



## **IOOS Association Update**

IOOS Advisory Committee  
June 27-29, 2023

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Executive Director

# Vision for the IOOS Association



Increase impact through strategic initiatives & focus areas that align with policy priorities

Promote greater interagency participation in IOOS and strategic observing strategies that elevates and improves sustainability of the observing enterprise

Grow capacity to support collaboration across IOOS regions

Increase visibility through greater emphasis on a variety of communications

Participate in workforce development and other initiatives that meet IOOS DEIA mission & vision

→ **Increase funding & opportunities for IOOS**

# IOOS Association Initiatives

## Advancing Ocean Observing in Support of Policy Priorities

- **Offshore Wind Committee**

- Share lessons learned; strategy for communication, interagency & energy sector engagement
- Goal: to best position the IOOS regions for collaboration as OSW expands around the country

- **Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR)**

- NOPP proposal (UCAR led - not funded)
- Goal: leverage IOOS for mCDR environmental baselines and impact monitoring

- **National HAB Observing Network (NHABON)**

- Report language: FY20: \$1M; FY21: \$2.5M; FY22: \$2.5M; FY23: \$3M
- Projects involving all 11 regions
- Facilitate steering committee, implementation plan, cross-project communication, webinars



### OCEAN CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

A REPORT BY THE OCEAN POLICY COMMITTEE  
MARCH 2023





# IOOS Association Initiatives: Marine Life



## **NOPP Ocean Life Forum** (Aug 9-10, Edgewater, MD)

- IOOSA co-sponsoring
- Review the recommendations from the 2010 NOPP marine biodiversity workshop
- Recommend:
  - Foundational elements of a national marine biodiversity strategy
  - Steps necessary to establish enduring private-public partnerships
  - Community actions
- Forum will inform next step → High-Level Biodiversity Summit being planned for late 2023/early 2024.
- Goal: Develop a national strategy and implementation plan for marine biodiversity science and stewardship

# IOOS Association Initiatives: DEIA

## DEIA Fellowship

- Ashley Peiffer: January 2022-June 2023

## Going forward: Build on Fellowship success

- Resources compiled and available to RAs
- Regional strategic goals input
- New DEIA committee within IOOS Association

Thank you  
Ashley!



## Mission & Vision (informal - developed in collaboration with AC)

Mission: Engage with diverse communities so that, together, observing systems are designed to provide equitable service delivery, tailored to meet the needs of each regional community and produce, integrate, and communicate high quality information that meets the safety, economic, and stewardship needs of the regions Nation.

Vision: Solutions for root causes and barriers to equitable, inclusive, and accessible ocean observing systems are implemented. The workforce of the ocean observing community reflects the diversity of the nation, and all communities are empowered with the ocean and coastal information they need to make decisions that support lives and livelihoods.

# IOOS Association Initiatives

Center for the Blue Economy

Digital Commons @ Center for the Blue Economy

Publications

Center for the Blue Economy

3-2023

## The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS): A Prototype User Valuation

Charles S. Colgan

Center for the Blue Economy, Middlebury Institute of International Studies, ccolgan@middlebury.edu

Castelletto Anthony

Center for the Blue Economy at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

Center for Blue Economy valuation study report is now online: [www.ioosassociation.org/resources](http://www.ioosassociation.org/resources)

Finding: The value of the IOOS regional observing system, conservatively, lies **between \$192 million and \$233 million per year**, creating an economic value approximately 5x greater than the current annual appropriation to the system.

## Benefits of Ocean Observations Catalog

Community developed

Community driven

Community benefit

### Community Engagement



Building on work begun at OceanObs 19, the BOOC project aims to engage with the entire ocean observation, measurement, and modeling community.

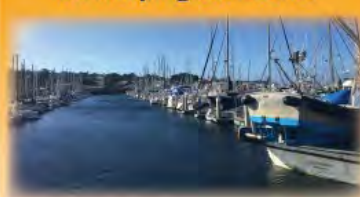
### Collecting Case Studies



The BOOC will be continuously updated with new use case studies that demonstrate the benefits of ocean observing worldwide.

[www.booc.info](http://www.booc.info)

### Developing Standards



The BOOC will provide the community with access to a comprehensive, consistent, and constantly improving view of the benefits of ocean observing that can be easily searched by location, benefit area, and type of observation.

Next steps...  
Benefits of Ocean Observing Catalog



# CARAID Award: March 21, Washington, D.C.

The word "Caraid" is a Scottish Gaelic word, meaning "care" or "love" and is pronounced like "courage."

Dr. Ru Morrison was the first recipient and the inspiration for its creation – honors Ru's collaborative spirit and his love for his Scottish homeland.



## 2023 Caraid Award Recipient: Tara Owens



The IOOS Association is pleased to announce that Tara Owens of the University of Hawaii Sea Grant is the 2023 recipient of the Caraid Award. Tara is receiving this award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to observing, understanding and protection of our oceans and coasts through vision, leadership, friendship, and collaboration.

Join us in congratulating our amazing 2023 winner through the link below:

[Send a message!](#)

**The attributes of Caraid - caring and the courage to do what matters - is what makes IOOS work.**



# IOOS Spring Meeting: March 21-23, Washington, D.C.



## Agenda Highlights

- Coastal Resilience project ideas
- Equitable Service Delivery & DEIA
- Marine Life, including applied perspectives:
  - White House priorities (Ocean Climate Action Plan)
  - Offshore Wind
  - mCDR
- Hill Visits

Next Meeting: Nov 29-Dec 1, 2023, hosted by SCCOOS



# Appropriations at a glance

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
<b>Authorization Level</b> ( <a href="#">P.L. 116-271</a> )	such sums	such sums	such sums	48	50	52	54	56
<b>President's Budget</b>	29.4	19.4	19.4	19.4	69.5	40.5	42.5	?
<b>House Approps</b>	31	37.5	40.5	40.5	50	44	?	?
<b>Senate Approps</b>	33.7	37	39.5	40	47	46	?	?
<b>Enacted</b>	35	38.5	39	40.5	41	42.5	?	?
<b>IA request</b>	35.9	42	43.7	45.25	56.5	75.3	80.5	?

*IOOS Regional line; Amounts in millions of dollars*

*IOOS Appropriations are tracked by ESP Advisors in a [shared document](#)*

# FY24 Request: Year 2 of 5-year campaign

Core Regional Association Support: **\$50M**


Infrastructure Repair and Modernization: **\$25.5**

Innovation and Competitive Grants: **\$5M**

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**Total IOOS Regional request: \$80.5M**

National Program Office: **\$13M** based on FY23 Request



## REPAIR AND PREPARE

**Regional IOOS Fiscal Year 2024 Request to Repair and Prepare: \$80.5 million**

**Report Language Request:**  
Congress provides an additional \$25.5 million above IOOS core funding levels to address critical infrastructure aging concerns in the IOOS regional system, to be spent according to the highest priority needs of each Regional Association.

The IOOS Association FY24 request for the IOOS Regional Observing budget line includes:

- 1. Core Regional Association Support: \$50 million**  
This will provide sustained operational support, expand engagement to diverse stakeholders and communities, and allow the 11 IOOS RAs to leverage resources to ensure efficiency, develop additional predictive capacity for users, and co-design useful applications for rapidly growing demands. This funding will:
  - Ensure safe and efficient maritime transportation and commerce
  - Monitor changes to fisheries and ecosystems, including HABs
  - Improve understanding and notification of coastal hazards
- 2. Infrastructure repair and modernization: \$25.5 million**  
After 20 years in operation, IOOS' aging observing infrastructure—buoys, gliders, radars, and more—requires immediate investment in order to avoid gaps in critical coastal information. To prevent loss of data and services, IOOS is embarking on a five-year

"Repair and Prepare" campaign to fund the \$137 million needed to repair and modernize its regional systems.


The Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) (P.L. 117-58) will fund part, but not all, of this need. We anticipate a total of \$35.75 million from the IIJA over the next five years. Our \$25.5 million request of Congress represents the unmet need (\$101.3 million) spread over the next four years.

**3. Innovation Competitive Grants: \$5 million**  
This investment will provide continued support for competitive grant programs for innovations and partnerships including sensor development, autonomous sampling, and coastal modeling.

**Request for IOOS National Program Office: \$13 million**  
For the IOOS National Office in the NOS Navigation, Observation and Position budget line to: (1) modernize the Data Management and Cyberinfrastructure (DMAC) system to meet user needs and identify system gaps in partnership with the IOOS RAs; (2) develop a biological and marine life observing program; (3) advance the development of coastal modeling products and predictive capabilities; and (4) facilitate integration of non-federal efforts with NOAA, including NOAA's uncrewed system initiative.

Anticipated Infrastructure Funding From IIJA

**Total Needed: \$137 Million**



\$35.75 M



# FY24 Request: Key talking points

- IOOS is stakeholder driven, science-based, and supports multiple missions
- Priority is to ensure uninterrupted flow of data and information
- Distinction between Core funding, Infrastructure, and IRA:
  - Funding from BIL supports asset replacement and modernization, and we anticipate IRA funds will support development or provision of new services
  - Core services **must be maintained as the backbone** on which any new service or data collection can be leveraged
- Inflation (13% since January 2021):
  - Impacts to services – be prepared with concrete impacts!
  - Less buying power (labor, electricity, vendors/suppliers)
- Sustain the HAB pilot projects, which have demonstrated the potential of a national HAB observing and forecasting system and are at critical phase toward operational

# FY24 Request: Dear Colleague Letter



## Senate

- Leaders: Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Roger Wicker (R-MS)
- 29 signatures - 3 Republicans, 25 Democrats, 1 Independent

## House

- Leaders: Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Bill Posey (R-FL), Salud Carbajal (D-CA)
- 60 Signatures – 6 Republicans, 54 Democrats



# FY24 Request: Challenges Update

## Debt Reduction & Balancing the Budget

- **Debt Limit Deal** → Fund FY24 at current levels; limit growth in FY25
  - House v. Senate interpretations
  - How this plays out in FY24 appropriations bills TBD
  - Expect flat or reduced funding

## What can we do?

- **BE PREPARED with concrete impact examples!**
  - Make sure Approps subcommittees know what will be lost / consequences of decisions
- **Make distinctions between funding bills / sources clear**
  - Between what core funding supports v. IJJA v. IRA → not a zero-sum game!
  - Emphasize the sustainability / long-term aspects and the backbone against which all new services and capacities must be leveraged

# Authorizations



## **Authorization bills anticipated this Congress → opportunities for input**

- Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA) reauthorization
- Weather Act Reauthorization
- Ocean Regional Opportunity and Innovation Act of 2023 (Ocean ROI → clusters)
- NOAA Organic Act
- Others likely...

## **IOOS reauthorization (ICOOS / COORA) – FY25**

- Commerce Committee requesting input now



# Thank You

