# SOST Interagency Ocean Observation Committee
## Updates to the IOOS Advisory Committee
### May 11, 2022

**Current Activities:**

- **Ocean Societal Indicators (OSI) Task Team**

  o Earlier this year, the Ocean Societal Indicators (OSI) Task Team distributed a data collection form to gather information about existing socioeconomic indicators or suites of indicators to assess how they can inform ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing products and data. The group is now in the process of analyzing this data using existing frameworks. This analysis aims to identify trends and gaps and inform the prioritization of indicators and potentially the creation of new indicators to integrate into ocean observing systems. Subsequent objectives will involve disseminating identified priority ocean societal indicators to relevant agencies and organizations, refining them based on feedback, and recommending paths for implementation.

- **Biology-Integrating Core to Essential Variables (Bio-ICE) Task Team:**

  o The Bio-ICE Task Team's two subgroups completed their final deliverables. Reports include outlines of synergies in terms of spatial and temporal observing requirements and existing observation infrastructure and delivery, including best practices and standard operating procedures. It also includes suggestions to improve pathways for data flow for observations of these variables from Regional Associations of the U.S. IOOS, other non-federal partners, and federal sources. Both reports have been reviewed by the IOOC and are in process of completing individual agency review.

- **Underwater Glider User Group (UG2):**

  o The UG2 has been running bi-monthly community webinars on topics ranging from industry engagement to regional operations. The membership has reached 223 members and expanded their communications to Slack. An in-person workshop is being planned for September 20-22, 2022 at the Botanical Gardens on the campus of University of Washington in Seattle, WA. This workshop will bring together the global underwater glider community to strengthen international collaboration through community dialogue, exchanges of information, sharing of experiences, and development of best practices to support the glider community. The event will consist of plenaries, breakout sessions, glider lab tours, and poster sessions and vendor booths spread out over 2.5 days. Registration and abstract submissions are open.

- **New Task Teams**

  o The IOOC is reviewing proposals for new task teams focused on **Open Ocean Science** (cloud computing) and the **Coastal Climate Signal**.

- **Coordinated, Comprehensive Budget**

  o The IOOC, at the request of the IOOS Advisory Committee and with guidance from SOST/OSTP, has taken steps to understand the scope, parameters, and process in undertaking the federal budget crosscut mandated in both the ICOOS Act of 2009 and the Coordinated Ocean Observation and Research Act (COORA) of 2020.

  o CHALLENGES: When considering the logistics of conducting a coordinated, comprehensive budget there are clear barriers to overcome:
    - Definitions: Determining what programs are included e.g. satellites; the inherent challenge of selecting what activities fall under the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System.
    - Prioritization: Developing a budget crosscut may ultimately put existing programs at risk if decision-makers interpret certain programs being more critical to the System than others.
    - Accuracy: Acquiring the capacity and resources to undertake the level of effort for furnishing detailed and accurate budgets is high; along with ensuring there is neutrality and acknowledging that certain classified programs would be impossible to include.

- **Actions from SOST Environmental Justice Workshop-IOOC Breakout:**
  o Discussions on how to implement are still in progress:
    - Increase outreach/engagement (resources)/participation of tribal/indigenous communities in ocean observing and generation of associated ocean knowledge
    - Leverage place-based programs to expand community engagement (dialogue) intersections with agency programs.
    - Leveraging existing climate equity assessments that have taken place in agencies and how to take advantage of it and how to link them together and use this information to improve and expand upon current efforts.
  o Public readout from workshop