



GCOOS Request for Letters of Intent: 2026 IOOS 5-Year Proposal

Guidelines for Submission: Examples of Stakeholder Engagement

Example 1

University of South Alabama/Dauphin Island Sea Lab

In response to the Mobile/Pensacola Office of the National Weather Service's need for nearshore wave data to enhance rip current advisories and other coastal modelling efforts, the University of South Alabama and Dauphin Island Sea Lab partnered with GCOOS to [deploy wave buoys](#) to better forecast rip current hazards across coastal Alabama and the western Florida panhandle. GCOOS outreach includes co-developing information with Scouting America, Girl Scouts USA and the YMCA program to raise youth awareness about these dangerous currents that account for more deaths than any other weather-related event in the region since 2002 — more than flooding, tornadoes, lightning and tropical storms combined.

Example 2

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

In support of real-time water quality and weather information needs along the barrier islands of Southwest Florida, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) operates the River, Estuary and Coastal Observing Network ([RECON](#)). The system tracks the influence of freshwater flow from the Caloosahatchee River to the Gulf, supporting environmental advocacy and management needs of groups such as Captains for Clean Water, Sanibel Captiva Chamber of Commerce, City of Sanibel's wildlife plan, Lee County emergency preparedness and operations, and fish and wildlife conservation activities of J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, SCCF provides weather observations for recreational boaters through their website and WindAlert app and collaborates with GCOOS on HABscope, a citizen-science initiative that contributes red tide data in support of the [Gulf's Red Tide Respiratory Forecast](#).

