

Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009

High Level Summary

(See complementary slide)

- The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System (ICOOS) Act (P.L. 111-11) establishes a national integrated system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems to address regional and national needs for ocean information, gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data.
- The Act identifies the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as the lead Federal agency.
- The Act authorizes appropriation of “such sums as are necessary” (no new money was appropriated) through 2013 when the Act is due for reauthorization.
- The Act defines the System as that described in the IOOS Development Plan, but recognizes that the Plan will need updating in the future. System governance bodies include:
 - Council: Defined as the National Ocean Research Leadership Council, which functionally means the National Ocean Council Deputy Level. Serves as the policy and coordination oversight body for the System.
 - Committee: The council establishes an Interagency Ocean Observation Committee (IOOC) to manage tasks such as budgeting, standards, protocols, and coordination. The IOOC was chartered based on the previously-existing Interagency Working Group on Ocean Observations (IWGOO).
 - Integrated Ocean Observing System Program Office: manages competitive awards process, outreach, data management, and reporting to the Committee. As lead Federal agency, NOAA may also utilize, to the extent necessary, personnel from IOOC member agencies to oversee daily operations and coordination of the System.
 - System Advisory Committee: Advises the Administrator and the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee as outlined in the Act.
- The Act defines Federal and non-Federal Assets:
 - The term ‘Federal assets’ refer to all relevant non-classified civilian coastal and ocean observations, technologies, and related modeling, research, data management, basic and applied technology research and development, and public education and outreach programs, that are managed by member agencies of the Council.
 - The term ‘non-Federal assets’ refers to all relevant coastal and ocean observation technologies, related basic and applied technology research and development, and public education and outreach programs that are integrated into the System and are managed through States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector.
 - The term ‘regional information coordination entity’ (RICE) means a non-Federal organizational body that is certified or established by contract or memorandum by the lead Federal agency. RICEs include regional associations described in the IOOS Development Plan.
- The Act also states that non-Federal assets must be certified in order to be integrated into the System.
 - The Committee will “develop contract certification standards and compliance procedures for all non-Federal assets, including [RICEs], to establish eligibility for integration into the System,” and
 - The lead Federal agency will “promulgate program guidelines to certify and integrated” such non-Federal assets.

ICOOS Act Accomplishments

- Certification
- ICE
- Biennial Report to Congress
- IOOS Advisory Committee

ICOOS Act Governance and Required Activities	Council	Committee	Lead Federal Agency	RICEs	Federal Agencies
Establish a National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System	●				
Develop and publish a Public Private Use	●				
Develop and transmit annual budgets and long term plans (pdf, Nov 2010)	●	●			
Establish observation data variables (pdf, Apr 2012)		●			
Develop certification standards, compliance procedures and program guidelines (pdf, Jun 2012)		✓	●		
Establish process and observation coverage gaps or capital improvement needs (pdf, July 2012)		●	●	●	
Obtain independent cost estimate (pdf, July 2012)		●	●		●
Establish an IOOS Program Office within NOAA (pdf, Sept 2010)			✓		
Review and evaluate non-federal assets (pdf, Jun 2012)			●		
Implement a merit-based competitive funding process to support non-federal assets (pdf, Mar 2012)			✓		
Establish protocols for and develop a data management and communication system (pdf, Jun 2012)		●	●		
Implement a public education and outreach program (pdf, Mar 2012)			✓		
Establish a system advisory committee (pdf, July 2012)			●		
Respond to reporting requirements (pdf, Mar 2012)			✓		
Demonstrate capable organizational structure and operate under a strategic operational plan (pdf, Jun 2012)			●	●	
Additional Required Activities (10 items)	Click here for further details				

