



U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee  
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# What is the IOOS Association?

- Membership of all 11 IOOS Regional Associations
- Facilitates communication and coordination across IOOS regions, NOAA, and the broader enterprise
- Promotes the value and increase visibility of IOOS and coastal observing
- Advocates for IOOS funding and other policy supportive of IOOS and ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observation





# Talk outline



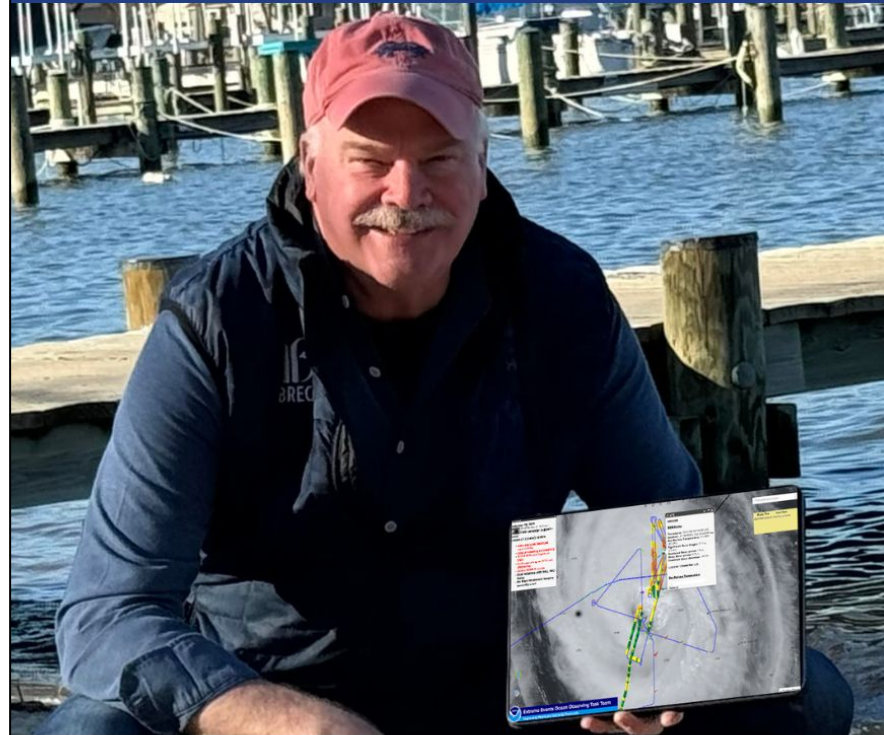
- Updates on current activities
- Proposed Inflation Reduction Act effort → “Topic 2” / National scale projects
  - Evolving Association role & challenges
- Advocacy: Appropriations & other policy updates

# IOOS Spring Meeting, March 12-14, 2024, Washington D.C.

## Agenda Highlights

- OSW collaboration discussion with BOEM
- Maturing organizationally
- Challenges of modernization v. sustaining existing system
- Strategy for responding to President's Budget (76% cut)
- Caraid Award
- Hill visits

## 2024 CARAID AWARD



*The IOOS Association is pleased to announce that Dave Jones of StormCenter Communications, Inc. is the 2024 recipient of the Caraid Award. Dave is receiving this award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to observing, understanding and protection of our oceans and coasts through vision, leadership, friendship, and collaboration.*

**Dave Jones**

Next Meeting: September 3-5, 2024, Juneau, AK (hosted by AOOS)

# Updating communications strategy

- **Step 1: Communications Audit (Completed Jan 2024)**
  - Target audience for IA communications: Congress & federal agencies
  - Audit findings / recommendations:
    - Best practices to reach audience
    - Website refresh!!!
    - Quarterly congressionally-focused newsletter
    - Social media presence
- **Step 2: Communications Roadmap (Completed Mar 2024)**
  - Toward implementing recommendations: streamlined process w/ current capacity in mind
- **Step 3: Phased implementation based on capacity & resources (underway)**
  - Starting with website refresh → to be completed by end Sep 2024

# K-12 Toolkit for underserved school audiences

- **Contracted UCAR Center for Science Education (SciEd)**
- **Scope**
  - Build on existing RA resources (place based activities and case studies)
  - Package them in an accessible way with a national “wrapper” or context
  - Spanish translation
  - Compile recommendations & lessons learned from the effort
- **Three Themes**
  - Ocean Observations
  - Coastal Preparedness
  - Seafood and Environmental Change
- **Timeline**
  - Outline reviewed by RA education & outreach staff (March)
  - Draft toolkit under review by RA education & outreach staff (July)
  - Final toolkit available (November)

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

NOAA IOOS managing \$217.7M in IRA funds, of which...

- **\$100M non-competitive funding to the IOOS RAs**
  - Emphasis on enhanced data delivery, new partnerships, overburdened frontline communities; minimal O&M tail (5 years of funding)
  - Builds on existing core infrastructure
  - **\$55M for regionally specific work** → Divided equally among 11 RAs (\$5M each)
  - **\$45M for pan-regional to national scale efforts**
    - IOOS Association will provide coordination and management of project
    - Waves, water levels, and webcams (WWW) → low cost, hyper-local
    - Ecosystem Change → additional sensors on existing platforms, more water column data, enhance marine life data collection
    - Total to contribute to WWW & Eco Change = (~\$3.2M per region)
    - Equitable Service Delivery (\$3M) → assess and improve collective capacity to engage and support underserved communities



# IRA: Opportunities & Challenges for the Association

- **Organizational growth & change driven by IRA**
  - IRA = more than 2x annual operating budget
  - 2 new staff to coordinate IRA = triple # current employees
  - Above \$750K threshold for federal funding = prepare for audit coming!
    - Over past year have implemented new accounting system & financial tracking controls → more work to do!!! (including staff capacity)
    - New organizational policies and updates to existing policies needed
- **Outcome of all of this is the Association will be...**
  - Able to receive and manage federal awards directly (has received NOAA funding vis subaward from RA to date)
  - Better positioned to manage cross-regional collaborations and to grow community support activities and role



# Appropriations at a glance

*IOOS Regional Observations line; Amounts in millions of dollars.*

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
<b>Authorization Level</b>	such sums	such sums	such sums	48	50	52	54	56
<b>President's Budget</b>	29.4	19.4	19.4	19.4	69.5	40.5	42.5	10
<b>House Approps</b>	31	37.5	40.5	40.5	50	44	41	56
<b>Senate Approps</b>	33.7	37	39.5	40	47	46	42.5	?
<b>Enacted</b>	35	37	39	40.5	41	42.5	42.5	?
<b>IA request</b>	35.9	42	23.7	<u>45.25</u>	<u>56.5</u>	<u>75.3</u>	<u>80.5</u>	<u>56</u>

- **FY24** (enacted March 9) → IOOS Regional line = \$42.5M (flat from FY23 enacted)
  - Report language directs \$3.5M of that to NHABON (increase \$500K)
- **FY25** → Pres Bud & NOAA justification released March 11
  - **\$10M for IOOS Regional**



# IOOS Association FY25 Request



- **FY25 Request: \$56M**
  - \$50M core funding
  - \$6M for innovation, priority initiatives, and competitive grants (e.g., NHABON, OTT, COMT)
- **Considerations**
  - Core + Projects = FY25 authorized level (\$56M)
  - Justify increase over FY24 as addressing inflation & asset depreciation in annual request (versus previous “repair & prepare campaign”)
  - Start to socialize IRA capacity & projects that are tangible and resonate with Congress; prepare for cliff
- **Additionally... \$13M for Program Office** (Congress does not currently direct specific funding to IOOS national)

# FY25 Appropriations Strategy



## Massive grassroots effort at regional level

- Programmatic requests, office visits

## Dear Colleague Letters

- **House** → supports \$56M request
  - Pingree (D-ME), Carbajal (D-CA), Posey (R-FL)
  - **85 signatures** → **11 Rs**
- **Senate** → support “at authorized level” (\$56M)
  - Cantwell (D-WA), Wicker (R-MS)
  - **27 signatures** → **3 Rs**

## FY25 Written Testimony

- IOOS Association
- NOS Roundtable, Friends of NOAA, OAR/NOS/CI coalition



# Response to FY25 President's Budget



- **Letter to Secretary of Commerce** (widely circulated to Hill by IA and RAs)
- **Activated our networks - Sign on Letters!**
  - [Letter explicitly opposing PB request](#) and advocating for specific funding level → to be attached to our written testimony
    - **655 signatures**
  - [Letter appropriate for federal partners](#) (non-lobbying) to demonstrate support for IOOS
  - Encourage individual stakeholder letters to Congress (template available)
    - **429 signatures**
- **CNN Article**
- **Strategizing for influencing FY26 PB**



# FY25 Appropriations Next steps



## House and Senate draft bills:

- **House → \$56M for IOOS Regions**
  - Subcommittee markup June 26
  - Full committee markup July 9
- **Senate → TBD for IOOS Regions**
  - CJS markup scheduled for July 25

## Consensus bill:

- Most predicting continuing resolution(s) will be necessary
- Could be a long process like this year (FY24 budget passed in March)
- House mark is a good signal that IOOS regional funding will be restored (or even increased) in final enacted appropriations
- Election!?!

# Response to FY25 President's Budget - "Silver Lining"

- “We actively used their products and collaborated and participated in IOOS/CariCOOS initiatives to fulfill the National Weather Service's (NWS) mission to provide Impact-Based Decision-Support Services (IDSS) and save lives and property for the visitors and residents of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands...Since 2011, we have collaborated with CariCOOS to improve the service provided for beachgoers to prevent and reduce rip current death along our shorelines...” – *Carlos M Anselmi-Molina, NWS Weather Forecast Office (PR)*
- “Portland Pilots regularly utilizes this data to determine safe versus unsafe boarding conditions for arriving and departing vessel traffic...Without this data, and the increased presence of significant weather events, there will assuredly be delays in the supply chain. Vessels deliver critical cargoes including medical supplies, food, heating oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, bulk cargoes, military equipment, road salt, coal, passengers, and more. Any unnecessary delay for these cargoes will further exacerbate the rising costs of goods...” – *Calvin Klopp, Portland Pilots, Inc. (ME)*
- “Funding from IOOS is the backbone of Alaska's weather sensing infrastructure. Since 2011, the Marine Exchange of Alaska has placed 70 weather stations across the state with the yearly funding from AOOS. Without AOOS' funding, new weather stations could not be installed. With increased vessel traffic throughout the state, the demand for environmental data is growing. Accurate and reliable weather data is crucial to safe maritime operations in the state, as well as for collecting and analyzing historical trends as the climate warms. Additionally, the current infrastructure cannot be maintained without AOOS/IOOS funding. It is the only source of funds provided to the Marine Exchange of Alaska for weather sensing installation and maintenance. The data produced from these sites is utilized nationally by way of the National Weather Service and the Coast Guard's National Data Buoy Center. Should funding cease, the state will see a degradation of weather sensing capability and capacity, a loss that mariners and those that utilize Alaska's waterways cannot afford.” – *Christopher F. Coutu, Marine Exchange of Alaska*

# Other Recent Policy Input

## Legislation

- IOOS reauthorization (ICOOS/COORA) → FY25 is last year of authorization
- Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA) reauthorization
- Weather Act Reauthorization
- COLLABORATE Act
- Working Waterfronts Act / Ocean Regional Opportunity and Innovation Act

## Administration (OSTP / NOC) RFIs

- National Ocean Biodiversity Strategy
- Sustainable Ocean Economy
- Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal Research Plan



**Thank you!**

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