

CHAIR

Scott Rayder
Alabama Water Institute,
University of Alabama

VICE CHAIR

Sara Graves Ph.D.
University of Alabama

MEMBERS

Thomas Curtin, Ph.D.
University of Washington

Jennifer Hagen
Department of Natural
Resources, Quileute Tribe WA

Molly McCammon
Alaska Ocean Observing
System

Ruth Perry, Ph.D.
Shell Corporation

Jennifer Read, Ph.D.
University of Michigan

Daniel Rudnick, Ph.D.
University of California

Oscar Schofield, Ph.D.
Rutgers University

Douglas Vandemark, Ph.D.
University of New Hampshire

Jyotika Virmani, Ph.D.
Schmidt Ocean Institute

Richard "Dick" West
Independent Consultant

Robert "Bob" Winokur
Independent Consultant

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL

Krisa Arzayus
U.S. IOOS Office
1315 East-West Highway
Second Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(240) 533-9444



U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) Advisory Committee

Interagency Ocean Observation Committee Co-Chairs and Members,

We the undersigned members of the U.S. IOOS® Advisory Committee recently had our first two public meetings to discuss issues related to IOOS Enterprise and how it can be leveraged to meet operational ocean observing requirements that are critical to supporting the Blue Economy.

Since that first meeting, one of the worst viral pandemics in history has besieged our country. Our national and global economies were largely shuttered, and we are tasked with simultaneously playing defense against a novel and formidable opponent, and launching an offensive counter-strike to save our economy. We write you this letter because we believe that IOOS, through the IOOC, can substantially contribute to that offensive.

The Blue Economy, through this pandemic, is open for business. Maritime commerce and transportation continues, and seafood remains a critical and safe source of protein to feed the nation. As these sectors continue to deliver goods to our citizens, their growing demand will help reduce unemployment by stimulating job growth. IOOS products and services underpin the success of industries like these, offering decisional support and service delivery to enable these sectors to work safer and more efficiently. Furthermore, with an "above normal" projected hurricane season just around the corner, IOOS partners will continue delivering real-time data to help coastal managers keep our communities safe.

Our committee is dedicated to advancing the objectives of IOOS and the IOOC, and has identified three priorities for the current term:

1. Facilitating better alignment between all ocean observing assets across the federal government;
2. Identifying a common set of requirements across all IOOS partners in order to understand if resource levels are commensurate with the IOOS mission mandate; and
3. Charting a future course for the IOOS Enterprise based on building strategic partnerships and growing capacity to deliver products and services that stakeholders need the most.

As you continue to lead your federal agencies through one of their most challenging periods, we want you to know that we support you and are here to lend a helping hand.

Our talented and experienced committee is uniquely positioned to offer critical advice when tensions are high and budgets are tight, communicate the importance of ocean observations to Congress, and help improve the efficiency of operations across all of the federal government's ocean observing programs.

Respectfully,



Scott C. Rayder

Executive Director, Alabama Water Institute
Chair, U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee

The University of Alabama

1047 Cyber Hall

Box 870206

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Phone 205-348-9703 | Cell: 205-737-2972 | Fax 205-348-2689

scrayder@ua.edu | http://www.awi.ua.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®