

Bi-Weekly Z-GRAM 8 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:

- FY08: This will be the last report on FY08 - my how time flies! For us we will now focus on ensuring all the dollars are obligated and ensure we close out the books. As you know, this requires resources and time to ensure we do this properly.
- Congressional Report: Continues through the formal NOAA administrative system.
- FY09: We, like other Federal Agencies, are preparing for an initial CR. We have no official word but for planning purposes are evaluating a CR at FY08 levels.
- FY10: **No change.**
- FY11-15: Delivered a NOAA internal version of the business case on the value of DMAC. We will work with NOAA to provide a public version of this document. I can report that we were able to demonstrate a Net Positive Value as well as time savings for the many folks who spend between 25-50% of their time looking for, obtaining and reformatting data before they can even do the intended forecast /end product. Thank you to LMI our support contractor for the heavy lifting and THANK YOU to all of you who participated in the interview process. We intend to continue to collect information on this topic to continue to strengthen our argument of the merits of IOOS.

Initial Operating Capability - DMAC subsystem of IOOS

- 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. Anne Ball, the DMAC ST chair, will brief the IWGOO on 20 Aug on DMAC ST activities and the DMAC Standards Process.
- What the DIF?: Continue on track for our **first milestone will be reached on 18 Aug !!!!!**

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 will participate with the MAP FACA Scientific and Technical Subcommittee meeting on 19-20 Aug. We will both be discussing our Nation's Ocean Observing programs and how these programs and the goals of the Nation's MPA's program can work together.
- Army Corps of Engineers collaboration on a National Waves Plan: Bob Jensen, Bill Burnett and Rob Ragsdale continue due diligence on adjudicating the 68 distinct comments we received on the National Waves Plan. Your comments will make the plan stronger and I appreciate the effort ongoing to answer the comments.
- NOAA-Navy collaboration on the GODAE server: MOU is being worked between NOAA and Navy and is on track.

Other:

- **Rutgers University - Across the Pond - Nearing Halfway -** <http://rucool.marine.rutgers.edu/atlantic/> Scarlet Knight continues to push eastward but not without its challenges. From checking out whether layers of biomass were causing the slow downs on ascent, to some fears that the glider might have lost its wings - fortunately not - it is keeping our team at both Rutgers and Antonio Ramos from the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.
- **IOOS Glider:** RU-22 part of MARCOOS was deployed on 1 Aug on New Jersey waters, off Tuckerton, and is now heading offshore toward the shelf break. The deployment is part of the Rutgers University Glider Endurance Line. Check out the Blog at the Rutgers COOL room site.
- **HF Radar supporting the Olympics:** Chinese HF radars (CODAR systems from the US vendor: Codar Ocean Sensors Ltd in California) are being used for the official sailing forecasts. The Codars there are part of the Chinese Marine Forecasting Center's mission. This website has the map of HFR-derived currents:<http://www.nmfc.gov.cn/db1/index.aspx>. At the top of the page is a link to the Olympic sailing At the bottom of the page is a link to the Official Olympics website (in Chinese, though). Don Barrick, President of Codar Ocean Sensors, has been advocating use of HFR for sailors since his NOAA days in the 1970s. Bravo Zulu - Don
- **HF Radar National Plan:** Jack Harlan is leading this effort. The first draft has been compiled and the Regions have provided their input to gaps that exist. A cross Federal-Regional panel will meeting next week to review and further the draft plan. After that we will provide this draft to our IWGOO partners and cross NOAA for the next phase of this project.
- **Innovative Engineering Project to Obtain Cold Climate Water-level Data in Alaska (CO-OPS):**Engineers from the Center for Operational Oceanographic

Products and Services (CO-OPS) traveled to Barrow, AK, to assemble and deploy two tide gauge systems designed to collect water-level data in remote cold climate regions where there is a lack of physical infrastructure and problems with ice accumulation. The field crew braved the elements as the winds pushed the ice pack tightly against the Barrow coastline and successfully deployed the offshore gauges once the ice pack cleared. A continuous water record throughout the winter months at Barrow will add one more piece of information to the climate change puzzle by allowing long-term sea-level analysis and climate change monitoring.

- **Supporting Hydropalooza and GRAV-D Projects in Alaska (NGS):** NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) recently collected more than 1,700 images and 166 million Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) points for the [Hydropalooza project](#). The collection of high-resolution aerial imagery and LIDAR data for the project site will provide accurate, up-to-date shoreline data to be used to update NOAA nautical charts for Kachemak Bay, AK. NGS also completed a series of airborne gravity observations and absolute data collection in Alaska as part of the GRAV-D (Gravity for the Re-Definition of the American Vertical Datum) project initiative. The collection of airborne gravity data will be used to create a new geoid model, allowing project partners to generate accurate, useful coastal elevation data for the region. In addition to nautical charting, the multi-year Hydropalooza project in Kachemak Bay aims to demonstrate the collaboration between federal, state, and local partners to provide critical information needed for resource management, emergency planning, and economic development.

Congressional:

S 3297, the omnibus bill that contained IOOS legislation and several other ocean bills, failed to clear procedural hurdles.

Communications:

- 30 July: NOAA Press Release: NOAA Announces Funding to Support Marine Observing in the Great Lakes
- 31 July: NOAA Press Release: NOAA Announces Funding to Support Ocean Observing in Southern California
- IOOS messaging - Ocean.US, NOAA and NFRA are completing the inclusion of comments received from IWGOO and expect to complete this effort and roll out a new visual representation of IOOS, a communication guideline, PowerPoint presentation template and usage guidelines within the next several weeks. The effort has been tremendous to get us to this point, and now we just need to make sure we coordinate this across our partnership and then roll this out. Thank you to all but especially to Timi Vann, Deanna Eastman, Ralph Rayner, Josie Quintrell, and Molly McCammon

Upcoming Meetings:

- 12-13 Aug: Director will present at the NERACOOS Board of Director's meeting and visit to WHOI

- 19-20 Aug: Zdenka and Brian Melzian (EPA) will present to the MPA FAC S&T ocean observing panel meeting - Monterey, CA

Cheers,  
Zdenka