

NEWS

SCOOP and the IOOS Regional Coordination Meeting

Dr. Joanne Bintz, SURA Sr. Coastal Research Program Mgr. and Dr. Luis Bermudez, SURA Coastal Research Technical Mgr. attended the IOOS Coordination Workshop in Baltimore Dec 2-4. The agenda for the meeting allowed all of the currently funded (FY07 & FY08) IOOS projects to report progress. In addition, the breakouts focused on the need for Regional Associations to develop performance metrics through participant input into a “Regional Maturity Index”. The meeting was well attended. Joanne gave a presentation on the status and progress of the SCOOP Program and Luis and Joanne sat on a panel with the other session speakers to answer questions. Feedback from the group was good, particularly with respect to promoting SOS standards and our interactions with the OGC. There was some interest in the SCOOP registry as well. The IOOS Program seems to be moving more toward a national system, and clearly sees the need for an integrating piece. Joanne and Luis are following up with contacts from the Regional Associations. The presentations from the conference will be available through the NOAA IOOS website on Thursday Dec 11.

LUNA/SURA Workshop on High Density Coastal Observations

SURA and Luna Innovations held a workshop on high-density coastal observations on November 24 & 25 at SURA HQ. A detailed report of this workshop is available from Don Wright or Joanne Bintz. The general recommendations are summarized as follows:

- Future developments in research capabilities must embrace, not only sensors, but also modeling and analysis, cyber infrastructure and effective dissemination of information to a broad and diverse community.
- New sensors need to balance “newness” with “robustness” and must be capable of long-term deployment in harsh marine environments. The issue of biofouling needs to be addressed.
- Emerging sensor technologies should extend beyond the more obvious measurements of physical parameters such as pressure, temperature, salinity and flow to include measurements of crucial biological and biogeochemical phenomena.
- Questions of how best to maximize spatial coverage for studying large-scale phenomena need to be addressed. The roles of AUVs as platforms for new sensors should be a major part of future planning.
- Effective cyberinfrastructure and informatics resources must be evolved to ensure that new observational data are distributed rapidly and in standard and readily understood formats. This is key to enabling “community science” which needs to be accorded a higher priority than individual competitive approaches.
- More attention needs to be focused on knowledge transfer and finding ways to quickly transition from “grand ideas” to 24/7 solutions.

The final topic of discussion prior to adjournment focused on the next steps. It was concluded that funding support for a more formal and larger workshop should be sought and that a brief “white paper” proposal should be prepared to facilitate this. Possible funding sources identified include Department of Homeland Security (DHS), ONR and NSF. A small working group consisting of Jim Kadtke, Donna Blake, Kevin Sellner and Don Wright volunteered to make the first cut at a white paper draft. The white paper will propose a larger workshop, to take place in Spring, 2009. General topics will include:

- New coastal science directions and likely science drivers of the future (e.g. climate change)

- New operational needs and directions (e.g., human health and safety, commerce)
- Emerging technologies (sensors, AUVs, deployment platforms)
- Cyberinfrastructure and coastal informatics needs
- Addressing interoperability, connecting innovative scientific research to operational requirements.

It is hoped that a major outcome of this workshop will be a plan for advancing new initiatives in high-density coastal observation, modeling, and informatics.

SURA and Semantic interoperability activities at Ocean Observing Systems workshop

Luis Bermudez from SURA provided semantic interoperability training and an OOSTethys demonstration at the Semantic Mediator Ocean Observing Systems Semantic Interoperability Workshop, held on November 17-20, 2008 in Boulder, Colorado. The workshop was organized by the Marine Metadata Interoperability project (MMI), Quartod-toOGC (Q2O) and Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System.

Link: <http://marinemetadata.org/events/oossi>

More Information

More information about SCOOP and SURA Coastal Research can be found on the following sites:

SCOOP: <http://scoop.sura.org/>

OpenIOOS: <http://www.openioos.org>

OOSTethys: <http://www.oostethys.org>

SURA: <http://www.sura.org/programs/coastal.html>

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If you have an item that you would like to include in the next SURA Coastal Newsletter, please submit it to Joanne Bintz (bintz@sura.org) before the first of the month. Previous versions of the SURA Coastal Newsletter are posted on the SURA website: <http://www.sura.org/programs/coastal.html>