GCOOS Board Meeting

Josie Quintrell, NFRA Executive Director
August 2010

National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing
NFRA = non-profit organization serving the interests of the 11 RA
Governed by a Board of Directors, made up of 2 Reps from each RA
One vote per RA
Funded by dues (federal and non-federal), NOAA grant and other sources
Accomplishments

- Published “Providing Coastal Information in a Changing Climate” The Regional Contribution to the National IOOS” February 2010
  - Highlights what products and services will be developed for the $33 m request
  - Focuses on 5 themes:
    • Marine Operations
    • Climate Variability and Change
    • Ecosystems, Fisheries and Water Quality
    • Coastal Hazards
    • Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
- First time all 11 RAs have come together to create a vision for what regional IOOS has to offer
- Adding section on response to Deep Horizon Spill
- Revise and update once RA proposals are completed
NFRA Activities

• Expanded NFRA Executive Committee
  – Ray Toll, GCOOS Rep

• Increasing NFRA Presence in Washington - Exec Comm trips
  – NOAA Leadership - Jane Lubchenco, Mary Glackin, Steve Gallagher, Sally Yozell
  – NOAA Offices and Programs - NWS, NMFS, NOS (Dave Kennedy), NCOS (HAB, Mussel Watch, Sensors), OCRM (CMSP)
  – Office of Management and Budget; CEQ
  – USGS, MMS, EPA
  – Congressional Offices - over 90 offices visited by RA constituents
  – Strategic Partners – Ocean Leadership, Alliance for Earth Observations, Environmental Groups

• Testimony and Comments -
  – White House Task Force on Ocean Policy (testimony)
  – The CMSP Framework
  – NOAA’s Next-Gen Strategic Plan
  – Climate Service Working Group
  – Memoranda to NOAA re: implementation of legislation, funding gap issues, certification;
  – Memorandum to IOOC

• Informal network of RA Directors to address issues concerning governance; organizational structure (independent office or not), how to structure proposal process, membership dues, financial systems, liability issues, etc

• NFRA Website
  www.usnfra.org (hosted by AOOS)

• Communication with NOAA
  – NFRA Letter of welcome and meeting with Dr Lubchenco
  – Regular meeting with NOAA IOOS Office (formal and informal)
  – Advocate RA concerns – e.g. funding process; conceptual designs

• Briefings to Interagency Committee, ORRAP (advisory committee), (e.g. letter concerning closing of Ocean US office)

• Outreach (collaborative with NOAA)
  – Brochures, one pagers, presentations
  – Conferences - MST IEEE Session, CERF Session, NMEA
  – Regional education coordinators group – outreach materials, public kiosks, teacher workshops
NFRA Activities – Con’t

- **NFRA Subcommittees**
  - Education and Outreach - Chris Simoniello, Chair
    - Submitted NFRA Proposal to NOAA’s Environmental Literary Grant Program
    - Presentations to NMEA, training, MTS Article
  - Modeling and Analysis
    - Worked with Rich Signell on RA Model Interoperability Project (Threds Server)
    - Briefed by COOPs, NOAA and NDCCC; Working on Concept of Operations

- **Performance Metrics Working Group**
  - HFR metric finalized

- **Communication**
  - Monthly Calls, quarterly newsletter, updates, revised website

- **Coordinate RA discussion**
  - Product Developers Workshop;
  - RA Committee Structures; RA Reporting; Dues

- **Upcoming**
  - Advocacy Meeting – Sept/Oct
  - NFRA Annual Meeting – Mon Nov 15, Washington DC
  - IOOS Regional Coordination Meeting – Nov 16-17 Washington DC
    - Nov 16 – Briefing for Newly Appointed IOOC on interagency project. Hill Reception
    - Nov 17 - Leadership Meeting (morning) “Response Ready Regions- Lessons Learned from Deep Horizon (afternoon)
    - Nov 18 - RA Review with IOOS Office
### Recent Funding History

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- **Pres** = President’s Budget Request; **Fin** = Final Adopted Budget; **HFR**= High Frequency Radar; **Req**= IOOS Request

- **FY 10**: $27 includes $20m for Regional IOOS; $4m for Model Interoperability Testbed and $3m for ACT
- **FY 11**: Senate numbers includes $24m for regional comp grants, including multiple region academic NGO and $3m for ACT
- Continuing Resolution (CR) likely - could mean Pres Level ($14.5) or last year’s ($27.5) or ???
Funding Outlook

**FY11**

In Process. NFRA worked with Hill Staffers on getting a Senate and House Dear Colleague Letters Sent to Appropriations Committee Members

- House Letter - 26 Signatures
- Senate Letter – 22 Signatures
- Probably CR – Continuing Resolution for Budget - Election Year

**FY12**

- House Letter in Support of FY 12
- Dr Lubchenco met with DOC on FY12
- Expect Congressional budget process to be even tougher
- Working with JOCI on high level meetings with DOC and OMB
Oil Spill Activities

• **Oil Spill Legislation**
  – **House** Bill - HR 3534 “CLEAR” would establish the Ocean Resources Conservation and Assistance (ORCA) Fund.
  – 10% of OCS revenues dedicated to ORCA
  – ORCA Funds to support:
    • 70% to coastal states (35% to producing states; 35% to other coastal states)
    • 20% of ORCA would support long-term monitoring through IOOS;
    • 10% to grants regional ocean governance alliances

  Provisions are in House consolidated bill that past in June

  – **Senate** Bills – No action taken before recess
    • NFRA submitted regarding data management and consideration of RA assets in oil spill assessment work.
    – National Endowment for the Oceans (NEO) – Senate’s version of ORCA. Not included
      • Funded from interest on Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, OCS Revenues (oil and renewables), fines
      • Does not mention observing but does set up regional grant program that RAs would be eligible

• “**Windows of Opportunity**”
  – Gulf of Mexico Observing Plan
  – Surface Current Mapping Plan

• **Workshop on Lessons Learned**
Questions?

Thank you