



The National Office for Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observations

OCEAN VIEWS

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Progress Establishing the Caribbean Regional Association and the Caribbean Integrated Coastal Ocean Observing System

In September 2005 NOAA's Coastal Services Center, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez (UPRM) and the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) entered into an agreement to establish of a Caribbean Regional Association (CaRA) for a Caribbean Integrated Coastal Ocean Observing System (CarICOOS). CarICOOS will cover the archipelagoes of Puerto Rico (including Mona, Culebra and Vieques and smaller islands) and the US Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John and smaller islands) as well as the uninhabited island of Navassa off the SW coast of Haiti.

Among the eleven U.S. Regional Observing Systems CarICOOS and PacIOOS (Pacific Integrated Coastal Ocean Observing System) share two important attributes: island status and tropical setting. These attributes drive the nature and structure of the CarICOOS observing system. The islands are particularly vulnerable to cyclones, tsunamis and sea level rise. They are largely surrounded by coral reefs, themselves vulnerable to these and other drivers such as global warming, and exhibit significant economic dependence on these ecosystems not only as food sources but, more importantly, as significant tourism generators. CaRA will focus on providing value-added data from

the existing and future "national backbone" and from locally-provided observing assets, targeted in large part to these activities.

The first meeting of the interim CaRA Steering Committee was held in St. Thomas in February 2006. Key personnel (a full-time administrative assistant, a student intern in Puerto Rico, and a consultant for outreach in the USVI) are now part of the CaRA team. Initial stakeholder meetings were held in Puerto Rico and in the USVI prior to the NOAA agreement, and additional meetings are now being convened. Assessing the ocean data needs of stakeholders and potential users is a principal activity. Collaboration with the Puerto Rico Sea Grant Office is being negotiated for a study of data assets and needs of the tourism and non-governmental organizations. Negotiations for filming a TV spot highlighting the benefits of CarICOOS are being undertaken. A novel initiative will be a stakeholders' workshop in 2007 aboard the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's (RCCL) Explorer of the Seas in collaboration with the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS). This vessel is instrumented with oceanographic and meteorological sensors and data are available online.

Several new observing system assets have come on line in parallel with the CaRA organizational effort. These include NOAA DART buoys for tsunami warning in the Atlantic and Caribbean, coastal water-level monitoring stations administered by the Puerto Rico Seismic

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July 9-14 11th Deep Sea Biology Symposium
Southampton, UK

July 15-20 NMEA Conference
New York, NY

September 18-21 Oceans2006 MTS/IEEE
Boston, MA

Network in Puerto Rico, and NOAA/AOML Coral Reef Early Warning System (CREWS/ICON) stations in Puerto Rico and St. Croix. An acoustic wave and modeling system is being installed by USVI to assist shipping at Charlotte-Amalie in St. Thomas. Monitoring of fish aggregation in the USVI is leading to a considerable database on recovering grouper populations. Coral bleaching and factors influencing it are being observed at stations in Puerto Rico and the USVI, resulting in a significant database that includes sea surface temperature monitoring.

The most immediate challenge for CarI-COOS is the formal establishment of the Regional Association as a legal entity. Legal advisors are being retained to assist in drafting RA bylaws. Advice and consensus recommendations from stakeholder meetings will guide the establishment of the RA.

Jorge E. Corredor and Roy A. Watlington

National Oceans Week, 2006 A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

The following is the Proclamation from President George W. Bush declaring the week of June 4-10, 2006 as National Oceans Week.

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/06/200606026.html

During National Oceans Week, we recognize the importance of the oceans to our national heritage, economy, and security and reaffirm our commitment to protecting them through wise stewardship and sensible management.

The magnificent beauty of the oceans is a blessing to our country and the world. The oceans also sustain an abundance of natural and historical treasures, enable the transportation of vital goods, and provide food and recreation for millions of people. My Administration is working with State, tribal, and local governments, the private sector, and international partners to foster more effective conservation of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes resources and to advance the environmental, economic, and security interests of our Nation.

On December 17, 2004, I established the Committee on Ocean Policy to implement the United States Ocean Action Plan. Through this plan, we are building an integrated ocean observing system, promoting ocean education, embarking on deep oceans research, supporting our maritime transportation system, and enhancing our international leadership role in ocean science and policy. We are also advancing legislation to strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, establish a system of sustainable aquaculture, and maintain protections for marine mammals. To fulfill my commitment to end overfishing, we are working with the Congress to build an improved, market-based system to better manage our fisheries and keep our commercial and recreational fishing industries strong.

I appreciate all those who are dedicated to making the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes cleaner, healthier, and more productive. By working together, all Americans can help sustain the oceans for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States



of America, do hereby proclaim June 4 through June 10, 2006, as National Oceans Week. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the vital role the oceans play in the life of our country and how we can conserve their many natural treasures. I encourage all our citizens to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Dr. Clark Chairs Panel at Capitol Hill Ocean Week

On Wednesday, June 14th, Ocean.US Industry Liaison Dr. Andy Clark chaired the standing room only session “*From Vision to Venture: The Business Case for Ocean Observation*”. Dr. Clark discussed developments in the Global Earth Observing System program, particularly efforts related to the Integrated Ocean Observing System. Florida Congressman Mark Foley stopped in between votes on the floor to provide encouraging comments regarding his recognition of the importance of IOOS. Panelists from Government, Academia and Industry focused on the looming challenge of traversing the “Valley of Death” to successfully transi-

tion basic science and research to information resulting in operational products with societal impact.

Call for Abstracts at AMS 87th Annual Conference

Please consider submitting an abstract relevant to the topic (observing system work, related data management and access issues, new developments, etc.). The formal American Meteorological Society (AMS) call for abstracts can be found at <http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/ann/call-forpapers.html#annual>. The actual joint session will be held on Thursday morning January 18, 2007.

If you are interested in submitting an abstract for this joint session, please submit your abstract electronically via the Web by August 1, 2006 (refer to the AMS Web page at http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/online_submit.html for instructions.) An abstract fee of \$70 (payable by credit card or purchase order) is charged at the time of submission (refundable only if abstract is not accepted). Authors of accepted presentations will be notified (via e-mail) by mid-September 2006, and invited at that time to submit an extended abstract.

Hearing on the State of the Oceans in 2006 Postponed

The National Ocean Policy Study Subcommittee postponed its hearing on the States of the Oceans in 2006. The hearing was originally scheduled for June 14th and intended to correspond with Capitol Hill Oceans Week. The hearing has been tentatively rescheduled for July.

JOCI Releases National Ocean Policy Action Plan

A national ocean policy action plan for Congress *From Sea to Shining Sea: Priorities for Ocean Policy Reform*, was developed at the request of a bipartisan group of ten Senators and delivered to Capitol Hill on June 13th by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative (JOCI). The plan, which will serve as a guide for developing legislation and funding high-priority programs, includes the top ten steps Congress should take to address the most pressing challenges, the highest funding priorities, and the most important changes to federal laws and the budget process to establish a more effective and integrated ocean policy. The top ten list is as follows:

- Adopt a statement of national ocean policy.
- Establish NOAA in law and work with the Administration to identify and act upon opportunities to improve federal agency coordination on ocean and coastal issues.
- Foster ecosystem-based regional governance.
- Reauthorize an improved Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
- Enact legislation to support innovation and competition in ocean-related research and education consistent with key initiatives in the Bush Administration's Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy.
- Enact legislation to authorize and fund the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS).
- Accede to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- Establish an Ocean Trust Fund in the U.S. Treasury as a dedicated source of



funds for improved management and understanding of ocean and coastal resources by federal and state governments.

-Increase base funding for core ocean and coastal programs and direct development of an integrated ocean budget.

-Enact ocean and coastal legislation that has already progressed significantly in the 109th Congress.

JOCI is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Oceans Commission to catalyze ocean policy reform. The Initiative is guided by a ten-member Task Force, five from each Commission, and led by Admiral James D. Watkins and the Honorable Leon E. Panetta, chairs of the U.S. Commission and Pew Commission, respectively. The primary goal of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform.

President Bush Designates Northwestern Hawaiian Islands a National Monument

President Bush designated the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, an island chain spanning nearly 1,400 miles of the Pacific northwest of Hawaii, a national monument, creating the largest protected marine reserve in the world.

The islands include almost 70 percent of the nation's tropical, shallow-water coral reefs, more than 7,000 marine species, at

least a fourth of which are found nowhere else on Earth, a rookery for 14 million seabirds, and the last refuge for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and the threatened green sea turtle. The area also has an abundance of large predatory fish at a time when 90 percent of such species have disappeared from the world's oceans.

Encompassing nearly 140,000 square miles, an area nearly the size of Montana and larger than all the national parks combined, the reserve will just surpass Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park as the largest protected marine area in the world. It will also, however, be one of the least accessible.

The plan had been resisted by local Hawaiian fishing interests that feared losing access to traditional fishing grounds. In spite of that opposition the plan will end fishing in the area within five years. It will allow Hawaiians to have access to the area for other traditional activities and will include the Midway World War II Memorial, a facility that is open for research, education and ecotourism. Visitors wishing to snorkel, dive or take photographs in the area will have to obtain a permit, and no one may take fish, wildlife, corals or minerals from the region.

By declaring the islands a national monument, Bush will circumvent a year-long congressional approval process required in the designation of an area as a marine sanctuary, and will provide the area the highest regulatory protection possible under the law. Also, by declaring the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands a national monument, the area will receive immediate protection and implementation of the management measures included in the plan that was developed in the marine sanctuary process. The monument

designation is permanent and unlike other sanctuary management plans, it will not undergo a periodic review like a marine sanctuary.

In short, the designation will leave a legacy of lasting protection for one of America's last ocean wildernesses.

House Subcommittee Passes NOAA Appropriations Bill

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice and Commerce held a mark-up on the bill that contains FY '07 appropriations for the Department of Commerce, the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as well as the various law enforcement programs.

Funding for the total bill was \$59.84 billion, \$140 million above the President's FY07 request and \$630 million above FY06 levels. Over \$100 million of the funding increase will be dedicated to the American Competitiveness Initiative which commits to doubling funding for basic scientific research over 10 years and to strengthen education and encourage entrepreneurship.

For the Department of Commerce and related trade agencies, the recommendation is \$5.9 billion, a decrease of \$629 million below FY06, which, according to Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA), Chair of the Subcommittee, is largely a result of the reduction of lower priority spending in NOAA and the elimination of the Advanced Technology Program. The bill includes \$3.4 billion for NOAA, \$509 million less than was appropriated in FY06. The bill fully funds the requested levels for the critical functions of the National Weather Service and NOAA's



weather and climate satellite programs.

Full funding of these programs indicates that a significant portion of the funding cuts were made to programs under the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Ocean Service, and the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research. Details for NOAA programs will not be available until next week when the full Committee considers the bill on July 20.

Product Developer Sought in the Gulf of Maine

The Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (GoMOOS) seeks an applicant to help develop public products based on oceanographic science. Experience in either product development or a background in marine science and the ability to develop information products that meet market demands is required.

As the GoMOOS Product Developer the applicant will be responsible for specifying market requirements for current and future ocean information products by conducting market research that focuses on customer needs. He or She will work with development teams composed of marine scientists, web designers and IT professionals to produce web-based information products. The GoMOOS Product Developer will play a key role in the development of the Northeast Regional Association for Ocean Observing and the support of other GoMOOS initiatives. These

projects will include planning, coordination and support of meetings, developing marketing materials, conducting outreach, and special projects as needed. Candidates should have a minimum BA/BS (MS preferred) in marine science or a field related to product development and/or three to five years experience with product development/marketing.

Interviews will start in July. Submit letter, resume and three references to: Jodi Clark at jobs@gomoos.org

See full description at www.gomoos.org/aboutgomoos/jobs.html

Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee Vacancies

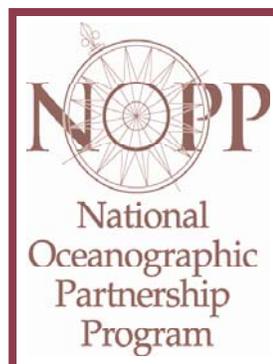
The Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC) http://www.mpa.gov/fac/about_fac.html is now seeking to fill three nonfederal vacancies in the MPA FAC.

If you would like to learn more about how to nominate qualified candidates for these vacancies, contact Ms. Lauren Wenzel at NOAA, lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov.

Please note that all Nominations should be submitted no later than COB on July 14, 2006.

Ocean.US, the “National Office for Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observations,” was established by the Congressionally-created National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP). Since its establishment in 2000, Ocean.US has catalyzed the coordinated development of the IOOS, the United States contribution to a Global Ocean Observing System.

For comments or questions about *Ocean Views* please contact Gregg Schmidt at g.schmidt@ocean.us.



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