



IOOS Association Update

**IOOS Advisory Committee
December 4-5, 2023**

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Executive Director**

IOOS Fall Meeting: November 29-30, La Jolla, CA



Hosted by SCCOOS

Agenda Highlights

- Advancing IRA project concepts
 - Water Levels & Waves
 - Ecosystem Change
 - Equitable Service Delivery
- Human Resources and Capacity
- Preparing for Strategic Communications (positive impacts of IRA \$)

Next Meeting: March 12-13, 2024, Washington, D.C.

OSW Subcommittee

Support dialogue and collaboration on OSW engagement

- Meetings every ~2 months
- Joint session with PO & BOEM
- One-pager on benefits of partnering with IOOS RAs
- Conferences
 - Offshore Technology Conference, Houston, TX, May 2023 → Individual Presentations + Booth
 - Oceans 2023, Biloxi, MS, Sep 2023 → Panel Session + Booth
 - Ocean Sciences Meeting, New Orleans, LA, Feb 2024 → Abstract submitted
 - Oceanic Network International Partnering Forum, New Orleans, LA, Apr 2024 → panel proposal submitted

**IOOS**
Integrated Ocean
Observing System

The Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) is a partnership among 17 federal agencies, including all agencies with science or policy responsibilities related to offshore renewable energy such as wind. IOOS is composed of a network of 11 Regional Associations (see map on back) across all U.S. coastal areas that work locally with stakeholders across sectors that contribute to the new blue economy.

IOOS + Offshore Wind

Collaborate and partner with IOOS to help meet data collection, accessibility, and product needs.

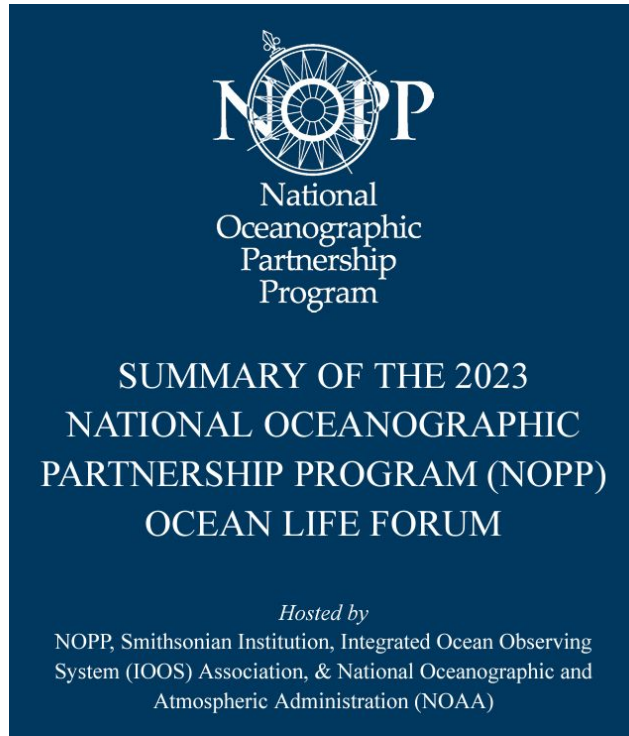
- IOOS is a ready-made venue for convening and sharing information among multiple partners. IOOS's layered and collaborative network allows agencies and partners to convene, identify shared information needs, and initiate activities that meet multiple needs simultaneously in a coordinated and cost-effective manner.
- IOOS has 20+ years experience in broad-based metocean data collection technology and information systems of exactly the type needed to support offshore wind development. Offshore wind development is spurring an explosion in data collection by federal agencies, states, and the private sector. The efforts are laudable, but a lack of coordination impacts utility, scale, and longevity and creates redundancy risk.
- IOOS maintains a state-of-the-art data management architecture distributed across the nation and a portfolio of data visualization and analysis tools at regional and national scales that can integrate new data streams, with the important benefit of being federally-certified, sustained, and fully interoperable. All data being generated need a home, ideally one that enables broad access to interested users.
- IOOS can bring together a variety of funding sources – federal, state, private sector, philanthropic – to create novel and ambitious public-private partnerships to achieve the objectives above. This is because the regional implementation of IOOS takes place outside of the federal government through a national network of Regional Associations.

Although some data collected by the OSW industry are considered proprietary (e.g., hub-height wind speed), many other types are not. IOOS can help the industry expand the reach of those data as a public service. This will benefit the industry by joining a larger network of data providers and services in support of sustainable and renewable energy production.



IOOS Federal Agencies: NOAA, BOEM & BSEE, DOE, Marine Mammal Commission, EPA, DOT, NASA, National Science Foundation, Office of Naval Research, Oceanographer of the Navy, USACE, USCG, USGS, FDA, Department of Agriculture, Department of State, U.S. Arctic Research Commission

Marine Life



- **NOPP Ocean Life Forum**, Edgewater, MD, Aug 2023
 - Report:
<https://nopp.org/about-nopp/nopp-partnership-forums/>
- **Summit on Ocean Biodiversity**, Washington, DC, Jan 2023
 - Chart the way forward toward actions that conserve, restore, and sustainably use the ocean's biodiversity and living resources
 - Ensure that we have and apply the knowledge of the changing status of ocean, coast, and Great Lakes biodiversity
- **Request for Information (due Feb 28)**
 - Inform the development of a National Ocean Biodiversity Strategy
 - IOOS Association will submit a response

Appropriations at a glance

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

IOOS Regional line; Amounts in millions of dollars. IOOS Appropriations are tracked by ESP Advisors in a [shared document](#)

As of November 22, bills have not yet been considered by full chamber



Appropriations: FY24



What's next?

- Overall, IOOS faring well in draft bills
 - Senate = flat; FY23 enacted level
 - House = reduced to FY22 enacted level but not more than that
- CR passed to avoid CR at November 17 deadline
 - CJS funded at FY23 enacted levels to Feb 2
- House & Senate remain far apart in top line funding levels

Appropriations: FY25 Strategy



- **Shift away from Repair & Prepare (FY23-24)**
 - Celebrate success: BIL & IRA = \$135M over 5 years → covers urgent needs of Repair & Prepare (\$137M)
- **Proposed strategic messaging for FY25**
 - Lesson learned: Account for inflation and asset depreciation in annual requests
 - Model on requests that gained traction:
 - Flexibility → “highest priority needs of each region”
 - Tangible → concrete for appropriators and easily reported on, but also needed/equitable across regions

Appropriations: FY25 Strategy



- **FY25 Request: \$56M**
 - \$50M core funding
 - \$6M for innovation, special projects, and competitive grants
- **Considerations**
 - Core + Projects = FY26 authorized level (\$56M)
 - Regular inflation & asset depreciation in annual requests
 - Capacity & projects that are tangible and resonate with Congress and all/most RAs, e.g., HABs, marine life / ecosystem monitoring, water levels and waves.

Authorizations



Authorization bills anticipated this Congress → opportunities for input

- Weather Act Reauthorization
- Ocean Regional Opportunity and Innovation Act of 2023 (Ocean ROI → clusters)

IOOS reauthorization (ICOOS / COORA) – FY25

- Commerce Committee requesting input; we've provided a couple of rounds of thought + ongoing discussion
- FAC Member (individual) thoughts?

Thank You