

SURA Coastal Research Committee Meeting

The SURA Coastal Research Committee held its bi-annual meeting on April 7 in Washington, D.C. The following summarizes the discussions.

Expectations for the SURA Coastal Research Program

Dr. Draayer encouraged the Coastal Research Committee to work with SURA staff to make the Coastal Program sustainable. With additional funding, SURA has the potential to offer a coastal informatics network that with the proper outreach and management could be leveraged by the community. Dr. Draayer also announced the appointment of Dr. Philip Bogden, as a SURA Coastal Fellow to help craft the vision, launch first phases, and then look to others to implement the vision.

Goals and Objectives of the SURA Coastal Research Program

Don Wright gave an overview of the goals and objectives of the Coastal Research Program at SURA. The Distributed Coastal Laboratory (DCL) is envisioned to provide an infrastructure that includes many domains. The goal is to make it possible for people to get access to coastal information and - by working within SURA as a team - to be able to do more than they could do on their own. SURA envisions the advantages of community science as the way science will be done in the future building on programs like the Integrated Ocean Observing System and the Ocean Observatories Initiative. SURA would like to help manage the informatics piece of these types of programs.

Role for SURA in the Coastal Ocean Framework

Dr. Mel Briscoe, the new Director of Research and Education at the Consortium for Ocean Leadership offered some perspective on the Global Ocean Observing System and the Integrated Ocean Observing System as well as the new legislation, HR 146, that authorizes an Integrated Ocean Observing System. HR 146 Sec C is the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009. (Read the full Bill here: http://doc.aos.org/nfra/03.09_IOOS_legislation.pdf). The legislation authorizes an Integrated Coastal Ocean Observing System (ICOOS) with non-federal components. Within the legislation there is room for an organization like SURA to be certified as a Regional Information Coordination Entity (RICE) as defined in Sec 12303 of HR 146. HR 146 also includes basic and applied research activities and large scale computing resources. This legislation provides an opportunity for SURA to collaborate with the Regional Associations within SURA's footprint. The SURA Coastal Committee should be involved in helping that happen.

Strategic/Business Plan for SURA Coastal Research

Dr. Otis Brown served as the Acting Chair for the Coastal Committee meeting. He is a member of the SURA Strategic Planning Task Force, and led the discussion on the expectation for a strategic/business plan for Coastal Research. The SURA Strategic Planning Task Force will come up with a vision of what SURA should be in 5-10 years with a plan on how to get there. The SURA Strategic Plan will include a Coastal Business Plan.

FUNDING

Proposals In Review: Six proposals for coastal funding have been submitted since October; four are still out for review and two have been rejected. Three additional proposals are in preparation for the following programs: 1) A NOAA Centers for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research; 2) NSF Community-based Data Interoperability Networks (INTEROP); and 3) NSF Strategic Technologies for Cyberinfrastructure (STCI). Seven SURA University members are involved in these proposal activities.

If you are interested in partnering with other SURA PIs on a Coastal Research Proposal please contact a member of the SURA Coastal Research Team.

NEWS

Philip Bogden, the new SURA Coastal Fellow, testified before the Commerce, Justice, Science Committee on April 2nd on NOAA's coastal research programs. His written testimony is available here:
<http://www.sura.org/news/docs/SCOOPHACCJS040209.pdf>

Kickoff of Scientific Observations Network: Dr. Luis Bermudez participated in the Kickoff Leaders Meeting of the Scientific Observations Network (SONet), a project funded by the National Science Foundation. SONeT is a community-driven effort to define and develop the necessary specifications and technologies to facilitate semantic interpretation and integration of observational data. More information about this project here:
<https://sonet.ecoinformatics.org/>.

OUTREACH

Dr. Joanne Bintz, Sr. Coastal Research Program Manager attended a meeting with Jane Lubchenco, the new NOAA Administrator on April 23. The meeting was set up by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (<http://www.strategies.org>) a D.C.-based organization in which SURA is a member.

Dr. Don Wright, the Director of Coastal Research, attended the SECOORA Storm Surge Modeling Test Bed Workshop at the University of Florida on May 5-6. Don moderated a discussion session on future directions. Workshop participants included representatives from NOAA's IOOS, NWS, and NHC and from FEMA. During the discussion, several participants advocated for SURA to assume a leading role in orchestrating a national test bed for storm surge model inter comparisons.

Dr. Luis Bermudez started participating as an invited expert in the Semantic Sensor Network Incubator Group at the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) - <http://www.w3.org/2005/Incubator/ssn/>. The group seeks to advance rich representations of sensor and sensor network characteristics, using ontologies.

Dr. Luis Bermudez will chair a special session on Sensor Web Enablement (Swe 2009) at the 2009 International Symposium on Collaborative Technologies and Systems (CTS 2009) on Tuesday May 19th at the Westin Baltimore Washington International Airport Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, USA (<http://tinyurl.com/cts2009>).

More Information

More information about SCOOP and the SURA Coastal Research Program 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>

L. Don Wright, Director, SURA Coastal Research - wright@sura.org

Philip Bogden, Fellow, SURA Coastal Research - Bogden@gomoos.org

Joanne Bintz, Sr. Program Manager, SURA Coastal Research - bintz@sura.org

Luis Bermudez, Technical Manager, SURA Coastal Research - Bermudez@sura.org

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>