with Compusult's Paul Mitten to hear more about his company's efforts in data interoperability and access tools. Compusult is a Canadian company that has developed a number of impressive tools in association with US and Canadian defense contracts. They also have some R&D funds that could potentially be dedicated to some IOOS priorities. They agreed to follow up with some additional discussions in August.
- **Pacific Ocean Tracking (POST), NANOOS and Gliders!** POST worked with NANOOS on a trial deployment of a mini acoustic receiver on an ocean glider. Results from the outing with [NANOOS](#) and UW's [Seaglider Fabrication Center](#) were successful.

Next step: the mini receiver will head out in mid-July on a longer test mission, crisscrossing the continental shelf off the Olympic Peninsula, WA.

Congressional:

- 06/16 – Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) hosted an event entitled "Rhode Island Energy and Environment Leaders," aimed at demonstrating how the federal government is working collaboratively to benefit Rhode Island. Suzanne Skelley, along with David Farmer (Dean of URI Graduate School of Oceanography [GSO]), Jennifer Specker (Professor of Oceanography, URI GSO), Henry Bount (NSF/EPSCoR office), and Joseph McKeon (Fish & Wildlife Service, Central New England Fisheries program) were on a panel to address the Federal to Regional partnership. The discussion for IOOS centered around IOOS' role in offshore energy and making data public. Suzanne replied that we rely upon our regional partners to participate in regional-based projects. We monitor policies within NOAA. Noted Malcolm Spaulding's involvement with offshore wind projects in New England. Noted proprietary issues with data above 30m on wind towers and noted that IOOS was committed to ensuring that data was accessible and available within constraints of public/private (proprietary) boundary. Senator Whitehouse intends to conduct forums periodically throughout the year.
- Subcommittee On Insular Affairs, Oceans And Wildlife Oversight Hearing On "[Ocean Science And Data Limits In A Time Of Crisis: Do NOAA And The Fish And Wildlife Service \(FWS\) Have The Resources To Respond?](#)" (Bob Weisberg- SECOORA, testified).

Communications and Outreach:

- PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, Dominion Smart Buoy to Aid Chesapeake Bay Research, Recreation - 22 June
- HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER, Grant will help watch Pacific ocean, Associated Press - 22 June
- Sea Technology, May 2010 - "Clearsignal Coasting Controls Biofouling on the Rutgers Glider Crossing;" Hank Lobe (Severn Marine Technologies), Chip Halderman and Dr. Scott Glenn (Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences)
- Naples News, Eric Staats - Gulf Coast Radar System Limitations thwarted tracking of BP Oil Spill - 12 June -<http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2010/jun/12/gulf-coast-radar-system-limitations-thwarted-track/>
- NOAA Announces Funding to Support Ocean and Coastal Observation Technologies - 11 June - NOAA press Release - http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100611_ioos.html
- SURA: [SURA Awarded NOAA Grant to Advance Ocean, Coastal Observation - http://www.sura.org/news/2010/NoaaSURA061410.pdf](#)

- The Republic, by James M. O'Neill The Record (Hackensack N.J.); Posted: June 22, 2010 at 9:03 am, Updated: June 22, 2010 at 9:03 am - Rutgers' mini subs monitor oil spill -http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/OILSPILL-MINISUBS_2645606/OILSPILL-MINISUBS_2645606/
- Journal Of Operational Oceanography, February 2010, "Another dawn in the new Age of Oceanography," Scott Glenn, Oscar Schofield and Josh Kohut, Rutgers University

IOOS Conference Involvement: This section will highlight those conferences where IOOS is a sponsor or has a session:

- IOOS session accepted at ASLO: The special session has been accepted to the 2011 ASLO Meeting in Puerto Rico, February 13-19, 2011. Session Information and the Call for Abstracts will soon be posted on the meeting website: <http://www.aslo.org/meetings/sanjuan2011/>. Session: S75: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: Current Needs and Future Challenges; Conveners: Nasseer Idrisi, University of the Virgin Islands, nidrissi@uvi.edu; Simon Pittman, NOAA Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment, simon.pittman@noaa.gov and Zdenka Willis, NOAA IOOS Program, zdenka.s.willis@noaa.gov

Upcoming Meetings: We have merged our calendars and now there is single calendar that allows you to view the IOOS-related meetings. To see this calendar, please visit <http://www.usnfra.org/calendar.html> or <http://ioos.gov/calendar/>

- NOAA/AOML-SEFSC Initial Workshop - Gulf of Mexico Monitoring in Support of Oil Spill Efforts: 1-2 July: IOOS, SECOORA and GCOOS to participate
- PacIOOS Trip 13-23 July: Zdenka
- IEEE Geoscience and Remotes Sensing Society (IGARSS) 2010: Jeff; July 26-30; Honolulu, HI
- Bay and Estuarine Sensor Technologies (BEST) Workshop: Doug Levin, Rob Ragsdale; July 27 – 30; Oxford, MD
- IOOS MPA Task Team Workshop: Charly; week of August 30 (tentative); Monterey, CA

Happy 4th of July - where has the summer?!

Cheers,
Zdenka