



November 22, 2021

The Honorable Richard W. Spinrad, PhD
Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere & NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Spinrad,

Thank you again for making the time to meet with us last month. It's always great to speak with you.

At the meeting, you recommended developing a spend plan for the \$150 million supporting improved and enhanced "coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes observing systems" in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) for IOOS. Below is our high-level spend plan that addresses critical infrastructure needs for the national network of IOOS regional observing systems. This high-level summary is a collation of individual input from the eleven, NOAA-certified IOOS Regional Associations that reflects the detailed needs documented in their five-year NOAA Cooperative Agreements, and their strategic and operational plans.

These systems provide the high-resolution, regionally specific information NOAA needs to provide communities with on-the-ground information for preparing and responding to a rapidly changing ocean. Recapitalization of aging infrastructure, hardening of assets to withstand extreme events, and incorporation of advanced technologies for detecting biological and biogeochemical parameters are all included in this request.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act represents the single most important opportunity for IOOS to stabilize, modernize, and enhance the national network of regional coastal observing systems to deliver the data and information necessary to realize your vision for delivering robust, equitable climate services and accelerating the new blue economy. Stakeholders and users of products and services from the 17 federal interagency partnership depend on reliable IOOS information for decision-making, planning, and response. Yet many of the observing platforms have been operating for over 20 years and are showing their age, impacting both the reliability and

coverage of the system. As systems age, downtime increases and gaps emerge, threatening the quality of NOAA and partner agency products and decisions, and the safety, security, and the commerce and economy of the United States of America. Our spend plan clearly and directly addresses this need to minimize risk and gaps in service.

We thank you for your leadership and your support of US IOOS. We look forward to working with you and your team to support NOAA’s stewardship role of IOOS and ensure the future of NOAA and IOOS products and services to our coastal communities.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gerhard F. Kuska
 Chair, IOOS Association
 Executive Director, MARACOOS

IOOS Regional Infrastructure Spend Plan		
Infrastructure	Total Cost	Total Number
HFR	\$27,403,037	157
Gliders	\$24,538,341	101
Moorings	--	--
<i>Wave</i>	\$10,705,520	68
<i>Met ocean</i>	\$5,365,000	82
<i>Ecosystem</i>	\$19,690,000	129
Animal sensors	\$7,952,160	273
Water level sensors	\$3,825,760	282
Cyberinfrastructure	\$13,333,200	35
Drones, webcams	\$2,525,050	35
Fixed stations	\$10,304,335	132
Acoustic arrays	\$2,710,000	56
Other	\$8,567,500	45
TOTAL	\$136,919,903	--

Cc:

Ellie Roberts, Program Coordination Officer, NOS, Office of the Undersecretary

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Carl Gouldman, Director, US IOOS Office, NOAA

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