

REPORT OF OCEAN.US ACTIVITIES
TO THE
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON OCEAN OBSERVATIONS

1 April – 11 May 2007

IOOS Development

- Dr. Mary Altalo, with the assistance of the Ocean.US staff, combined input on federal and non-federal programs and responded to the IOC request for a detailed inventory of ocean observing, data management, modeling, and application assets in the United States.
- Dr. Altalo prepared budgets and work plans for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008 and submitted them to the IWGOO.
- As a result of Dr. Altalo's request to the IWGOO for help finding conference facilities in a federal office, Dr. Brian Melzian was able to arrange for conference rooms in EPA headquarters in Washington, DC, for the next IOOS implementation conference. The rooms have been reserved for September 24-27, 2007, at no cost to Ocean.US. Dr. Altalo has approached the US Coast Guard about providing leadership for the implementation conference focusing on homeland security. The US Coast Guard has agreed to provide personnel to help plan and organize the conference.
- Dr. Altalo participated in the Ocean Workforce meeting at CORE (April 27).
- In collaboration with CSC, the NOAA IOOS Program Office and NFRA, Dr. Malone initiated a process to develop a common IOOS identity among RA (report attached).
- Dr. Steve Piotrowicz initiated all FY2007 funding actions for the second of the five year NOPP Argo proposal.
- Ms. Louise Muniak joined Ocean.US as the Communications Officer replacing Mr. Gregg Schmidt, and Ms. Jessica Geubtner was selected as the Research Associate replacing Ms. Kristine Stump, who remains on the Ocean.US staff at ¼ time while attending graduate school. Ms. Geubtner's start date is May 29th.
- Efforts, led by Mr. Mike Hemsley, continue to coordinate the move of the Ocean.US office. This includes disposal of excess property, transfer of property from ONR to NOAA, and coordination of office space, contents, and amenities.
- DMAC Expert Teams, Caucuses, and Working Groups
 - Instructions for NOAA/CSC Registry Project were discussed by the Regional Caucus. The RA Caucus provided input on the instructions, and the content. The final version was promulgated through the RA DMAC Technical Leads with instructions to forward the requirements through to the individual data providers in their region. A number of regions have already posted their information. See <http://oceanobs.org/wc/map/> for a graphical representation.
 - The Regional Caucus has been approached to participate on a project to promote interaction of the Regional Associations with NASA products.

The project involves a user needs and requirements assessment and a workshop to refine usage of NASA products and quantify benefits. Thoughts and comments on how this project might enhance DMAC activities are welcome. Contact Matt Howard (mkhoward@tamu.edu).

- The final report of the Quality Assurance of Real-Time Oceanographic Data (QARTOD) workshop to develop minimum standards for calibration, QA/QC methods and metadata is available online. The Metadata and Data Discovery expert team led the metadata portions of the workshop. See http://nautilus.baruch.sc.edu/twiki/pub/Main/WebHome/QARTOD2006_v9.pdf.

IOOS Outreach and Promotion

- Dr. Malone edited a special MTS publication *Stemming the Tide of Coastal Disasters Part II*.
- Dr. Malone also completed two manuscripts:
 - IEEE Oceans 07 Conference (*Quantitative Assessments of the Condition of Marine Ecosystems and the Need for the Coastal Module of the Global Ocean Observing System*)
 - Book to be published on *The Oceans and Human Health (Managing Public Health Risks: Role of Integrated Ocean Observing Systems)*

IOOS Coordination

- Dr. Altolto participated in the US GEO UIC Interface meeting (April 2-3).
- Dr. Altolto continues to participate in the GEOSS Energy Strategic Plan teleconferences.
- Dr. Altolto discussed GOOS Regional Alliances and the status of the US national contribution to GOOS at the IOC IWG meeting at the Department of State (April 19).
- Dr. Altolto participated in and made a presentation at the GLOS Annual Meeting in Niagara Falls, NY (April 12-14).
- Dr. Altolto continues to participate as a guest at the IWG-OP monthly meetings.
- As an Executive Committee member, Dr. Altolto participated in the AMS Executive Committee meeting in Washington, DC (April 24-25).
- Dr. Altolto participated in the NERACOOS meeting via conference call.
- On behalf of the GOOS Scientific Steering Committee (GSSC) and at the invitation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Harmful Algal Blooms (IPHAB), Dr. Malone participated in the 8th Session of IPHAB (15-20 April) to initiate collaboration between IPHAB-GEOHAB and the GSSC to develop operational capabilities for detecting and predicting HABs.
- On behalf of the GSSC, Dr. Malone serves on the Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science (SAHFOS) Council. In this capacity, he participated in the SAHFOS Council meeting (28 April – 2 May) to help guide the operation and continued expansion of the Continuous Plankton Recorder (CPR) program (an integral component of GOOS).

- Dr. Jim Ammerman attended the meeting of the US National Committee of the CoML at CORE in Washington on May 9-10, 2007. He presented an update on the project to connect OBIS and IOOS and answered questions from the committee. This was his first chance to meet with this committee and it was also useful to talk with Dr. Mark Fornwall, the person in charge of the US Regional OBIS Node.
- Dr. Piotrowicz participated in the workshop on developing an observing system to understand the Meridional Overturning Circulation in the Atlantic.
- Dr. Piotrowicz met with the Hydrographic Office of the Argentine Navy on continuing the deployment program for Argo floats in the southwest Atlantic.
- Mr. Kurt Schnebele attended MetOcean Workshops, April 26 -29, sponsored by the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers. Industry panelists were given presentations on various ocean data related projects; including IOOS, SeaDataNet, EuroGOOS, and their own project called SIMORC which provides access to data collected on producers' platforms. See <http://www.simorc.com/> for additional information on this new data service.
- Ocean.US has written the U.S. Contribution to the Global Ocean Observing System 2007 inventory. A major portion of the report centered on data management activities. The report will be available later in May from the Ocean.US web site.

IOOS RA Identity

Noting the development of the IOOS in general the emergence of IOOS Regional Associations (RAs) as important contributors to IOOS development;

Recognizing the need for a common identity that clearly links the development of RAs and RCOOSs to the development of IOOS as a whole (based on a CSC RA Needs Assessment, the NFRA Communications Plan and reviews of RA web sites by CSC and Ocean.US);

NOAA's Coastal Services Center, in collaboration with Ocean.US, the NOAA IOOS Program Office, and NFRA, have initiated a process to create a common identity. This initiative will be led by a Working Group charged with the following;

Based on a review of existing IOOS web sites (of RAs, Ocean.US, CSC, and the NOAA IOOS Program Office), assess the need for access to a common types of information (e.g., participating organizations, governance structure, data sources, products, and user-specific products, etc.) and for a common structure (road map) for navigating web sites to access this information on RA and Ocean.US web sites. If there is a need, recommend the way forward.

The Working Group (WG) will consist of 3 representatives from RAs, the Director of NFRA, and 1 representative each from Ocean.US, CSC and the NOAA IOOS Program Office as follows:

- Ocean.US - Louise Muniak
- CSC - Dave Easter, will also provide logistical support to the committee
- NOAA IOOS - Timi Vann will be the initial representative
- NFRA - Josie Quintrell
- Regional Associations - NFRA will work with the RAs to identify three representatives

The Director of NFRA, Josie Quintrell, will work with IOOS RA leadership to determine regional representation. Members of the WG will elect a Chair. The business of the WG is to be conducted via e-mail and teleconferences. Recommendations and the rationale for them are to be transmitted to CSC and Ocean.US in time for RAs to apply results to RA presentations at the Estuarine Research Federation's November 2007 conference.