

SUMMARY OF COASTAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING November 6, 2008- Jefferson Laboratory

The SURA Coastal Research Committee (CRC) meeting was attended by, Larry Atkinson (ODU), Carl Friedrichs, (W&M), Harry Wang and David Forest (VIMS), Isai T. Urasa (HU), Ray Highsmith (UMS), J.P Walsh (ECU), Chris Mooers (UM & PSU), J. Siedow (Duke), O. Brown (UM), R. Stewart (ULa via phone), Justin Davis (UF, via phone), M. Fletcher (USC via phone), and Don Wright, Philip Bogden, Joanne Bintz, and Luis Bermudez (SURA). Chair, Carolyn Thoroughgood (UDeI) was unable to attend so Don Wright convened and facilitated the meeting

The Meeting Goals were to:

- Review and refine the capabilities demonstrated by the updated Open IOOS web site to ensure that it serves the needs of CRC members
- Review the changing landscape with respect to coastal observing
- Develop a more comprehensive education plan for the DCL that includes both university and K-12 levels and is consistent with the overarching SURA mission
- Agree on appropriate funding strategies for SURA Coastal activities including SCOOP and DCL: (Federal agencies, foundations, industry, and endowment?)
- Identify key scientific drivers for guiding the DCL and nominate prominent leaders and advocates to advance each of the themes identified by serving as “chief scientists”.

For the most part, these goals served to guide the discussions.

At the 8:30 start of the morning meeting, Don Wright reviewed the goals and scope of the Distributed Coastal Laboratory (DCL) concept. The CRC remains committed to making the DCL a reality. There continues to be support for the long-term DCL plan as articulated in the DCL Prospectus and Strategic Plan, which was produced in response to a request from the CRC at its December, 2007 meeting. The DCL will be a cyber-enabled *virtual organization* of scientists, data systems (including observatories, regional IOOS observing systems, and satellite imagery), numerical models, and computing resources to advance scientific discovery and support applications. The mission of the DCL is *to enable transformational coastal science* and, thereby, to contribute to the long range vision of safe and healthy coasts. In the context of this opening discussion, it was noted that federal funding for SURA’s coastal activities (SCOOP) will be nearly gone at the end of CY 2008.

Following the initial DCL discussion, Philip Bogden gave a presentation describing the architecture of SCOOP with emphasis on how it can be expanded to serve the needs of a Distributed Coastal Laboratory (DCL). He also gave a progress and status report on OOSTethys and OpenIOOS emphasizing the updated and more functional capabilities. This hardened demonstration is now showcased and accessible at <http://www.openioos.org>. Philip’s presentation elicited some valuable discussion and some specific recommendations for moving forward. These are summarized at the end of this report. Following Philip’s presentation, Justin Davis from UF gave a demonstration of the UF education appliance. This new education initiative was created in response to the recommendations of the CRC at the April 2008 meeting where it was concluded that an undergraduate education project for the DCL in the short term would bring SCOOP products greater exposure, help in the development of an understandable interface, and provide a target user group. It also allows SURA to develop a presentation layer that can be used for many other research opportunities. The UF presentation was well received by the attendees and there was a specific recommendation for the next steps. The morning session of the CRC meeting was recessed at 10:15 to allow attendance at the SURA Plenary Session which began at 10:30.

After lunch, the CRC reconvened shortly after 1:00 PM. The afternoon discussions were fairly informal and free form but were guided by the following general questions:

- What is the present and anticipated state of coastal observing in the Southeast region with respect to assets and funding?
- What are the appropriate science drivers for a community oriented DCL?
- How can and should the DCL advance education at various levels?
- What are the best new strategies for pursuing funding?

The discussions, while guided by these questions, generally blended the considerations into some fairly unified and overarching recommendations summarized at the end of this report. Following this general discussion, Chris Mooers, former chair of the Modeling and Analysis Steering Team (MAST) of the now disbanded Ocean.US, presented the highlights of a recent MAST meeting and final report and outlined the thrust of the NOAA DCL proposal that he is co-leading. The afternoon session ended with a consensus review of five major recommendations for moving forward in the near term. There were no action items requiring a vote on the part of the BoT.

The five recommendations for the near term were:

1. **Marketing OpenIOOS-** We must provide instructions that articulate how users can participate. This can best be done by way of articles in EOS, the American Meteorological Society and possibly the Estuarine Research Federation.
2. **Education & Outreach-** The UF education “virtual appliance” addresses a common need for a common audience. The usefulness would be greatly enhanced by a “hands on” short course that could be offered at Ocean Sciences 2010, AGU or earlier via a “webinar”.
3. **General Outreach and Future Directions-** Connect with the National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) or SAML to get a sense of general community requirements and needs.
4. **Funding and connecting with emerging national priorities-** Utilize SURA relations consultants to pursue meetings with key science advisors and staffers in the Obama Transition Team and the new Congress.
5. **MAST & SURA-** Seek funding support for MAST under the auspices of SURA.