

Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM 31 May 2008

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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. If you want to see previous Z-grams go the IOOS website under program updates

Programmatic:

- FY08: **No change**
- Congressional Report: **No change**
- FY09: The fiscal 2009 budget resolution (S Con Res 70, which will set a discretionary spending cap for FY09 appropriations bills is still pending. The House will not likely send many fiscal 2009 spending bills to President Bush. They will wait instead to work with the new president next year. However, both the House and Senate Appropriations panels will attempt to move all their bills through committee in order to highlight their spending priorities. It is not clear what the time frame is for moving these bills in committee but will probably not begin until mid-June.
- FY10: **No change**
- FY11-15: We are in the planning phase of PPBES. Draft Program Operating Plans are circulating across NOAA. NOAA IOOS Program will draft its own POP and will also coordinate with other POPs that are being generated across the other NOAA programs.

Initial Operating Capability - Data Integration Framework (DIF)

- IOOS DMAC Standards Process: **WE NEED YOU**. Please log into the following website: <http://ioosdmac.fedworx.org/ioos/dmac.nsf/WhatsNew?OpenForm> and participate in the US DMAC standards process.
- What the DIF?: **No update**

IWGGO:

- I was not able to attend this meeting due to my participation in the US/EU Baltic 2008 - see below. The topics of MAST, report on the DMAC steering team, and IWGGO response to the NFRA questions were on the agenda for discussion - more in the next Z-gram update.

Collaboration:(projects will stay on the email through to completion)

- Bathymetric collection California and Interagency Partners: This has now transitioned to the Office of Coast Survey. In the future I will provide updates on a periodic basis.
- Army Corps of Engineers collaboration on a National Waves Plan: **No change.** NOAA IOOS is in the process of receiving comments from HSRP; NOAA's Ocean and Observing Council. The comments we have seen so far are very helpful but will require that we take some time to address them before we will be able to publish this plan.
- NOAA-Navy collaboration on the GODAE server: **No change**
- Waves in PORTS®: New USACE/CDIP I reported last time that Chesapeake Bay entrance buoy was deployed but weather prevented this deployment, now scheduled for the end of June.
- IOOS and OBIS: **No change**

Other:

- **Rutgers University - Across the Pond:** At 1:25 on 21 May - RU17 began her mission across the Atlantic. RU17 entered the Gulf Stream, which is major in the success of this mission. It is only the second time that Rutgers has flown a Glider in the Gulf Stream. The currents are necessary to propel the Glider across the Atlantic but also provides for tricky flying. RU 17 has currently rounded the top of the meander crest near 70W, and is heading down into the trough near 67. Currents have increased to 148 cm/sec, or 1.48 m/sec. Be a part of this exciting flight at the Rutgers blog: <http://rucool.marine.rutgers.edu/index.php/COOL-Blogs/>
- 27 May: Suzanne Skelley, NOAA IOOS Program, participated in the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) Senior Advisory Committee (SAC). She provide an overview of NOAA IOOS Program activities and emphasized NOAA's continued commitment to the Regional IOOS. Highlights of the meeting include:
 - RA/RCOOS active participation in implementation of NOAA IOOS Program Data Integration Framework protocols and in US IOOS data standards process was encouraged.
 - There are 19 SCCOOS Senior Advisory Committee members and they represent marine transportation sector, waste water treatment plant operators, storm water managers, state and county water quality regulators, local municipalities, state agencies and local representatives of federal agencies.
 - SCCOOS Chief Operating Officer Eric Terrill delivered overview of SCCOOS on-going activities. Burton Jones of University of Southern California provided more detail about upcoming harmful algal bloom study at six locations along the Southern California Bight
 - Input on future priorities for SCCOOS were solicited from SAC members with discussion on conducting more frequent meetings of the SAC and selecting a Chairperson to represent the SAC before the SCCOOS Board of Governors.

- Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT) has released the Demonstration Statements for the performance of four different in situ nutrient analyzers. A key to the successful adoption, and transition to operational use, of new technologies is broad community awareness and confidence. ACT completed a Performance Demonstration of in situ nutrient analyzers/sensors with the goal of aiding in technology refinement and building user acceptance of these novel instruments. The fundamental objectives of this Performance Demonstration were to: (1) highlight the potential and capabilities of in situ nutrient analyzers by demonstrating their utility in a broad range of coastal environments with varying nutrient concentrations, (2) promote the awareness of this emerging technology to the scientific and management community responsible for monitoring coastal environments, and (3) work with manufacturers that are presently developing new or improved sensor systems by providing a forum for rigorously evaluating their products using an objective, third-party, nationally distributed testing program. ACT evaluated the performance of instruments developed by American EcoTech, Satlantic, WET Labs and YSI to measure either phosphate or nitrate. Moored, surface mapping and depth profiling demonstrations were conducted in the Clinton River (MI), Chesapeake Bay (MD), Monterey Bay (CA) and Resurrection Bay (AK). Testing protocols and final reports as Demonstration Statements for each of the four instruments can be downloaded at www.act-us.info.
- 20-21 May: Kim Cohen, NOAA IOOS Program, participated in the PacIOOS team meeting and governance meetings. The objective the meeting was to share initial direction and accomplishments with stakeholders, solicit additional needs for data, products, and services, and identify data and products that could be provided to HiOOS by the larger stakeholder community. She noted good participation from multiple agencies, Navy, NGOs, and the Pacific Island representatives. The presentations included: existing products, data management and models focus areas, as well as a full summary report of stakeholder needs discussion, will be distributed to attendees and made available on HiOOS site.
- 27-29 May: US/EU-Baltic 2008 International Symposium - Ocean Observations, Ecosystem-Based Management and Forecasting was held in Tallin, Estonia. Sponsored by the Estonian Environmental Investment Centre; Estonian Ministry of the Environment; Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers; Oceanic Engineering Society of the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; Tallin University of Technology; NOAA and ONR - Global. This is the third bi-annual conference and attracted participation from 20 countries. I had the privilege of providing a plenary speech on US IOOS and chairing the session on Ocean Observing Systems/US Regional Associations. Thank you to Harvey Seim, Scott Glenn, Josh Kohut, and Jerry Carroll who provided talks regarding observation efforts within our regions and Harvey also providing an overall talk on the importance of the Regional component of US IOOS. Scott Glenn also presented a paper in the Instrumentations and Platforms session. Sam Walker provided a paper and chaired a session within the Remote Sensing track. It was very good conference with more than 120 papers across Ocean Observing Systems, Coastal Zone Management, Physical Oceanography, Coastal Ecosystem Management, Oil Spills, Remote Sensing, Marine Biology and Fisheries

Management. I attended all the presentations in the Ocean Observing Track and saw that we share similar challenges and opportunities (1) the ocean is under sampled (2) sustainment of observing systems is critical, (3) data integration is a common problem (4) meso scale models are needed to answer real problems such as oil spill, harmful algal blooms, sediment transport (5) we are all trying to work across many GOOS and EU funded projects - symposium such as these are critical to communicate what we are working on and (6) we need both remote sensed and in situ observations.

- USNS PATHFINDER: As part of this symposium and other US Navy and Estonian Navy cooperations, the USNS Pathfinder was in port. The USNS PATHFINDER is one of the Navy's oceanographic fleet that provides multipurpose oceanographic capabilities in coastal and deep-ocean under the Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command and the Naval Oceanographic Office. For this operation, she is supporting the US Naval Forces Europe, US Sixth Fleet in conducting mine warfare training with the Estonian Navy. The USNS PATHFINDER hosted the symposium participants for a tour which was very well received. I was able to represent NOAA at the onboard reception hosted by the Naval Oceanographic Office and US Sixth Fleet which was attended by the Under Secretary of Defense for Estonia, the Chief of Naval Operations, Estonian Navy and the US Deputy Chief of Mission, Karen Decker. The Navy Oceanographic ships also participate in partnership and engagement programs. The USNS PATHFINDER, and her outstanding survey crew from the Naval Oceanographic Office, will try to locate the Kaleva an airliner that mysteriously exploded 10 minutes after taking off from Tallin's airport on the first day of the Soviet-blockade of Estonia during World War II. The casualties included a U.S. diplomatic courier considered one of the first American casualties of World War II. The mystery of the plane's fate has since remained unsolved. These types of missions are also very important from a diplomatic perspective and clearly an emotional one for the Estonian people. This mission was the talk of the town while we were there and in my discussion with the Under Secretary of Defense for Estonia he conveyed the importance of this mission to his country.

Congressional:

- On 16 May, Senator Boxer (D-CA) signed a letter initiated by Senator Olympia Snow (ME) to the Senate Appropriations Committee in support of a \$96 million request in FY 2009 for IOOS and the RAs/RCOOSs. The letter highlights the importance and benefits of a IOOS, as well as the impacts of reduced funding on the development of IOOS and regional systems over the last several years.

Communications:

- Working with each of the Regional Associations, NOAA has begun to do press releases with the awards of the RA/RCOOS cooperative agreements. They can all be found at: <http://www.noaa.gov/newsarchive.html>. To date:
 - 28 May: NOAA distributed press releases for the Pacific Northwest, US Pacific Islands, Gulf Coast, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic.
 - 30 May: NOAA distributed press released for Alaska, Caribbean, and Central and and Northern California.
- 28 MAY: Portland Press Herald Staff Report on funding for Maine (pickup from New England Press Release)
- 29 May: Honolulu Advertiser/AP - NOAA giving UH \$2 million; Brian Taylor, PacIOOS, let us know that this was also covered by KHNL TV news under their NOAA-sponsored Earth and Sea spot.
- 28 May: Asbury Park (online) Press by Kirk Moore, "Riding Waves of the Future," - Rutgers University Atlantic Glider Crossing - <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080528/NEWS/805280427>
- Article on NOAA/Shell Agreement - see MMS Ocean Science - http://www.gomr.mms.gov/homepg/regulate/environ/ocean_science/mms_ocean_08_jan_feb_mar.pdf

Upcoming Meetings:

- RA Assessments:
 - 4 JUN, SCCOOS, CeNCOOS, NANOOS - Seattle, WA
 - 12 JUN, PACIOOS - Silver Spring (Telecon)

Cheers,
Zdenka