



Gulf Glider Task Team
Conference Call Meeting
16 May 2017

Participants: Chad Lembke, Dave Driver, Monty Graham, Becky Baltes, Barb Kirkpatrick, Matt Howard, Grant Craig

National Perspective

Becky provided updates from IOOS Program Office. Archiving is in place and work continues toward an autonomous system to receive and transport data to the DAC. There is an upcoming change in personnel to the IOOC DAC team and a new developer will be coming on.

An operations and maintenance phase for the DAC will aim to accommodate more providers in the system and some developments planned over the course of the next year are enhanced tools for existing users and the ability to receive raw files and translate to file format to the DAC.

- This will enable smaller shops to send in data and participate in the DAC.
- The DAC will not grab the data but will look at the most efficient way to transport data to the DAC.
- Create code that can be utilized by any profiling glider as a “translator” for raw data.
- Develop push script to send up (more secure).

In summary, overall goals are to continue QC, get more operators into the system, and continue to work on attribution that is sufficient to funders and data users. The Underwater Glider Network has changed name to Underwater Glider DAC.

John Kerfoot is the go to for technical questions and also can provide help for the glider user group website.

There was discussion of submission/ receiving of full “after the fact” data sets and nomenclature to avoid mix up with other data sets. The focus now is on new operators and then work on “delayed-mode” submissions.

Also discussed was how to package the parts of a glider data set that do not look like profiles (when glider acts like a drifter or hovering). This will need to be discussed with user groups.

(Chad) Eventually want more data sets and capability to receive any variable.
(Becky) Mechanisms for archiving full data sets – can go outside of DAC and directly to NCEI.

January Workshop Follow Up (Becky/ Barb)

Work on the glider user group is proceeding. The workshop report should be finished soon. Goals that were outcome of January workshop include:

- Survey of federal and non-federal funding partners to determine what observation requirements can be met with gliders. What are proposal and funding opportunity requirements?
- Grow glider community
- Get glider user group and website forum started. Some obstacles/ questions included determining host for site (IOOS site?), responsibility for monitoring, and developing strategies for useful and successful site.
 - Becky and Barb agree best path forward is to get website up and running and make adjustments as needed.
- Get webinar series going (some possible topics for initial webinar series are “how to make your glider better work for you,” and “top 10 tips for a successful mission”). Feedback from glider workshop indicated that people want useful tips for glider operation. Webb has offered to do 1st webinar.

(Chad) Mentioned some points on the function of the website. The website initially can serve as a community forum to promote networking and build cohesiveness amongst the glider community. The website can be the main networking mechanism and help program start ups, address logistical topics, and act as information hub (who’s running gliders?/ where?).

All of these initiatives, including plans for scientific session and town hall at Ocean Sciences meeting will promote keeping glider community together and building.

Glider Funding

The FY18 ask for glider funding was well received. The verbiage in funding asks has changed to reflect more focused asks. These directed asks target specific gaps in the observing plan. For FY17 asks focused on HF radar coverage which has large gaps in GOM (the language there but not the money) and for FY18 will continue to pursue funds for HF radar and glider operations (specifically money for operations and not hardware). Will keep pursuing, asks are well received and there is compelling story of justification. Overall asking for relatively small amounts so hopefully funding will come through. (Chad) was asked about the State of FL funding ask form USF for operational funds for gliders in response ongoing red tide event – has not heard anything yet.

Chad mentioned an extensive Navy operation coming up in Mississippi. Monty discussed background and details of the events as USM is heavily involved. The operation will take place at the culmination of a 5-week intensive certification program for unmanned maritime systems offered through USM. The current class consists of mostly Navy personnel (14 of 15). The operation is a demonstration of the Navy's assets and operational demo's will include riverine special warfare and a brown to blue water corridor demonstration. The Navy is not inviting public participation/ observation and want people to steer clear of operations. This is the first time the Navy is executing an operation like this and there are a lot of unknowns. The civilian version of the certification program is available for public consumption.

A question was asked comparing the USM Certification Program to the Webb training. Monty clarified that the USM training is not a manufacturers "how to" training but covers fundamentals of ocean hydrography and acoustics, decision making process for safe and successful operations, and data handling. The USM Certification Course is "on the books" and by next year should be on "full run."

Brief closing discussion

We will try to have more regular engagement of the GGTT. Grant at GCOOS can provide organizational support to the GGTT. Barb mentioned that the workshop report will be completed and the user group website initiated over the summer and the GGTT can shoot to reconvene sometime in August.

Matt mentioned that Steve DiMarco has 6 missions planned for the next 6 months including flying over the TX Flower Garden Banks and North Gulf Slope. Chad was deploying as the GGTT met for this call for a 1-month mission over the eastern shelf and may have another mission in August and one off FL east coast.

Call adjourned.