

# What is the IOOS Association?

- Membership of all 11 IOOS RAs
- Communication and coordination across IOOS regions, NOAA, and the broader enterprise
- Promote the value and increase visibility of IOOS and coastal observing
- **Bipartisan / policy neutral advocacy** for IOOS funding and related policy



# Advocacy hard fought wins in 2025 (FY26)



## FY 2026 Appropriations

- Baseline FY24/FY25 – \$42.5M
- Presidents Budget – \$0
- House & Senate marks pushed back – \$56M / \$43.5M
- **Enacted appropriations: unprecedented plus up to \$47.5M**

## Other advocacy & outreach → getting things through the stickier process

- Urging DOC approval of IOOS FY25 awards
- Asking OMB to fully apportion IOOS account at NOAA
- Inquiring about status of NOFO

## Gulf champions critical!

- Sen. Wicker (R-MS)
- Rep. Ezell (R-MS)
- Rep. Weber (R-TX)

# Appropriations at a glance

IOOS Regional Observations line; Amounts in millions of dollars.	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
<b>Authorization Level</b>	48	50	52	54	56	56**	56**
<b>President's Budget</b>	19.4	69.5	40.5	42.5	10	0	
<b>House Approps</b>	40.5	50	44	41	56	56	
<b>Senate Approps</b>	40	47	46	42.5	43.5	43.5	
<b>Enacted</b>	40.5	41	42.5	42.5	42.5	47.5	
<b>IA request</b>	<u>45.25</u>	<u>56.5</u>	<u>75.3</u>	<u>80.5</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>56</u>

- Table = IOOS Regional Observations funding line (in \$millions)
- \*\*Pending reauthorization bills in Senate and House (FY26-30)
- Early stages of FY27 cycle
  - No detailed information yet on Presidents Budget request...
  - BUT can infer from proposed reductions to NOAA/ORF that IOOS regional line = 0 (again)

# IOOS Reauthorization

**THIS WEEK: U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2294 – that reauthorizes IOOS through 2030**

“IOOS is a national asset that connects observations across U.S. coasts into actionable information. Reauthorization through 2030 not only sustains these critical systems, but strengthens the partnerships and data sharing needed to support resilient coastal communities and our Blue Economy.”



Kristen Yarincik  
Executive Director, IOOS Association



## Authorization versus Appropriation

- Legislation mandating IOOS expired end FY25
- Authorizes funding level, → basis for our recent requests

## H.R. 2294 – Ezell + 25 bipartisan co-sponsors

- **House passed** its version March 16, 2026!!!

## S.2126 – Wicker + 7 bipartisan co-sponsors

- October 2025 = passed Committee (CST)
- March 2026 = submitted as an amendment to the Weather Act → passed Commerce committee March 4

\*Senate bill has a significant difference: 7.5% funding floor

## Next steps: Multiple pathways

- Senate can vote on House bill as is, now that it has passed House
- Senate can pass Weather Act with Senate version of IOOS, and House can then vote on that

# IOOS has broad bipartisan Congressional support



## GCOOS region comes through in Leadership!

### House letter

- FY26 (last year):
  - Led by **Ezell, Weber**, Pingree, Bonamici, Radewagen, Carbajal
  - 97 signers (18 Rs) → *most signers and most Republicans ever (then)*
- FY27 (this year):
  - Led by **Ezell, Weber**, Pingree, Carbajal
  - 104 signers (19 Rs) → *we keep beating our records!*

### Senate letter

- FY26 (last year):
  - Led by **Wicker**, Cantwell → 28 signers (3 Rs incl **Cassidy**)
- FY27 (this year):
  - Led by **Wicker**, Cantwell → *Due Date Today!*

**Thank You**

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