



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, D.C. 20230

July 10, 2024

Mr. Scott Rayder
Chair, U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee
1315 East-West Highway, 2nd Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Rayder:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Fiscal Year 2025 President's Budget request for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), specifically focused on funding levels for the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Regional Observations. NOAA values the contributions from the IOOS program and recognizes the individual and collective value that all eleven of the IOOS Regional Associations (RAs) provide to our coastal and Great Lakes communities.

As you mentioned in your letter, due to the Fiscal Responsibility Act and the fiscal landscape we are facing, the President's Budget included some difficult decisions, including prioritizing the sustainment of core federal programs over external grant funding lines. While RAs are not the only grant recipients that would be affected by these requested cuts, we recognize that if enacted, this reduction would present significant challenges to the IOOS regional coastal ocean observing system.

As NOAA and the Administration develop the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, please be assured that your views will be carefully considered. NOAA welcomes the opportunity to discuss how a comprehensive long-term ocean observing requirements analysis and acquisitions strategy could enable longer term planning across the agency, including how the Committee's 2021 recommendations about requirements management (https://cdn.ioos.noaa.gov/media/2021/06/Recommendations-Report_FINAL.pdf) could be incorporated. I look forward to discussing this further with the Committee at your upcoming meeting July 24-25, 2024.

THE ADMINISTRATOR



Thank you for your continued partnership and service to NOAA— your work leading the IOOS Advisory Committee and the development of the Committee’s recommendations to NOAA are always greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Spinrad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D.
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere