Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM 4 April 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 addees, 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

The bi-Weekly format leads to a longer email - but I am excited that we are able to show progress and success in making IOOS a reality. I hold a mesh meeting in my office once a quarter - a non-technical term, for us within the IOOS to evaluate progress on our many major fronts and below I have highlighted the milestones we have accomplished.

Programmatics:

- FY08: I ask your support to finalize the FY08 planned Cooperative Agreements, I realize that we just made final recommendations in some cases but our NOS deadline to GMD was 31 March. We would like to be able to complete all of the IOOS submissions by this week if at all possible. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.
- Congressional Report: **No Change**
- FY09: **No change**
- FY10-14: **No change**
- FY11-15: We continue to work across NOAA on the strategic transition papers, provide comments to the draft Annual Guidance Memorandum, and technical adjustment to the NOAA Strategic Plan. We have started to lay out an array of alternatives that are part of the PPBES process. In conjunction with PPBES, NOAA's PA&E office is requiring us to do a business case analysis of IOOS. This work is underway at the Federal level in support of our PPBES process but are developing the material with the understanding that we will like to share the results to an external audience. The is a targeted business case to support NOAA IOOS investments, structured around DMAC for the four priority areas we identified in December 2006. The initial efforts are focused on compiling existing socioeconomic information and anecdotal benefits information. The IOOS business case will:, summarize existing socioeconomic research documenting achieved and projected value of IOOS, identify NOAA's unmet data needs to be addressed by IOOS, document the unique added value of IOOS ("Value Proposition") to stakeholders and compare and contrast alternative IOOS implementation approaches. The work is ongoing to meet the August deadline set by PA&E.
- Accomplishments at the end of the Second Quarter: Developed and launched an IOOS web site; developed NOAA IOOS strategic plan; developed NOAA IOOS as a PPBES program; Completed NOAA IOOS Management Control Review Action Plan; Competitive peer-reviewed selection process for FY 08 Regional Associations multi-year cooperative agreements, and submitted recommended

award applications to NOAA/GMD on time; successfully executed the second IOOS Regional Coordination Workshop, completed workshop summary reports; responded to many Congressional, NOAA requests for information with regard to the IOOS program; provided Exec Sec and NOAA representation at 6 IWGOO meetings.

Initial Operating Capability - Data Integration Framework (DIF)

- IOOS DMAC Standards Process: Spring IOOS DMAC Steering Team meeting - May 6-8, Silver Spring, MD.
    - Accomplishments at the end of the second quarter: Developed the user's guide on DMAC standards process that defines guidelines, roles and responsibilities; launched the DMAC standards process website, published the 1st round of proposed IOOS DMAC standards (4); developed web tool and user guide to support DMAC standards process
- What the DIF?:
    - Accomplishments at the end of the Second Quarter: DIF Functional requirements documents; developed data content standard of the common data model; conducted the data workshop for the FY07 Regional IOOS grantees; Implemented common data model, incorporating data content standards software, for 1 core variable (currents) at 2 data provider sites (NDBC and CO-OPS); identified standards for data transport for common data model design.
- National DMAC Capability
    - Accomplishments at the end of the Second Quarter: Develop High-level DMAC functional requirements document, ConOPS and Risk Management Plan.
- High Frequency Radar
    - Accomplishments at the end of the Second Quarter: QC algorithm development with Scripps (Radial Velocity Derivation) and UC Santa Cruz (Radial velocity uncertainty) in progress; implement CF metadata standards for HF radar-derived gridded data - beta testing completed and implement netCDF file format standard of HF radar-derived gridded data - beta testing completed. National HF radar plan work kicked off: 21 March: Rough Draft outline completed by Jack Harlan and Rutgers; Expanded draft will be completed by HFR Expert group 18 April 08; Input by RAs - due 13 June 08; Completed draft on 11 July; Review panel meeting Aug 08. ACT is facilitating the completion of this plan as they did with the National waves plan. Engineering work continues on frequency licensing process.
- NOAA CIO council briefing: IOOS briefed the NOAA CIO council on DIF, DMAC standards process and future US IOOS DMAC sub-system potential acquisition way ahead.

IWGOO: Next meeting 29 April

- IWGOO IOOS Strategic Plan: Announced for review on the Federal Register March 11, 2008. Access for review from the Ocean.US Webpage: http://www.ocean.us/IWGOO/spcomments. **Comments are 4 April.**
- NFRA addressed the IWGOO on 27 March. Thank you to Molly and Josie for their outstanding presentation. NFRA asked the IWGOO to consider three issues: certification, increased support of RA's by the Federal agencies and lead organization with regard to RA/RCOOS. Ocean.US is working across the Federal Agencies to formulate answers to NFRA's recommendations by the next IWGOO meeting.
- OOI-IOOS white paper: The OOI-IOOS paper was transmitted to ICOSRMI and back to IWGOO. NSF has updated the paper to reflect the OOI- PDR and FY09 decisions. This next version will then be submitted back to ICOSRMI for final distribution to ORRAP. It was the ORRAP who initially asked for this paper. At this point, I expect that the document will be then be made pubically available.

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

- Bathymetric collection California and Interagency Partners: **No change**.
- Army Corps of Engineers collaboration on a National Waves Plan: Comment period remains open through 22 April.
- NOAA-Navy collaboration on the GODAE server: Navy and NOAA continue to work together to get a final understanding of requirements for IOOS and the ARGO program, funding levels and IT security issues. If you are using the GODAE server within you region - you need to communicate this to Josie, NFRA and Gabrielle Canonico immediately. NOAA needs to determine by the end of April whether we require continues services from the GODAE server so that we can articulate this to the Navy. If the need is strong, then the Meteorology and Oceanography Community of the Navy can make the case to be able to keep this interface open.
- Waves in PORTS®: **No change**
- Models developed by RA/RCOOS transition into NOAA**:** During a 2/29 Regional Assessment meeting with the Great Lakes Observing System we discussed the potential for transitioning models developed by GLOS - specifically the operation of the 3-D model for the Huron to Erie Corridor. Gabrielle Canonico is leading a small group of folks to look into this specific issue which we also know that this is a larger issue of transition RA models and products from research to operations and how to engage NOAA. Specifically to this effort, GLOS will submit a request for their model through the NOAA Regional Collaboration Team. CO-OPS (Ron Bassett) will send the CO-OPS template for user requirements, as background and to assist in drafting the request. As we know that this is a much larger issue, Gabrielle of NOAA IOOS and Mary Erickson of NOAA OCS/CSDL will work together with many others to start to articulate criteria or standards from NOAA , information on where/how to submit requests, and process and time lines. This is a great beginning and we will engage the ongoing NOAA processes through our Research Council.

- 3 April: I met with Helen Brohl (Director) for the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS):The authority to establish this Committee derives from a directive by the President in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan, issued December 17, 2004, "Supporting Marine Transportation." The purpose of the Committee is to create a partnership of Federal agencies with responsibility for the Marine Transportation System (MTS) – waterways, ports, and their intermodal connections – to ensure the development and implementation of national MTS policies consistent with national needs and report to the President its views and recommendations for improving the MTS. I updated Helen on NOAA IOOS Program direction and how best we continue to understand and meet the needs of the MTS user community.

Other:

- **Project Highlights Use of Ocean Data in Classroom :** The NOAA Ocean Data Education (NODE) Project, a partnership effort among NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC), and National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), gained attention at the National Science Teachers Association Conference in Boston, MA, last week. Two seminar presentations and a half-day short course helped illustrate the use of NODE curricula, which incorporate real scientific data into lessons for grades 5-8, to help students explore dynamic Earth processes and understand the impact of environmental events on a regional or global scale. The most recently added NODE module focuses on sea level and the El Niño phenomenon. For more information, visit http://www.dataintheclassroom.org. IOOS POC is Jennie Lyons
- **New Modeling System Useful for Multiple Coastal Applications: Passing on information from our NOAA's NCCOS office: A** new, unstructured grid, Finite-Volume Coastal Ocean Circulation Model (FVCOM), has been developed through the Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics (GLOBEC) program, supported by the National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). Applications of FVCOM include predicting levels of icing in the Gulf of Maine for the National Weather Service, sea-surface currents for the Coast Guard, water quality for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, sea-water temperatures for the mackerel fishing industry, and sea level for storm-surge forecasting. The model has capabilities for coupling physics and biology and has been developed into a Northeast Coastal Ocean Forecasting System. New modeling techniques developed through NCCOS support provide decision makers with high-quality scientific information and predictive tools that provide the underpinnings for ecosystem-based management in coastal regions. For more information, contact Beth Turner in NCCOS.
- US GEO Strategic Assessment Group (SAG): US GEO has 4 working groups charged with carrying out US involvement in the GEO/GEOSS. I am NOAA's backup representative to the US-GEO (SAG) and attend when possible the US GEO - Partnership Outreach and Communications Group (POC). US-GEO Subcommittee falls under the National Science and Technology Council. The

three US-GEO chairs are Teresa Fryberger (NASA); Gene Whitney (OSTP) and Helen Wood (NOAA). US-GEO SAG has been asked to deliver a strategic portfolio of high priority national Earth observations investment recommendations on existing and future capabilities for each of the 9 Societal Benefit Areas. The purpose is to inform decision-makers, including OSTP, OMB, Congressional Committees and Agencies' budget planners. I was asked to led the Oceans SBA writing team. Ocean.US - Bill Birkemeier and Jessica Geubtner have agreed to take the lead for us and I will work closely with them to make this happen. We had a 2 day workshop will all the SBA leads and it was very interesting to hear the similarities across the areas. There are many folks across our interagency partners who will be involved in this effort and we view this as another opportunity to understand the vast requirements of Ocean Observing and how both IOOS and OOI can meet those requirements. This report will be written over the next several months.

Congressional:

- 31 March HR 2342 passed the House.
- 28 March: Kim Cohen, Timi Vann and I along with Glen Boledvich (NOS AA staff) briefed staffers on the Senate Commerce Science and Transportation staff. We were joined by our DOC budget analyst- Steve Brescia. The staff specifically asked us to discuss: IOOS Regional Competitive Funding Process and Outlook, Status of the Congressional Requested report - 5-year plan to implement IOOS and IOOS business case (see bullet above on explanation of this effort)

Communications:

- 3 April - Bangor Daily News: Air, land, sea: House approves data system - Article on IOOS legislation passing the House
- 3 April - Seattle Times: Robot buoys are taking the ocean's pulse - Article on the ARGO program

Upcoming Meetings:

- RA Assessments:
    - 18 ARP, AOOS - Silver Spring (Telecon)
    - 23-24 APR, SECOORA, GCOOS, CaRA, -Houston TX
    - 30 APR, MACOORA, NERACOOS- New Brunswick, NJ (Rutgers)
    - 4 JUN, SCCOOS, CeNCOOS, NANOOS - Seattle, WA
    - 12 JUN, PACIOOS - Silver Spring (Telecon)
- 9-11 April: International Workshop on Sustaining Arctic Observing Networks - Molly McCammon will represent IOOS and RA support to this meeting
- 15-16 April: I will attend the GLOS Board meeting
- 16-18 April: Joint Oceans and Human Health (OHH) Centers Meeting - Hawaii - Eileen Shea (NOAA/NCDC) will provide the NOAA IOOS program brief. Find

out more about Oceans and Human Health by going to
http://www.eol.ucar.edu/projects/ohhi/

Cheers,
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