

Community Resolution on Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

Endorsed by: Alliance for Earth Observations, Coastal States Organization, Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education, Marine Technology Society, National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, National Association of Marine Laboratories, National Estuarine Research Reserve Association, National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing, Sea Grant Association, Southeastern Universities Research Association, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Space Enterprise Council

Recognizing that the oceans and coastal waters affect all our lives – driving weather and storms, influencing climate, providing transport for millions of tons of cargo, and sustaining coastal and marine resources;

Further Recognizing that more than a century ago, the United States began creation of a comprehensive weather forecasting and warning system and today, daily weather reports are central to the nation’s social, economic, and environmental vitality;

Acknowledging that the Nation’s coastal regions, including the Great Lakes, are home to more than half the nation’s population, but lack basic information to protect those communities and their environment, to track, understand and predict change, and to provide quality information to those who work on or near the water;

Understanding that deployment and operation of a sustained Integrated Ocean Observing System will: (1) improve the safety and efficiency of marine operations, (2) improve prediction of weather and natural hazards (including tsunamis and storm surges) to reduce resulting damages and costs, (3) improve predictions of climate change and its socio-economic consequences, (4) improve national security, (5) reduce public health risks, (6) help protect and restore healthy ecosystems, and (7) sustain and restore living marine resources;

Aware that many elements of a national system are already in place, but most now operate independently, the IOOS would combine these elements into interconnected global and coastal components. The global component focusing on the physical observations associated with climate and weather prediction, including tsunami detection. The coastal component, comprising a federal “national backbone” of observations and data management and regional coastal observing systems, addressing the complex physical, chemical, and ecological observations needed to assess and manage coastal regions;

Further aware that the national backbone and regional associations must work closely with end-users- including state and local governments, non-profit organizations, industry, and citizens -- to identify and meet their needs and to build partnerships that facilitate the opportunity for them to participate and invest in the observing system;

Affirming that implementation of the IOOS system will require a substantial sustained investment in research, pilot projects, related infrastructure, new data products and system enhancements and mechanisms to incorporate new technologies into the system;

Reaffirming that research to advance knowledge of coastal and ocean systems and ensure improvement of operational products must take place through a transparent and robust process for the solicitation, merit review, and awarding of ocean observing proposals;

Conscious that the Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 budget request includes funding for the National Science Foundation's Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI), which will develop and improve the hardware and software critical to IOOS development; and

Cognizant that the United States and the world are facing critical decisions about the future stewardship and management of the oceans, coastal waters, and fresh water resources, including the Great Lakes and improved data and predictions resulting from the IOOS is needed to support these decisions.

Our organizations resolve that we are committed to the development of an ocean and coastal observing network and endorse the following:

- 1) An Integrated Ocean Observing System should include:
 - a) A national program to fulfill national observation priorities, including marine commerce and the Nation's ocean contribution to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems and the Global Ocean Observing System.
 - b) A network of regional coastal and ocean observing and information programs that collect, measure, and disseminate data and information products to meet regional and national needs, managed by certified regional associations.
 - c) The designation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as the lead Federal agency for implementation of the system.
 - d) An Interagency Program Office responsible for program planning and coordination of the observing system.
 - e) Data management, communication, and modeling systems for the timely integration and dissemination of data and information products from the national and regional systems.
 - f) A sustained intramural and extramural research and development program to advance knowledge of coastal and ocean systems and ensure improvement of operational products, including related infrastructure and observing technology and large scale computing resources and research to advance modeling of coastal and ocean processes.
 - g) A coordinated outreach, education, and training program that integrates and augments existing programs to ensure the use of data and information for improving public education and awareness of the Nation's coastal and ocean environment and building the technical expertise required to operate and improve the observing system.
 - h) Data products and information that meets the needs of end-users- including state and local governments, non-profit organizations, industry, and citizens.
- 2) Action either by the Executive branch and/or Congress to establish an integrated national system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems (IOOS) to address regional and national needs for ocean information.