

**U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee**  
**Virtual Public Meeting**  
**Legislative Update Panel**  
**August 5, 2020**

**NOAA's FY 21 Budget Update**

- The House FY 21 CJS bill provides \$5.454 billion, an increase of \$100.4 million or two percent above the FY 2020 Enacted level of \$5.353 billion.
- The House FY 21 CJS bill provides \$631.4 million for the National Ocean Service (NOS), an increase of \$25 million or four percent above the FY 2020 Enacted level of \$606.5 million. The bill rejects all proposed reductions and terminations and funds all NOS funding lines equal to or above the enacted funding level.
  - The bill funds Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Regional Observations at \$40.5 million, providing \$2 million within these funds for IOOS to enhance the nation's capacity for monitoring and detection of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).

**Enacted Legislation**

- Weather Act of 2017 - Implementation is well underway, having completed many of the reporting requirements. The Weather Act reports are being housed online by the NOAA Institutional Repository in the [Weather Act Collection](#).
- Commercial Engagement Through Ocean Technology Act of 2018 (CENOTE) - The Act requires NOAA to coordinate research, assessment and acquisition of unmanned maritime systems with the U.S. Navy, other federal agencies, industry and academia. NOAA is actively working to expand our use of unmanned maritime systems. For example:
  - Released UxS strategy that highlights coordination with both the DoD and the private sector.
  - Finalizing a new supplement or "annex" that will update the existing NOAA-Navy Memorandum of Agreement and clarify roles, responsibilities, and partnership activities per CENOTE.

**Introduced Legislation**

- Regional Ocean Partnership Act
  - S.2166 - Regional Ocean Partnership Act (Senator Roger Wicker, MS)
    - Introduced 07/18/2019, Passed Senate Commerce Committee on 12/19/2019
  - H.R. 5390 Regional Ocean Partnership Act (Rep. Charlie Crist, FL)
    - Introduced 12/18/2019, Referred to the House Natural Resources Committee
  - This legislation would provide a mechanism for coastal states to participate in a Regional Ocean Partnership with one or more other coastal states that share a common ocean or coastal area, gives NOAA authority to designate Regional Ocean Partnership (ROP), and designated ROPs would be able to award grants and contracts to monitor water quality and living resources of multistate ocean and coastal ecosystems.

- National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP)
  - H.R. 7713 - To reauthorize the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, and for other purposes (Rep. Jimmy Panetta, CA)
    - Introduced July 21, 2020 and referred to the House Natural Resources Committee and House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, and House Armed Services Committee
  - This legislation would authorize the Ocean Policy Committee and create a NOPP treasury fund which would allow agencies to leverage funds between agencies as well as along with funds from philanthropic organizations.

#### **How IOOS is Contributing to Recent Harmful Algal Bloom Congressional Outreach**

- May 8th - Ask an Expert Webinar on Harmful Algal Bloom: Interested Congressional staff were invited to an Ask an Expert webinar where a panel of HAB experts from around the country were on hand and available to answer questions ranging from policy, interagency collaboration, ecology, detection, operational monitoring, forecasting, prevention and control. Clarissa Anderson from SCOOS joined our expert panel.
- June 2nd - Forecasting Harmful Algal Blooms All Interested Staff Briefing: At this briefing, we shared how HAB researchers are working to forecast when and where blooms will occur, where they will travel, and how toxic they will be. This briefing provided an overview of each of NOAA's seven HAB forecasts and the regional HAB observing partnerships that enable them. Barb Kirkpatrick from GCOOS joined our expert panel.