

Bi-Weekly IOOS® Z-GRAM – 2 May 2014

The Z-Gram is an informal way of keeping you up-to-date on US IOOS® activities. Please advise of additional addressees, 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.

IOOS® - Enables Decision Making Every Day; Fosters Advances in Science and Technology

From the IOOS Program Office:

- **U.S. IOOS now on Twitter!** <https://twitter.com/usioosgov>
- **IOOS Advisory Committee:** Presentations from the April 15-16 meeting are posted: www.ioos.noaa.gov/advisorycommittee . The final minutes will be posted in late spring. The Committee continues to work on recommended business model guiding principles, which will be its next deliverable to NOAA and the IOOC.

Observation Subsystem and Sensor Technologies

- **High Frequency Radar/Radio:**(Lead Jack Harlan, Jack.Harlan@noaa.gov): No update.
- **New OA monitoring in Alaska:** Beginning the first week of May, a new ocean acidification study will commence in Prince William Sound. Between now and September, autonomous gliders, transiting vessels, and a buoy will be sampling sea water with state of the art technology to identify acidity hotspots and trends. The project, funded largely by NOAA's Ocean Acidification Program, is led by Jeremy Mathis from NOAA PMEL and Wiley Evans from UAF's Ocean Acidification Research Center, in partnership with AOS.

Data Management and Communications (DMAC) Subsystem and Tools Built on IOOS

data: (Contact Derrick or Rob to get on the list serve for changes, Derrick.Snowden@noaa.gov, Rob.Ragsdale@noaa.gov).

- **QARTOD:** Water Level draft manual International, IOOC and NOAA reviews are in. Excellent responses. Special kudos to NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) for supporting this effort from start to finish.
- **Upcoming IOOS Data Management Webinars:** If you would like to attend, please email Rob.Ragsdale@noaa.gov for WebEx Info
 - **Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc.**
 - Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. EDT
 - **QARTOD Currents QC Implementation**
 - Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. EDT
 - **Demonstration of next generation HTML 5 data portals**
 - Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. EDT
- **IOOS Biological Data Service Enrollment Process Webinar (23 April 2014):** Phillip Goldstein, from University of Colorado/OBIS-USA, and Hassan Moustahfid, from US IOOS, including Bob Simons (NOAA/SWFSC), Jim Potemra (PacIOOS), Vembu Subramanian, and Matt Howard (GCOOS-RA) led a presentation on the IOOS Biological Data Services Enrollment Process. The Webinar was recorded and will be posted to the US IOOS Website next week. Until it is posted, you can stream it directly from the url: <https://mmancusa.webex.com/mmancusa/ldr.php?RCID=a08a97a20c0328828c0bc2f4e07f0fa2>. If you have any questions about the process, contact Hassan Moustahfid, Hassan.Moustahfid@noaa.gov.

- **AOOS DMAC updates:** AOOS launched a statewide Data Explorer covering the 3 marine ecosystems (Arctic, Bering Sea, and Gulf of Alaska) so users can access every publicly accessible data set held by AOOS from this common entry point. Over 500 data sets are available. Check it out: <http://portal.aaos.org/alaska-statewide.php?#map>. AOOS updated their real-time sensor map, which connects to over 1,300 stations across the state. The new map uses a cluster approach when zoomed out, and allows users to switch between metric and English units, select base layers such as NOAA charts or topography, and overlay the real-time stations with other types of data. <http://portal.aaos.org/real-time-sensors.php?#map>
- **CeNCOOS Data Portal Beta Release – Seeking Feedback:** The updated CeNCOOS data portal, developed by Axiom, is available as a beta release. The portal adds a variety of data types and features. The new portal is still in development and your feedback is critical. Please [Access the Portal](#) and provide feedback.
- **Updates to PacIOOS Voyager:** PacIOOS is hosting data from the Cascadia Research Collective showing satellite tracks of various whale species tagged between 2006 and 2011. Animate individual tracks in PacIOOS Voyager under "tracking" in the "fish and wildlife" category on the sidebar, or view "distributions" for an overview of the species as a whole. PacIOOS is working with the Coral Reef Alliance ([CORAL](#)) to host coastal water quality data sampled by citizen science volunteers in ten locations around Maui. The community hopes the effort will help enhance resource management. Access the data on [PacIOOS Voyager](#) under "water quality" and "maui citizen science" in the Voyager sidebar.

Modeling and Analysis Subsystem: For information on the US IOOS Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed (COMT), contact our project manager, Becky Baltes, Becky.Baltes@noaa.gov

- **SURA updated their COMT website:** Check it out to see the great work and presentations their teams have worked on. testbed.sura.org
- **Marjy Friedrichs, lead PI for the Chesapeake Bay Hypoxia project represented the COMT at NOAA Operational Modeling Workshop:** The workshop was focused on scenario based ecological forecasts, which are also part of the work targeted in the Ecological Forecasting Roadmap. Her presentation can be found [here](#).
- **CO-OPS Releases First San Francisco Bay Operational Forecast System (SFBOFS).** The new SFBOFS will significantly benefit a range of maritime activities including recreational boating, fishing and sailing, shipment and vessel transect planning, storm effect tracking, hazardous material tracking, and search and rescue. In partnership with the National Weather Service's National Center for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), the model will go live on the Weather and Climate Operational Supercomputing System (WCROSS). SFBOFS provides water level, current, temperature and salinity nowcasts and forecast guidance based on nearby real-time observation data, meteorological forecasts, and astronomical predictions. Successful implementation of SFBOFS resulted from working with NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration and National Weather Service's Monterey Weather Forecast Office (WFO), U.S. Coast Guard, Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS), IOOS partners, and Academia. To view the model visit: <http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ofs/sfbofs/sfbofs.html>. For additional information, please contact Aijun.Zhang@noaa.gov.

Interagency and International Collaboration/News:

- **Presentation at the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships program:** AAAS sponsored a symposium on April 29 titled "Why Biodiversity Matters to the U.S. Government". The audience included over 100 AAAS fellows, federal agency representatives, and NGOs. Gabrielle, IOOS Program Office, represented NOAA, covering Marine BON and the breadth of NOAA biodiversity-related activities across

the line offices. Other panelists were Barbara Best, USAID, Sandy Boyce, US Forest Service, Peter Bretting, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Penelope Firth, NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences, and Woody Turner, NASA.

- **GEO Appathon:** GEO Appathon is a global applications (App) development competition that aims to develop new, exciting and - most importantly - useful Apps using Earth observation data from the open and expansive Earth Observation data sets in the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI). See www.geoportal.org. The Appathon kicks off on 7 May 2014 and runs until 31 August 2014. Participation is open to any non-commercial entity, individual or team from any background in any country. Apps can be created for any of the main operating systems, and can be designed for any type of portable device. All Apps will be judged and the top three winners will receive a **cash prize** and a year-long GEO network endorsement and publicity for the App. Visit GEO's Appathon website (www.geoappathon.org) for more rules, details of how to register and information about how you can help us unleash the power of Earth observation data.

Delivering the Benefits:

- **US IOOS Participates in Workshop to Improve Northeastern Seaboard Resilience:** Read all about it: http://www.ioos.noaa.gov/ioos_in_action/stories/ne_seaboard_workshop.html Intrepid explorers of IOOS met at the Explores Club in New York City to discuss with community leaders and industry how observations can improve resiliency. The presentations were outstanding and dialog robust. Integrated data has always been at the heart of IOOS. Eoin Howlett, in his opening talk, stated that data management can be boring, which brought a friendly but meaningful rebuke from CAPT Dixon, USGC, who stated: "I take issue with your statement that data is boring. It is not. It is the most important thing you can be doing. When I talk to the families after a search and rescue, I need to be able to tell them we used every bit of information. Thank you – it matters." All the presentations have been posted here: <http://www.ioos.noaa.gov/communications/presentations/welcome.html>
- **MARACOOS/SECOORA support HURREX 2014:** Each year, the Atlantic Fleet conducts a hurricane exercise to prepare for the upcoming Atlantic Ocean hurricane season. For this year's exercise, MARACOOS and SECOORA reps met at Fleet Weather Center Norfolk on April 22nd to discuss various support options that included creating special support pages with links to RA partners. This is a first time effort, and further illustrates the potential of how operational support can be rendered by our Regional Associations and the US IOOS network. For questions, please contact Ray Toll - ray.toll@noaa.gov.
- **Community-Based Monitoring Workshop:** AOOOS and Alaska Sea Grant convened *Community-Based Monitoring: Observing Alaska's Coasts and Oceans*. The workshop drew about 140 scientists, community members, and representatives from organizations, universities and agencies involved in community-based monitoring throughout the state and across the Arctic. Keynote speakers included Henry Huntington (Pew), Heidi McCann (ELOKA), Julia Parrish (COASST) and Fran Ulmer (USARC). A workshop report and handbook for funders and monitoring programs are forthcoming. The workshop was followed by a session focused on the Gulf Watch Alaska region (Prince William Sound, outer Kenai coast, and lower Cook Inlet), exploring potential opportunities for CBM and citizen science in the future.

Congressional:

- Jen Rhoades, Carl Gouldman, Suzanne Skelley (IOOS Program Office), and Mike Jarvis (NOAA Office of Legislative Affairs) met with staff from the Senate Commerce Committee (Majority and Minority) and Senator Begich's office as part of our routine Hill visits. The updates were well received.

Communications / Outreach / Education

- **Ocean Tracking Network winter/spring newsletter:** oceantrackingnetwork.org/news/winter-spring-2014-1
 - OTN-Brazil array
 - Development of the first external data node
 - White shark tracking by colleagues at MSRP
 - Multi-institution glider patrol (*Gliderpalooza*)
 - Tracking Nova Scotia's resident blue sharks
 - OTN Canada Arena activities

Upcoming Meetings with IOOS participation: No update

View the IOOS

calendar: <http://www.ioosassociation.org/calendar> or <http://www.ioos.noaa.gov/about/calendar.html>

Cheers,
Zdenka

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