

REPORT OF OCEAN.US ACTIVITIES
TO THE
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN OBSERVATIONS
1 November – 31 December 2007

IOOS INTERAGENCY DEVELOPMENT

• **Observations/Sensor Development and Integration Planning**

- Participated in the Argo Data Management Team Meeting, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia - *Piotrowicz*
- As a member of the Pacific Island GOOS (PI-GOOS) steering team and representing the U.S. Argo, a co-sponsor of PI-GOOS, participated in the annual meeting of the PI-GOOS Steering Committee, Nuku'alofa, Tonga – *Piotrowicz*
- Organized and convened annual meeting of the U.S. Argo Science and Implementation Panel, Washington, D.C. – *Piotrowicz*
- Participated in a National Council for Science and the Environment workshop to review and comment on a report on indicators of ecosystem condition by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA): “A Green Compass: Institutional Options for Developing a National System of Environmental Indicators” (7 November, D.C.). My input is available on request. - *Malone*

• **FY2008 Budget Submission**

- Continued the expansion of Workplan elements into tasks, timelines and Gantt charts *full Ocean.US staff*

• **Executing DMAC**

- Bi-weekly conference calls on DMAC standards process, FY08 work plans and activity reports with DMAC team leads (expert team, caucus, and working group chairs). – *Ball*
- Continued work with NOAA IOOS program on improving the DMAC standards adoption website.
- Discussed coordination between NASA Earth Systems Data Standards Working Group (ESDSWG) and DMAC plan. Started developing an informal working document on how to best leverage each other's activities.
- First cycle of DMAC standards process was completed. Eight standards were received via the DMAC standards website (ioosdmac.fedworx.org). Each of these standards were reviewed and commented on by DMAC experts. DMAC steering team members were provided with expert comments and polled as to whether the standards should be moved from “submitted” status to “proposed.” The final decision was to move four of the eight standards to “proposed.” The steering team decided more time and information was needed on the remaining four standards. Two of the remaining standards involved QA/QC issues. The steering team felt that the role of DMAC in QA/QC issues needed to be addressed before these standards could be properly reviewed.

- A letter was sent to the IWGOO requesting each agency to name a member for the IOWG. The letter included a proposed list of responsibilities to help further DMAC during FY08.
- The dates for the next semi-annual meeting of the DMAC steering team was set for May 6 to 8 in Silver Spring, MD. Ocean.US is working with HLA on the logistics of the meeting.

• **Expanding the Modeling Sub-element**

- *MAST* working groups continue on task assignments- Mooers
- Plans for a *MAST* Retreat in the winter of 2008 have been advanced. The aim is to finalize the *MAST* Strategic and Implementation Plan and develop a Plan of Action.- Mooers
- Together with Robert Atlas, AOML/Director, plans are under development for a national ocean OSE/OSSE Workshop in APR or MAY 08. It will be multidisciplinary, multi-scale, and multi-agency in nature. It will include R&D and operational personnel. And it will design an approach to creating a national capability for conducting rigorous OSE/OSSEs. – Mooers
- Participated in meetings to develop IOOS *MAST* retreat. – *Rayner*

• **Conducting the Implementation Conference- the Maritime Domain Awareness Summit**

- Defining the relevance of IOOS environmental information for the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and other Federal agency mission focus areas including interdictions at sea, port security, and disaster response. – *Altalo, Malone, Geubtner, Baldasari*
- Developing an implementation strategy. – *Altalo, Geubtner*
- Highlighted the capabilities of IOOS to deliver needed ocean information to MDA decision-makers as well as brought visibility to IOOS. – *Altalo, Malone, Geubtner, Baldesari*
- Near completion of 1st draft, MDA Summit proceedings, as expected for January 31 deadline. - *Geubtner, Eastman*
- Leveraging the interagency ocean observing and information assets of IOOS to fill the identified need for ocean information in Maritime Domain Awareness. – *Altalo, Malone, Geubtner*
- MDA Workshop Proceedings – Edited and helped to draft three case studies that illustrate the kinds of interagency-regional IOOS collaborations that will be needed to for IOOS development to contribute to MDA objectives - *Malone*:
 - 1) MACOORA/USCG for search and rescue;
 - 2) NOAA-HazMat/Navy NRL for spill response; and
 - 3) SCCOOS/Marine Exchange of S.Cal. for tracking and managing ship traffic).

- **Implementing 2007 support of the GODAE Team**

- Contributed to planning for the final GODAE Workshop as member of Conference Scientific Steering Committee. – *Rayner*

- **Developing roles of OBIS in IOOS**

- Completed the assignment, funded by the Sloan Foundation, to develop the role of OBIS in IOOS. Summary report is in preparation. – *Ammerman*

- **Updating of the National Inventory**

- Refining the database to include new fisheries data, data on toxins, and data from databases in the Departments of Interior and Transportation. Including MDA databases, and incorporating better metrics for DMAC and modeling components. Continually updated. – *Geubtner, Stump, Hemsley, Baldesari*
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OUTREACH AND PROMOTION

- **Development of Outreach and Education**

- Discussed development of professional accreditation scheme for marine scientists with Oceanography Society representatives. – *Rayner*
- Chaired planning meeting for Journal of Operational Oceanography. – *Rayner*
- Participated in CBOS Stakeholders Workshop. – *Rayner*
- Participated in meetings to discuss and develop IOOS mission statement and outreach material. – *Rayner, Eastman*
- Completed and published report from Remote Sensing Workshop. Hard copies are available as well as electronic version online. – *Geubtner, Malone*
- Volunteered to assist at the National Ocean Science Bowl's regional competition in Annapolis, MD – *Eastman, Geubtner*
- Contacted the organizers of the Ocean Science Bowl to identify how Ocean.US can be involved. – *Eastman*
- Developing alternatives for a newsletter-type communication/outreach piece from Ocean.US for the IOOS community – *Eastman*
- Participating on the IWG-OE working group on developing key messages and themes for the education community – *Eastman*
- Establishing contacts with the education coordinators in each Regional Association – *Eastman*
- Identifying opportunities for ocean literacy articles – *Eastman*
- Initiated discussions with the Heinz Center and NFRA on linking IOOS development to the provision of data required to routinely communicate indicators

- of marine/estuarine condition to policy makers, managers, and the public. – *Malone*
 - Appointed to Editorial Board of the Journal of Operational Oceanography – *Malone*
 - Publication: Malone, T. and M. Culver. (in press) Managing Public Health Risks: Role of the Integrated Ocean Observing System. In Oceans and Human Health, P. Walsh, S. Smith, W. Gerwick, H. Solo-Gabriele, and L. Fleming (eds.).Elsevier. - *Malone*
- **Industry Coordination in IOOS**
 - Chaired workshop on linking ocean observation and forecasting to downstream applications in non-maritime industries (insurance, energy, retailing, agriculture, tourism etc). – *Rayner*
 - Met with Lockheed Martin and International Seakeepers to discuss further interactions with IOOS – *Rayner*
 - Discussed MMS NTL issues with GCOOS industry representatives. – *Rayner*
 - Held meetings regarding industry advocacy for Jason 3. – *Rayner*
- **Enhancing Interaction Between the Atmospheric and Ocean Communities**
 - Participated in the NOAA Climate Conference - *Altalo*
- **Developing Coastal GOOS Pilot Projects on Coastal Eutrophication**
 - Preparing of a Chapman Conference on “Long Term Time-Series Observations in Coastal Ecosystems: Comparative Analysis of Phytoplankton Dynamics on Regional to Global Scales” to provide the ground work for a coastal GOOS pilot project on coastal eutrophication. - *Malone*
- **Creating Ocean.US Portal**
 - Initiated creation of Ocean.US web portal for all agency information. – *Geubtner*

IOOS INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

- **International Coordination**
 - Participated in the GEO UIC Meeting and GEO IV Plenary Meeting in Capetown, South Africa – *Altalo*
 - Attended GEO Ministerial Meeting in Cape Town. – *Altalo, Rayner*
 - Gave presentations on US policies and projects/plans to the meeting of the Arctic GOOS in Lulea, Sweden – *Altalo*
 - In conjunction with the Perth Regional Office of GOOS, developing the framework for an international review of the SEREAD project, an educational component of the U.S. Argo Program - *Piotrowicz*
 - Assisted in the development and funding of the Argo-JASON exhibition and represented Argo as the GEO Summit, Cape Town, South Africa – *Piotrowicz*

- Conducting bi-weekly meetings with members of the GEOSS International Standards Working Group (ISWG) to ensure coordination between standards adoption and development between the two groups. - *Ball*
- Chaired November and December teleconferences of GOOS Outreach and Advocacy Working Group. – *Rayner*
- Developed plans for USA/Europe bilateral workshop on global operational observing systems. – *Rayner*
- Presented paper at workshop on data access policy issues. – *Rayner*

• **National Coordination**

- Participated in the Department of Energy Climate meeting – *Altalo*
- Gained consensus for the Prospectus for the IOOS (Ocean.US-OOI/ORION-NFRA) Science and Technology Workshop and received endorsement by OOI/ORION and NFRA, subject to further evolution. The aim of this workshop is to develop the agenda for regional-scale R&D that will complement operational IOOS in a synergistic fashion. If adequate funding becomes available in a timely fashion, the ideal time for this workshop will be in late summer/early autumn 2008. –*Mooers*
- Participated in NOAA Climate and Industry Conference. – *Rayner*
- Participated in the Center for Maritime Systems Advisory Board – *Altalo*
- Participated in and gave a presentation on IOOS to the first meeting of the Caribbean Regional Association – *Altalo*
- In collaboration with Worth Nowlin, completed a preliminary draft of a GCOOS plan for an operational HAB observing system for the Gulf of Mexico that will integrate NOAA's program with GCOOS (including state agencies participating in GCOOS and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance). – *Malone*
- Participated in the GCOOS HABOS Workshop (14-16 November, New Orleans, LA) and am helping to draft the proceedings. – *Malone*
- Participated on the EPA Peer Review Panel for Developing Environmental Health Outcome Indicators – *Malone*
- Participated on the NOAA Review Panel for Regional IOOS Development. - *Malone*