Building the GCOOS

Enhancements to Observing Elements

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GCOOS-RA Annual Meeting of the Parties & Board of Directors

25-26 February 2009
Orlando, Florida
Enhancements – Outline

1. Without significant new federal funding levels, the GCOOS-RA must pursue new avenues to build and maintain the GCOOS.

2. There are many observations being collected in the Gulf of Mexico. Incorporate these into the GCOOS and the Data Portal.

3. Prepare pilots projects that cost little to start but reap large benefits.

4. Discover new sources of funding.

5. Actively provide information to Funding Entities.
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Enhancing Engagement with Federal Data Systems
Federal Data and Programs

Data Portal to harvest real-time federal data

- NOAA (e.g., NDBC, CO-OPS, NCDDC, CoastWatch Caribbean-Gulf of Mexico Regional Node)
- NASA (e.g., EOS)
- USGC (e.g., stream flow, nutrient loads, mapping)
- EPA Gulf of Mexico Program
- MMS Environmental Studies Program
- ACOE (e.g., wave gages)
- Navy data & models (e.g., NRL, NAVOCEANO)
- Other
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Entraining Additional, Non-Federal Data Systems
Non-federal Data Systems

1. State resource, environmental, and health agencies
2. Partnerships with federal agencies, e.g.,
   - National Estuarine Resource Reserves (NERRs)
   - National Estuary Program (NEP)
   - PORTS
3. Academic data collections and model outputs
4. Local agency data collections (e.g., county beach data)
5. Private industry (e.g., ADCP from O&G platforms)
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Development of Pilot Projects
Pilot Projects in Planning

1. Instrument tankers: Active
2. Water quality measurements for human pathogens: TBD
3. Pilot GCOOS Operations Center: Data Portal/ROC project funded
4. Forecasts of three-dimensional surface currents: Planned, O&G industry may help to support; no federal $$$
   – New effort for an operational current modeling project will be discussed in the afternoon
5. Probability maps of bottom hazards and maps of hydrocarbon seeps: In planning
6. Improving forecasts of hurricane severity: GCOOS endorsed research
7. Measurement and products archive: On hold
8. Maps of marine mammals & endangered turtles: Deferred
New Ideas for Pilot Projects

1. Steps:
   – Identify pilot project
   – Board agreement
   – Prepare prospectus
   – Work to find funding

2. Suggestions
   – Carbon Observing System
   – Harmful Algal Bloom Integrated Observing System

3. Others?
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Identifying New Funding Opportunities
Expand Sources of Funding

1. Increase interactions of mutual benefit with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to improve resource leveraging for both GOMA & GCOOS.
2. Federal Agencies
   – NOAA IOOS: Improve RCOOS proposals
   – Propose to other agencies for specific, non-IOOS purposes that can be incorporated into the GCOOS: NOAA (e.g., PORTS, hypoxia program), EPA (e.g., Gulf of Mexico Program), USGS, NASA, Navy
3. State and Local Agencies
   – Gulf of Mexico Alliance
   – Marine Resource, Environmental Quality, Health, etc.
4. Enhance interactions with other groups interested in ocean observing (e.g., FLCOOS, NGOs)
5. Strengthen interactions with adjacent Regional Associations to distribute costs and benefits of mutual tasks and requirements
6. Foundations
7. Other?
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Inform Legislatures of Benefits of IOOS and GCOOS
Communicate the Benefits of GCOOS

1. Prepare information materials on
   1. What GCOOS is
   2. What the benefits of GCOOS are
   3. What the economic benefits of GCOOS are

2. Improve dissemination of information on GCOOS: distribute widely to public, agencies, media, legislatures, companies, etc.

3. Parties actively inform state legislatures and Congress of RCOOS benefits and needs for funding.
U.S. Senators from Gulf Coast States

Texas

Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R)
   Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

John Cornyn (R)

Louisiana

Mary Landrieu (D)
David Vitter (R)

Mississippi

Thad Cochran (R)
   Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations

Roger F. Wicker (R)

Alabama

Richard Shelby (R)
   Committee on Appropriations: Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Jeff Sessions (R)

Florida

Bill Nelson (D)
Mel Martinez (R)

U.S. Senate: http://www.senate.gov/
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Discussion