Update on Requirements Tracking for IOOS Advisory Committee

Becca Derex - Policy and Budget Analyst, U.S. IOOS Office

Kristen Yarincik - Executive Director, IOOS Association

Budget Communications have been challenging, lately

Whaddya mean, you need more money?!

Didn't you *just* fix everything?

Other Observing Systems need help, too

You shouldn't be modernizing with so many recap needs

Please modernize to address my constituents' priorities

What did you do with all that BIL and IRA money?

Those questions deserve detailed and thorough answers

To make the case for funding increases, we need to provide:

- National status of the "health" of our observing systems
  - Performance Measures
- Unfunded Requirements (UFRs) mapped to IOOS mission areas
  - Updated annually to include new/emerging UFRs
  - Including progress made with BIL and IRA funds
- A living, annually updated Recapitalization Plan
  - 5-to-10-year horizon for major repairs, replacements, upgrades
  - Nationally consistent so data can be rolled up

Now, some of you may be thinking…

NOT QUITE

Those questions deserve detailed and thorough answers

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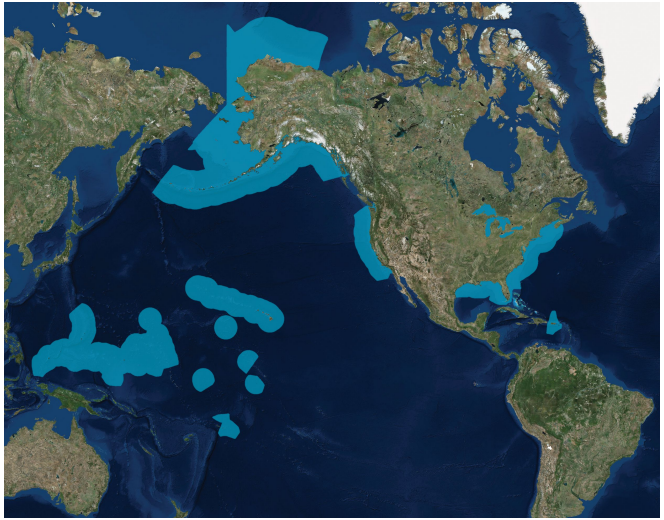
- National status of the "health" of our observing systems
  - Performance Measures
- Unfunded Requirements (UFRs) mapped to IOOS mission areas
  - Updated annually to include new/emerging UFRs
  - Including progress made with BIL and IRA funds
  - National and Regional Requirements
- A living, annually updated Observing System Recapitalization Plan
  - 5-to-10-year horizon for major repairs, replacements, upgrades
  - Nationally consistent so data can be rolled up
  - Prioritization

Have this already

Working on it

Not Started

Developing the national status of the “health” of our observing systems



Summarizing the need: A nationally consistent infrastructure inventory and rating methodology that:

(1) Articulates the system we are striving for:

(a) Mission areas / requirements currently served and what that system *should* look like

(b) Mission areas / requirements NOT met and what that system should look like

(2) Identifies the associated costs of:

(a) Sustaining current system health, addressing risks, and filling gaps

(b) A growth and evolution plan for unfunded requirements

(c) Provides a national framework that allows for regional priorities in implementation

Consolidated Unfunded Requirements List

The CURL is our earlier attempt at this task

- Put together quickly right before BIL (2021) to advocate for infrastructure needs as well as non-infrastructure support needed for those infrastructure needs
- Needs updating → i.e., what was funded under BIL, IRA, or annual appropriations since 2021?
  - What remains as an unfunded requirement?
  - Are there new unfunded requirements to add?
  - Refine format / information guidance to get better answers
- Needs to be a living document
- Define “unfunded requirement”
  - Regional level:
    - Unfunded projects from 5-Year Cooperative Agreements that are still relevant
    - New needs identified through stakeholder engagement
  - National level:
    - Legislative mandates
    - Political drivers / opportunities
    - U.S. IOOS Office priorities

A living, annually updated Recapitalization Plan

Build on the CURL and account for:

- Annually updated unfunded requirements
- Regular annual infrastructure recapitalization need based on schedule of system lifespans, etc.
- Sustaining existing infrastructure:
  - To include planning for sustaining new IRA efforts after “cliff”
- System modernization & evolution to meet
  - Unfunded requirements
  - Emerging national priorities with regional expressions (e.g., OSW, mCDR)
  - Equitable service delivery

Considerations:

- How do we craft the framework for needed national consistency (i.e., a high level system plan) that allows for regional priorities and differences?
- How does it relate to reporting at regional level?

Next steps:

- Agreement from RA Directors → August
- Discuss approach / process → September IOOS Fall meeting

A living, annually updated Recapitalization Plan

Advisory Committee discussion:
Noting the overall goal is to use this “recapitalization plan” to strengthen budget requests and to add transparency on the state of the observing systems and unfunded needs…

What advice do you for us on this project/process? For delivery to NOAA, OMB, Congress, DOC?

BACKUP SLIDES

Budget Formulation - the famous "sausage grinder"

With each budget year….

President's Budget

House Mark

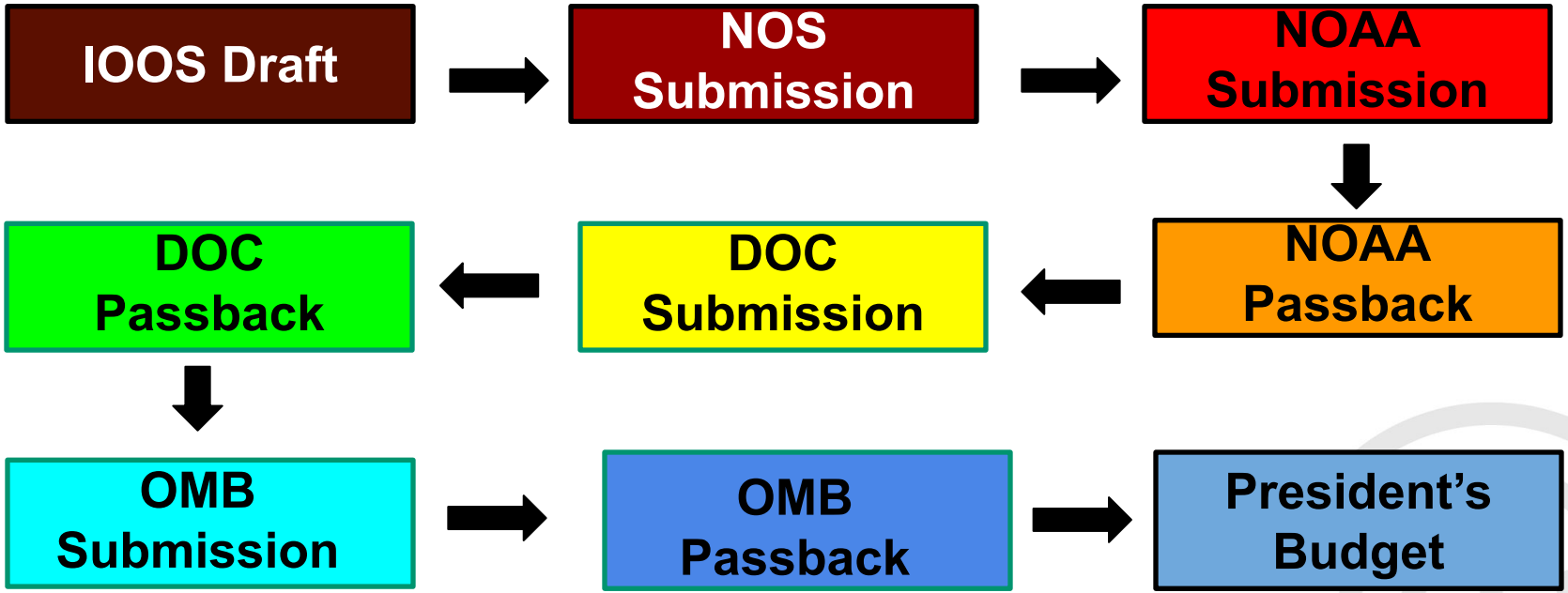
Senate Mark

Enacted Budget (e.g., Omnibus, CR)

…but how do we get to the PB?

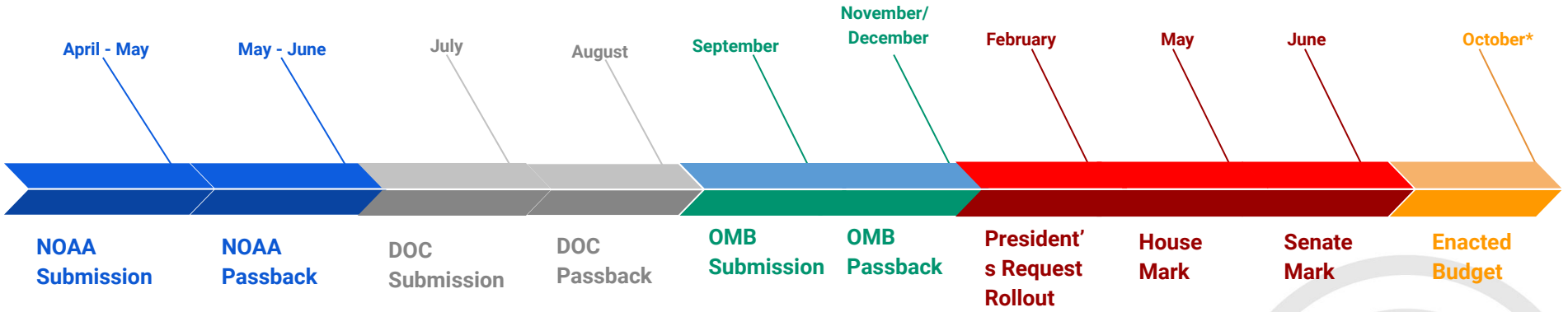
IOOS | EYES ON THE OCEAN

Budget Formulation - the famous “sausage grinder”



Budget Formulation - the famous “sausage grinder”

Ideal Timeline



Pre-decisional; internal to agency

Public