**U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®)**

**Environmental Compliance Questionnaire for Proposed Actions**

**FOR RECIPIENT USE ONLY**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Title/Name** |  |
| **Organization/Applicant** |  |
| **NOAA Award Number** |  |
| **Project Lead Contact** |  |
| **Geographic Location** |  |
| **Project Start Date** |  |
| **Project End Date** |  |
| **Date Questionnaire Completed** |  |

**Objective of the Proposed Activities**

Include a summary of the proposed activities for this specific environmental compliance analysis.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Description of Proposed Activities**

List the types of activities to be reviewed for this specific environmental compliance analysis.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Specific Location(s) of Proposed Activities**

Include a geographic description of any activities that will take place including latitude/longitude operational boundaries and/or deployment/retrieval location(s). Note any proximity to any Federal, State, Tribal, or local protected areas.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Checklist Purpose and Instructions**

**This questionnaire must be completed for all activities funded via U.S. IOOS financial assistance awards.**

The purpose of this questionnaire is to ensure IOOS has all relevant information the program office needs to make an informed decision about the impact of funding activities via grant, cooperative agreement or contract on the natural environment.  Each proposed project submitted to IOOS is reviewed by the staff or a Federal Program Officer in order to determine what National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) steps are needed for each project and what further environmental compliance actions are needed before a decision to implement the project can be made.

When completing this questionnaire please use the Final U.S. IOOS Programmatic Environmental Assessment, dated June 2016, as a reference document: <https://ioos.noaa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/IOOS_PEA-with-Appendices_FINAL_June-2016.pdf>

All blocks in the questionnaire must be checked either “YES,” “NO” or “N/A”. Where further explanation is required please use the additional space provided. For example, some activities may require permits or a detailed description of proposed methodology; or an expanded justification to explain why the proposed activities will have no significant environmental impact. Significant effects must be reported regardless if the effect will be adverse or beneficial.

Upon completion of this Environmental Compliance Questionnaire, the RA or grantee authorized representative and principle investigator (PI) must both sign and submit it to the IOOS Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC), Regina Evans via email to [regina.evans@noaa.gov](mailto:regina.evans@noaa.gov).

**Funds may not be expended until the IOOS Program Office ECC has notified you in writing that you may initiate the proposed activities.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **IOOS Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| 1. Are the activities being proposed described in the Final U.S. IOOS Programmatic Environmental Assessment, dated June 2016? |  |  |  |
| 1. Are the techniques you will use to execute the proposed activities fully described in the Final U.S. IOOS Programmatic Environmental Assessment, dated June 2016? |  |  |  |
| 1. Are the best management practices (project design criteria, NMFS consultation mitigation measures in the PEA) to be used during the proposed activities adequate to ensure any environmental impacts are not significant? |  |  |  |
| 1. Are the specific affected resources and impacts that are likely to result from these proposed activities fully described in the Final U.S. IOOS Programmatic Environmental Assessment, dated June 2016? |  |  |  |
| 1. Could these activities have significant effects on public health or safety? |  |  |  |
| **Questions on Physical Resources** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| 1. Will the proposed action likely affect a significant aspect of the natural physical environment? |  |  |  |
| 1. Consider the Clean Water Act. The operation of vessels is subject to CWA. The IOOS Program maintains compliance with these applicable CWA regulations by obtaining the required discharge permits. Have you obtained the necessary discharge permits and provided a copy to the IOOS Environmental Compliance Coordinator? If not, explain. |  |  |  |
| 1. Consider the Coastal Zone Management Act. License, permit and financial assistance activities must be fully consistent with CZMA. The IOOS Program will require RAs and grantees to work with state coastal management programs to ensure any federal actions are consistent with the enforceable policies of the state’s coastal management program. Have you obtained the necessary licenses and permits required by your state CZMA and provided a copy to the IOOS Environmental Compliance Coordinator? If not, explain. |  |  |  |
| 1. Consider the Estuary Protection Act. In planning for the use or development of water and land resources, have you considered the impacts of commercial and industrial developments on estuaries? Explain how. |  |  |  |
| 1. Consider the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000. Is this project part of an estuary habitat restoration effort? If so, explain. |  |  |  |
| 1. Consider the Rivers and Harbor Act. The IOOS program requires RAs and grantees to demonstrate compliance with RHA. If this project includes activities, such as excavation or filling of navigable waters, extensions of piers or any other activities encumbered by RHA, have you obtained the necessary permits and provided a copy to the IOOS Environmental Compliance Coordinator? If not, explain. |  |  |  |
| f.  Consider Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management (May 24, 1977). Does any part of this project occur in or near a floodplain? If yes, please describe the area subject to flood. |  |  |  |
| Explanation: |  |  |  |
| **Questions on Biological Resources** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| 1. Will the proposed activities likely affect a significant aspect of the biological environment? |  |  |  |
| a. Consider the Endangered Species Act. Could this proposed action have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed as Endangered or Threatened, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitats?  If so, it is required to consult with the appropriate federal and state agency prior to any activities. Please confirm that these steps have been taken. |  |  |  |
| Explanation: |  |  |  |
| b. Consider the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Could this proposed action have adverse effects on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)? If so, explain. |  |  |  |
| Explanation: |  |  |  |
| c. Consider the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Could this proposed action have adverse effects on any marine mammals? If so, explain and be sure to consult with the appropriate federal agency prior to any activity. |  |  |  |
| Explanation: |  |  |  |
| d. Consider the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Could this proposed action have adverse effects on any migratory birds? If so, explain and be sure to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) prior to any activity. |  |  |  |
| Explanation: |  |  |  |
| e. Consider the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Could the proposed action potentially destroy, cause the loss of, or injure any marine sanctuary resource? If so, have you consulted with the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and provided copies of your correspondence to the IOOS Environmental Compliance Coordinator? |  |  |  |
| f. Consider Executive Order 13089, Coral Reef Protection (June 11, 1998). This law requires federal agencies to protect coral reef ecosystems and, to the extent permitted by law, prohibits them from authorizing funding or carrying out any actions that will degrade these ecosystems. Could the proposed action have adverse effects on any coral reef ecosystems? If so, explain. |  |  |  |
| Explanation: |  |  |  |
| g. Consider Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species (February 3, 1999). Could this proposed action introduce a non-native, invasive species into the environment? If so, explain. |  |  |  |
| Explanation: |  |  |  |
| 1. Consider Executive Order 13158, Marine Protected Areas (May 26, 2000).  Is this proposed action conducted in or has the potential to impact a Marine Protected Area? If so, explain. |  |  |  |
| Explanation: | | | |
| **Questions on Cultural Resources** | **Yes** | **No** | **N/A** |
| 1. Will the proposed action likely affect a significant aspect of the historically preserved environment? |  |  |  |
| * 1. Consider the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Each state has a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) that administers state cultural resource programs and ensures the conservation and protection of cultural resources within the state. Does this project have any tribal implications or involve any cultural resources, for example prehistoric or historic sites, buildings, districts, structures, others? If yes, have you provided copies of your correspondence with the SHPO to the IOOS Environmental Compliance Coordinator? |  |  |  |
| Explanation: |  |  |  |
| 1. Consider the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act. Does the project jeopardize the preservation of historical and archeological data (including relics and specimens) which might otherwise be irreparably lost or destroyed? |  |  |  |
| c. Consider the Abandoned Shipwreck Act. Does this project involve the installation of anchors or stations on or in abandoned shipwrecks that would be subject to regulations established in the Abandoned Shipwreck Act and by the applicable State? If so, have you provided copies of your correspondence with state agencies documenting compliance to the IOOS Environmental Compliance Coordinator? |  |  |  |
| d. Consider Executive Order 13175 (November 6, 2000): Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments. Does this project intersect with Indian tribal self-government and sovereignty, honor tribal treaty and other rights? If so, have you provided documentation of your consultation and coordination with the Indian Tribal government to the IOOS Environmental Compliance Coordinator? |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Signature of Authorized Representative** | **Title** | **Date** |
| **Signature of Principle Investigator** | **Title** | **Date** |