



FY2010: Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System Development

NOAA continued a merit-based funding process in 2010 to enhance regional coastal ocean observing systems (RCOOS) and achieve three long-term outcomes: establishing coordinated regional observing and data management infrastructures, developing applications and products for regional stakeholders, and crafting regional and national data management and communications protocols. In addition, regional associations received planning grant awards designed to assist them in stakeholder engagement, education and outreach, and long-range planning activities.

CARIBBEAN REGION

The Caribbean Regional Association (CaRA) is the regional association for the coastal and ocean observing system that is being developed for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Initial implementation of the Caribbean Integrated Coastal Ocean Observing System (CarICOOS) is focused on meeting identified stakeholder needs for improved real time data products and forecasts of coastal weather (winds), currents, waves, water quality and hurricane-driven inundation for the U.S. Caribbean Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Funding:

The FY 2010 RCOOS award to CaRA is \$1,000,000. The 2010 Regional Association (RA) Planning Grant award is \$399,824.

FY 2009 - \$527,016 RCOOS, \$399,826 RA

FY 2008 - \$499,999 RCOOS, \$399,699 RA

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Regional Priorities and Objectives:

CaRA has engaged stakeholders from various sectors pertaining to tourism and marine recreation, maritime transportation, security, and human and ecosystem health as well as economics, and whose decisions are based on coastal seas and weather information. To meet both stakeholder needs and national program requirements, CaRA will focus on the following activities:

- Enhancement or installation of essential in situ (in the water) observational assets;
- Operational implementation of modeling tools;
- Partnering with NOAA to produce regionally-focused remote sensing products;
- Ensuring Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS[®])-compliant data processing and archiving; and
- Disseminating data and products to agencies and stakeholders to ensure a user-responsive, operational RCOOS.

Now entering the third year of its project, CaRA will continue progress in the following areas:

- Completion of a coastal data buoy network;

(over)



- Sustained operation and maintenance of all observational assets (coastal buoys and meteorological mesonet) and sustained dissemination of data streams and data products;
 - Integrate and optimize observational and modeling components through data assimilation;
 - Operational implementation of surface tide and coastal circulation modeling (ADCIRC);
 - Implementation of regional ocean modeling (HYCOM-ROMS) for the high resolution western PR and VI grids;
 - Full implementation and publishing of IOOS-compliant, web-based tools and data products;
 - Operational implementation and optimization of coastal wave modeling (SWAN) and product suite;
 - Improvement of coastal inundation products through optimization of the computational grid for PR and USVI.
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