

U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee January 22, 2025

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### Talk outline: IOOS Association 101



- What is the IOOS Association?
- Regional Associations

#### • Advocacy

- Appropriations: approach & requests
- IOOS Authorization
- $\circ$  Other policy input

#### • Programmatic activities

- Inflation Reduction Act: "Topic 2" national scale projects
- Strategic Communications
- K-12 Toolkit
- NHABON Community of Practice
- $\circ$  Caraid award
- IOOS Spring Meeting & 25th Anniversary



### 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



### **IOOS Association** 2024 Accomplishments

#### **Inflation Reduction Act**

- First time nationwide collaboration: \$45M proposal, now being kicked off
- Lots of new [and needed] staff capacity coming into Regional Associations and Program Office
  - $\rightarrow$  IOOS Association = 3 new staff to start in January

#### **Community response to FY25 President's Budget**

- Demonstration of user engagement and investment in the program
- Positive House & Senate marks ( 🤞 )

#### **IOOS Association organizational evolution**

• Tremendous effort to transition the organization from a one-person shop to a growing organization with strong fiscal management and a welcoming organization for new staff



### **IOOS Association** 2025 Priorities

#### **Inflation Reduction Act**

- Pan-regional / national effort implementation
- Early demonstrations of impact

#### **IOOS Reauthorization**

• Current authorization through FY25

#### **Sustainability Planning**

• Improved long-term planning of national funding needs just for stabilization (recapitalization, inflation, etc.)

#### **Increase Strategic Communications**

- New Congress & administration, targeted messaging
- Media social & traditional



### **IOOS Association** 2025 Challenges

#### **Inflation Reduction Act**

• Massive, multi-level coordination beyond historical collaboration

#### **Federal Fiscal Environment**

• Anticipating uphill battle for funding to continue

#### Improving use of IOOS as interagency, multi-mission integrator

- Challenges building awareness and use of IOOS across other agency programs, including within NOAA
- Opportunities to leverage IOOS for private sector engagement (data buys, pathway for industry data sharing)
- Formalization in weather enterprise, e.g. sustaining the hurricane glider program



### **11** Regional Associations

#### Legislated in IOOS Authorization

- Meet the NOAA certification standards and compliance procedure guidelines and information needs of user groups in the region while adhering to national standards
- Organizational structure for gathering and integrating required observation data
- Identify observational gaps for capital improvements and to support long-term system planning
- Have a strategic operational plan guiding the system
- Work cooperatively with governmental and non-governmental entities at all levels
- Comply with financial oversight requirements



### **Regional Priorities** Summary

#### All 11 RAs:

- Platforms: High Frequency Radars, Gliders, Shore Stations
- Applications: Search & Rescue, Maritime Safety (boats/vessels)
- Ecosystem/Habitat Monitoring
- Climate Data
- Stakeholder / User Engagement
- Regional Data Portals & Data Management Services

#### Most RAs:

- Platforms: Buoys
- Sea Level / Inundation / Water Level
- HABs & Water Quality
- Meteorological data
- Ocean Acidification
- Acoustic Telemetry
- Regional Models

Summary information presented to the IOOC in Sep 2024

LINK TO ACTIVITIES SPREADSHEET



### **Regional Priorities**

Categories \Xi		AOOS =	CariCOOS =	CeNCOOS =	GLOS =	GCOOS =	MARACOOS =	NANOOS =	NERACOOS =	PaclOOS =	sccoos =	SECOORA
1: Coastal Hazards	Total											
Sea level rise/inundation	10							$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$	
Water quality/HAB forecasting	10		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Coastal erosion	9		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$				$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
RT wave observations	9		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Water level	10				$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Storm surge	6										$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Rip current forecasts/beach alerts	7		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Wave run-up	6		$\checkmark$					<b>~</b>	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Hurricane forecasting	5		$\checkmark$									
2: Maritime Commerce/Navigational Safety												
Search and Rescue	11		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$							
Radars	11		$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Buoy/Ocean data	10		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Data for ships/boats	11				$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Meterogical data	10				$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Port information	8		$\checkmark$				~			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	



ASSOCIATION

### **Regional Priorities**

Categories -		= aoos =	CariCOOS	CeNCOOS -	GLOS =	gcoos =	MARACOOS -	NANOOS =	NERACOOS =	PaclOOS =	sccoos =	SECOORA
3: Fish, Ecosystems, Climate												
Gliders	11				~							
Ecosystem/habitat monitoring	11		$\checkmark$									
Climate data	11	Image: Image	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$						
Acoustic/Telemetry data	10			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Biological monitoring	9	Image: Image		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Fisheries	7			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Long-term data	8	▲					$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Coral	3		$\checkmark$							$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$
Seafloor/seabed	3				$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$						
MPAs	4											
4: Eco-forecasting, OA, HABS, hypoxia												
Ocean acidification	10		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$						
HABs	10	✓	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Water quailty	10		$\checkmark$									
Нурохіа	8		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	



LINK TO ACTIVITIES SPREADSHEET

### **Regional Priorities**



Summary information presented to the IOOC in Sep 2024

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#### **Emerging Issues:**

- Data interpretation (all 11)
- Climate change impacts (all 11)
- Bio- / Eco- forecasting (10)
- Aging infrastructure (10)
- HABs (9)
- Extreme weather (9
- Ocean warming (9)



### **IOOS Association** Advocacy Role



#### **Appropriations Advocacy**

• Unified request and messaging across the IOOS regional network for the "IOOS Regional Observations" line

#### **Input on Authorizing Legislation**

- IOOS reauthorization (ICOOS/COORA)
- Other legislation that includes or is relevant to IOOS

Input to Administration Policy, Strategies, and Priorities



### Appropriations Advocacy Multi-Pronged Strategy

#### **IOOS** Association

- Develop annual request & supporting materials
- Meet with staff of Appropriations subcommittees, other key subcommittees
- Engage bipartisan leadership for Dear Colleague Letters (Senate & House)
- Prepare outside witness testimony (OWT)
- Work with partner coalitions on joint OWT (NOS partner programs, NAML, Friends of NOAA)
- $\circ$  Support RAs as needed/desired

#### **Regional Associations**

- Build relationships with offices within their regional footprint
- Submit programmatic requests to individual offices
- Meetings with individual offices to promote IOOS, talk through the request, and encourage sign on to Dear Colleague Letters
- Email follow up, thank yous, regular touch points as possible

#### Strategic advice and support from ESP Advisors



### **Appropriations** at a glance

IOOS Regional Observations line; Amounts in millions of dollars.	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Authorization Level	such sums	48	50	52	54	56
President's Budget	19.4	19.4	69.5	40.5	42.5	10
House Approps	40.5	40.5	50	44	41	56
Senate Approps	39.5	40	47	46	42.5	43.5
Enacted	39	40.5	41	42.5	42.5	?
IA request	23.7	<u>45.25</u>	<u>56.5</u>	<u>75.3</u>	<u>80.5</u>	<u>56</u>

#### Takeaways:

- President's Budget Request up and down over time → FY25 proposed \$10M for IOOS Regional Observation (↓ \$32.5M or 76%) was disheartening
- Congressional has appropriated modest but steady increases to IOOS over time → NHABON directed funding encompassed in these increases



### **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 enacted as addressing inflation & asset depreciation
- 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)



### **IOOS Association** FY25 Request



#### **Dear Colleague Letters**

- House → supported \$56M request
  Pingree (D-ME), Carbajal (D-CA), Posey (R-FL)
  85 signatures → 12 Rs
- Senate → supported "at authorized level" (i.e., \$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



### **IOOS Association** Response to FY25 President's Budget



- Letter to Secretary of Commerce
- Activated our networks Sign on Letters!
  - <u>Letter explicitly opposing PB request</u> and advocating for specific funding level
    - 655 signatures
  - <u>Letter appropriate for federal partners</u> (non-lobbying) to demonstrate support for IOOS
    - 429 signatures
  - $\circ\,$  Encouraged individual stakeholder letters to Congress
  - Result = MANY user/partner testimonials to be used in communications of all kinds
- CNN Article



### FY25 Appropriations: Where we are now



#### **House and Senate bills**

- Passed committees in July
- House  $\rightarrow$  \$56M for IOOS Regions ( $\uparrow$  \$13.5M or 32% on FY24)
- Senate  $\rightarrow$  \$43.5 for IOOS Regions ( $\uparrow$  \$1M or 2.3% on FY24)
- Both = good signal that IOOS regional funding will be ok (at least flat, possibly ↑)

#### **Continuing Resolution until March 14**

 Included disaster supplemental funding; unclear how much may go to IOOS (e.g., for asset repair/replacement)



### **FY26 Appropriations:** Just getting started...



#### **IOOS Association Request**

- Stay at \$56M for FY26 request
- Similar talking points to FY25: emphasize economy benefits
- Materials for outreach ready by the end of January

# House letter to White House Office of Management & Budget

- Advocating for \$56M in FY26 President's Budget
- 15 signatures (3 Rs)

#### **Administration change**

• Will submit a letter to Trump transition team / new NOAA policy team



### Trump Administration: IOOS "asks"

#### **IOOS Association preparing a transition letter to Trump team**

#### Three "asks" (in development)

- Utilize the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) as a mechanism for further engaging the private sector in ocean data collection and innovation as part of a broader strategy for federal ocean data.
- Build robust pathways for institutionalizing operational ocean observations and integrating them into the weather enterprise, including formalizing the IOOS pan-regional "hurricane" glider program in IOOS base.
- Include \$56,000,000 for IOOS Regional Observations in the fiscal year 2026 president's budget.



### **IOOS Association** Input on Authorization / Other Policy

#### **IOOS Authorizing Legislation**

- ICOOS Act 2009; COORA 2020
- FY25 is last year of authorization
- Already working with Senate side committees of jurisdiction; begin House side engagement this year

#### **Other Authorizing Legislation (118th)**

- 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 / Ocean Policy Committee) RFIs

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



### **IOOS Association** Programmatic Activities

**The IOOS Association** supports convening, communication, collaboration across the IOOS network in a number of ways; increasing coordination role under IRA



### Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

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

#### \$100M non-competitive funding to the IOOS RAs

- Builds on existing core infrastructure with emphasis on enhanced data delivery, new partnerships, overburdened frontline communities; minimal O&M tail (5 years of funding)
- **\$55M for regionally specific work**  $\rightarrow$  Divided equally among 11 RAs (\$5M each)
- \$45M for pan-regional to national scale efforts (To be led by MARACOOS)
  - Waves, water levels, and webcams (WWW)  $\rightarrow$  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
  - IOOS Association (+2 staff) will provide coordination and management of project



### **Strategic Communications**

#### • Website refresh completed!

- Primary target audience: Congressional staffers
- Better describe IOOS and links to regional work: Focus Area pages

#### • Strategic Communications Ad Hoc Committee

- Formed at fall IA Board meeting to make recommendations for audiences, objectives, and mechanisms to increase strategic communications capacity with the Association (benefiting the regions as well)
- Overarching goal / audience = building public support
- Report back at spring meeting

#### • Future

- > Build out and utilize social media presence
- Implementation of Strategic Communications committee recommendations (resource availability dependent)



### K-12 Toolkit

• 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
- Food from the ocean and Environmental Change

#### • Now available on the IOOS Association website

<u>https://ioosassociation.org/resources/k-12-education-toolkit/</u>



### **NHABON** Community of Practice

- National Harmful Algal Bloom Observation Network (NHABON)
  - Directed funding by Congress since Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations
    - FY20: \$1M
    - FY21: \$2.5M
    - FY22: \$2.5M
    - FY23: \$3M
    - FY24: \$3.5M

#### • IOOS Pilot Projects

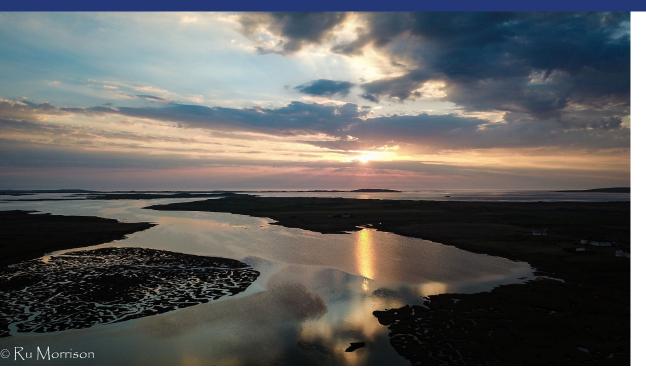
- Each of the IOOS RAs is involved in a project
  - Deploying observing assets for HAB / toxin detection and monitoring
  - Data integration and tools

#### IOOS Association Role

- Support a steering committee
- Helped develop a framework and implementation strategy
- Community of Practice: cross-project communications, public webinars



### **Caraid Award**



#### Recipients

2020: Ru Morrison, NERACOOS 2021: Libby Jewitt, NOAA OAP (at the time) 2022: Molly McCammon, AOOS 2023: Tara Owens, Hawai'i Sea Grant 2024: Dave Jones, Stormcenter Communications

2025: To be announced mid/late February

- Annual, created in 2020; nominations solicited in the fall, award announced late winter/early spring
- Recognizes outstanding contributions to observing and understanding our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes through vision, leadership, friendship.
- "Caraid" is a Scottish Gaelic word, meaning "care" or "love" and is pronounced like "courage." These are the attributes – caring and the courage to do what matters – that makes IOOS work.

### IOOS Spring Meeting, March 25-26, 2025, Washington D.C.

#### **IOOS Association organizes the fall & spring IOOS community meetings**

- Spring meetings always in DC, in conjunction with Hill outreach
- Fall meetings rotate around IOOS regions

#### **Agenda topics** (in development)

- Advancing IRA
- Strategic communications
- IOOS Funding: system sustainability, appropriations

#### **IOOS 25th Anniversary celebration**

- Sponsorship needed!!!
- Evening event on the Hill
- Congressional awards
- Light speaking program (sponsorship opportunities)
- Could be first in a series of events (TBD)





# Thank you!

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## **BACK UP SLIDES**



### **Updated Funding (non-NOAA)**

Categories 👳	Ŧ	AOOS =	CariCOOS =	CeNCOOS =	GLOS 🔻	GCOOS 🔻	MARACOOS =		NERACOOS =	PaclOOS =	sccoos =	SECOORA =
10: Financial support from non-NOAA Agencies (i.e., other Federal agencies, regional fisheries council, state agencies, foundations)												
State gov't	6										<b>×</b>	
BOEM	4	~				~	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$			
Regional ocean council/Ocean protection council	4								$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	
Foundations	5							~			4	
Organizational membership	3								$\checkmark$			$\checkmark$
USGS	2		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$							
NASA	6			$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
City gov't	2				$\checkmark$						$\checkmark$	
USACOE	0											

LINK TO ACTIVITIES SPREADSHEET

#### Most common non-NOAA sources:

- State gov
- Foundations
- NASA  $\rightarrow$  MBON most cases?

