



Initiatives at the IOOS Association

GCOOS Annual Meeting
April 18, 2023
Gulfport, MS

Kristen Yarincik
Executive Director

What is the IOOS Association?

- Membership of all 11 IOOS Regional Associations
- Facilitates communication and coordination across IOOS regions, NOAA, and other federal agencies
- Promote the value and increase visibility of IOOS and coastal observing
- Advocate for IOOS funding and other policy supportive of IOOS and ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observation



IOOS Association Initiatives: Collaborations

New Initiatives

- Offshore Wind Committee
- Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR)
 - NOPP proposal (UCAR led)
 - ARPA-E SEA-CO2 industry day
- Marine Life
 - Co-sponsoring NOPP forum

Ongoing Initiatives

- NHABON
 - FY20: \$1M; FY21: \$2.5M; FY22: \$2.5M; FY23: \$3M
 - Facilitate steering comm., implement. plan, cross-project comms, webinars
- Coastal Climate Signal (next steps)
 - Workshop (TBD)
 - IOOC Task Team
- Reaching for the Clouds (RPS)
 - Facilitating RA input & assessment
- Benefits of Ocean Observing Catalog (BOOC → Colgan/Middlebury)

IOOS Association Initiatives: Communications

National Engagement

- FY24 Testimony:
 - IOOS Association
 - NOS Roundtable
 - Friends of NOAA
- Congressional engagement
 - Senate & House Appropriations (CJS)
 - Senate Commerce, Science, Transportation
 - House Science / Environment Subcommittee
- Infrastructure & IRA communications
- NOS Roundtable
- NAML Public Policy

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3-2023

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS): A Prototype User Valuation

Charles S. Colgan

Center for the Blue Economy, Middlebury Institute of International Studies, ccolgan@middlebury.edu

Castelletto Anthony

Center for the Blue Economy at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

Center for Blue Economy valuation study report is now online!

IOOS Association Initiatives: DEIA

DEIA Fellowship

- Ashley Peiffer: January 2022-June 2023

Going forward: Build on Fellowship success

- Resources compiled and available to RAs
- Regional strategic goals input
- New DEIA committee within IOOS Association

Mission & Vision (informal)

Mission: Engage with diverse communities so that, together, observing systems are designed to provide equitable service delivery, tailored to meet the needs of each regional community and produce, integrate, and communicate high quality information that meets the safety, economic, and stewardship needs of the regions Nation.

Vision: Solutions for root causes and barriers to equitable, inclusive, and accessible ocean observing systems are implemented. The workforce of the ocean observing community reflects the diversity of the nation, and all communities are empowered with the ocean and coastal information they need to make decisions that support lives and livelihoods.



IOOS Spring Meeting: March 21-23, Washington, D.C.

Agenda Highlights

- Coastal Resilience project ideas
- Equitable Service Delivery & DEIA
- Marine Life, including applied perspectives:
 - White House priorities (Ocean Climate Action Plan)
 - Offshore Wind
 - mCDR
- Hill Visits

2023 Caraid Award Recipient: Tara Owens



The IOOS Association is pleased to announce that Tara Owens of the University of Hawaii Sea Grant is the 2023 recipient of the Caraid Award. Tara is receiving this award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to observing, understanding and protection of our oceans and coasts through vision, leadership, friendship, and collaboration.

Join us in congratulating our amazing 2023 winner through the link below:

[Send a message!](#)

Appropriations at a glance

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Authorization Level (P.L. 116-271)	such sums	such sums	such sums	48	50	52	54	56
President's Budget	29.4	19.4	19.4	19.4	69.5	40.5	42.5	?
House Approps	31	37.5	40.5	40.5	50	44	?	?
Senate Approps	33.7	37	39.5	40	47	46	?	?
Enacted	35	38.5	39	40.5	41	42.5	?	?
IA request	35.9	42	43.7	45.25	56.5	75.3	80.5	?

IOOS Regional line; Amounts in millions of dollars

IOOS Appropriations are tracked by ESP Advisors in a [shared document](#)

FY24 Request: Year 2 of 5-year campaign

Core Regional Association Support: **\$50M**


Infrastructure Repair and Modernization: **\$25.5**

Innovation and Competitive Grants: **\$5M**

OTT & COMT

Total IOOS Regional request: \$80.5M

National Program Office: **\$13M** based on FY23 Request



REPAIR AND PREPARE

Regional IOOS Fiscal Year 2024 Request to Repair and Prepare: \$80.5 million

Report Language Request:
Congress provides an additional \$25.5 million above IOOS core funding levels to address critical infrastructure aging concerns in the IOOS regional system, to be spent according to the highest priority needs of each Regional Association.

The IOOS Association FY24 request for the IOOS Regional Observing budget line includes:

- 1. Core Regional Association Support: \$50 million**
This will provide sustained operational support, expand engagement to diverse stakeholders and communities, and allow the 11 IOOS RAs to leverage resources to ensure efficiency, develop additional predictive capacity for users, and co-design useful applications for rapidly growing demands. This funding will:
 - Ensure safe and efficient maritime transportation and commerce
 - Monitor changes to fisheries and ecosystems, including HABS
 - Improve understanding and notification of coastal hazards
- 2. Infrastructure repair and modernization: \$25.5 million**
After 20 years in operation, IOOS' aging observing infrastructure—buoys, gliders, radars, and more—requires immediate investment in order to avoid gaps in critical coastal information. To prevent loss of data and services, IOOS is embarking on a five-year

"Repair and Prepare" campaign to fund the \$137 million needed to repair and modernize its regional systems.

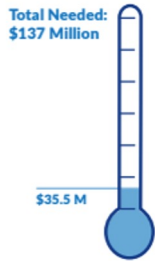
The Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) (P.L. 117-58) will fund part, but not all, of this need. We anticipate a total of \$35.75 million from the IIJA over the next five years. Our \$25.5 million request of Congress represents the unmet need (\$101.3 million) spread over the next four years.

3. Innovation Competitive Grants: \$5 million
This investment will provide continued support for competitive grant programs for innovations and partnerships including sensor development, autonomous sampling, and coastal modeling.

Request for IOOS National Program Office: \$13 million
For the IOOS National Office in the NOS Navigation, Observation and Position budget line to: (1) modernize the Data Management and Cyberinfrastructure (DMAC) system to meet user needs and identify system gaps in partnership with the IOOS RAs; (2) develop a biological and marine life observing program; (3) advance the development of coastal modeling products and predictive capabilities; and (4) facilitate integration of non-federal efforts with NOAA, including NOAA's uncrewed system initiative.

Anticipated Infrastructure Funding From IIJA

Total Needed: \$137 Million



\$35.5 M

FY24 Request: Key talking points

- IOOS is stakeholder driven, science-based, and supports multiple missions
- Priority is to ensure uninterrupted flow of data and information
- Distinction between Core funding, Infrastructure, and IRA:
 - Funding from BIL supports asset replacement and modernization, and we anticipate IRA funds will support development or provision of new services
 - Core services **must be maintained as the backbone** on which any new service or data collection can be leveraged
- Inflation (13% since January 2021):
 - Impacts to services – be prepared with concrete impacts!
 - Less buying power (labor, electricity, vendors/suppliers)
- Sustain the HAB pilot projects, which have demonstrated the potential of a national HAB observing and forecasting system and are at critical phase toward operational

FY24 Request: Dear Colleague Letter

DCL leadership:

- **Senate**

- Leaders: Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Roger Wicker (R-MS)
- 29 signatures - 3 Republicans, 25 Democrats, 1 Independent

- **House**

- Leaders: Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Bill Posey (R-FL), Salud Carbajal (D-CA)
- 60 Signatures – 6 Republicans, 54 Democrats

IOOS Association ED has had meetings with staff of all DCL leaders

FY24 Request: Challenges

Debt Reduction & Balancing the Budget

- **House** → Expect significant to dramatic cuts in discretionary spending (FY22 levels?)
- **Senate** → Expect better than House but... realistic levels for conferencing?

What can we do?

- **BE PREPARED with concrete impact examples!**
 - Make sure Approps subcommittees know what will be lost / consequences of decisions
- **Make distinctions between funding bills / sources clear**
 - Between what core funding supports v. IIJA v. IRA → not a zero-sum game!
 - Emphasize the sustainability / long-term aspects and the backbone against which all new services and capacities must be leveraged

Authorizations

Authorization bills anticipated this Congress → opportunities for input

- IOOS reauthorization (ICOOS / COORA)
- Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA) reauthorization
- Weather Act Reauthorization
- Blue Carbon
- NOAA Organic Act
- Others likely...

Thank You



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