



National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing

205 Oakledge Rd
Harpswell, ME 04079

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A sample of support letters compiled by NFRA and the Regional Associations

February 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) is making a difference - to many people, in many ways. Reliable, timely, and easily accessible information about our coastal oceans and Great Lakes supports safe and efficient maritime commerce, healthy and productive marine ecosystems, preparation for and response to coastal hazards, fisheries, water quality and public health. IOOS not only collects coastal data but also does the data management, processing, analysis and modeling required to transform the data into meaningful and useful information products.

Enclosed is a sampling of letters from around the country demonstrating the many and varied ways coastal and Great Lake observing information is being used. The IOOS Regional Associations (RAs) work with a variety of users to understand their needs for observing information and to design a system to address those needs. A fundamental axiom of IOOS is that a single system can serve multiple needs. These letters show this to be true.

The enclosed is just a sampling of the letters that have been received. To view the full complement of letters, please log on to www.usnfra.org.

Sincerely,

Josie Quintrell
Executive Director

AOOS- Alaska Ocean Observing System

- Johnny Aiken, Executive Director, Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
- Bill Sheffield, Port Director, Port of Anchorage
- David Reggiani, General Manager, Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation
- Michael Macrander, Lead Scientist, Shell Alaska Venture, Shell Exploration and Production Company
- Patricia Opheen, Chief, Engineering Division, Department of the Army, Engineering Division
- S.D. Montoya, Commander, US Coast Guard Chief, Operational Planning, USCG 17th District
- Gleen Sheehan, Sr. Scientist, Barrow Arctic Science Consortium
- Rochelle van den Broek, Executive Director, Cordova District Fishermen United
- Mike Munger, Executive Director, Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council
- Caryn Rea, Senior Staff Biologist, Conoco Philips
- Ruth Carter, Coastal Engineer, State of Alaska Department of Transportation
- Edward Itta, Mayor, North Slope Borough- Office of Mayor
- John Payne, Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative
- Nils Warnock, Executive Director, Audubon Alaska; Andrew Hartsig, Arctic Program Manager, Ocean Conservancy; Marilyn Heiman, Director, US Arctic Program, Pew Environment Group

CeNCOOS- Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System

- Ellen Aronson, Regional Director, Pacific OCS Region, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
- Michael Thomas, Assistant Executive Officer, California Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director, California Coastal Commission, California Coastal Commission
- Linda Sheehan, Executive Director, California Coastkeeper Alliance (CCKA)
- Judd Muskat, Staff Environmental Scientist and GIS Coordinator, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response
- Marija Vojkovich, Regional Manager, Marine Region, California Department of Fish and Game
- Gary Griggs, on behalf of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team, Chair of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team and Director, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of California Santa Cruz, Consensus Statement on Ocean Observing, California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) Science Advisory Team
- Sheila Semans, COCMP Program Manager, State Coastal Conservancy/Ocean Protection Council, California State Coastal Conservancy
- Krista Kamer, COAST Coordinator, California State University Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology
- Dominic Gregorio, Senior Environmental Scientist, Division of Water Quality, California State Water Resources Control Board
- Meg Caldwell, Executive Director, Center for Ocean Solutions
- Janice McDonnell, Director and Science Engineering and Technology 4-H Agent, Centers for Ocean Sciences for Education Excellence - Networked Ocean World (COSEE NOW)
- Greg Dale, Southwest Operations Manager, Coast Seafoods Company
- Laura Pederson, Director of Marketing, CODAR Ocean Sensors
- Kerstin Wasson, Research Coordinator, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

- David Hull, Chief Executive Officer, Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
- Deidre Sullivan, Director, Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center
- Arthur Seavey, Partner, Monterey Bay Abalone Company
- Karen Garrison, Co-Director, NRDC Oceans Program, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Churchill Grimes, Director, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Ecology Division
- David Reynolds, Meteorologist in Charge, San Francisco Bay Area Forecast Office, NOAA National Weather Service
- Franklin Schwing, Director, NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Environmental Research Division
- Geoffrey Shester, California Program Director, Oceana
- W.F. Grader Jr., Executive Director, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations
- Jim Bolger, Executive Director, Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking (POST) Project
- Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore
- Jan Freiwald, Director, Reef Check California, Reef Check California
- Captain Bruce Horton, Vice President, San Francisco Bar Pilots
- Will Travis, Executive Director, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- Michael Kellogg, Supervising Biologist, Oceanside Biology Laboratory, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- John Ricker, Water Resources Division Director, Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services
- Grant Davis, General Manager, Sonoma County Water Agency
- Stephen Weisberg, Executive Director, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project / California Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Alert Program (HABMAP)
- Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, California, West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
- Jessica Hamilton, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Office of Oregon Governor Kulongoski
- Bob Nichols, Executive Policy Advisor, Office of Washington Governor Gregoire

GCOOS-Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System

- William Walker, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
- John Harding, Chief Scientist, Northern Gulf Institute
- Robert Martin, Director of R&D and Scientific Support, Oil Spill Prevention and Response, Texas General Land Office
- J.W. Swaykos, Director, Center of Higher Learning
- Kim Caviness, Water Quality Standards Section Chief, MS DEQ, Gulf of Mexico Alliance
- Larry McKinney, Executive Director, Texas A&M University Corpus Cristi, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies
- Tina Shumate, Office Director, Office of Coastal Management and Planning, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
- Steven Wolfe, GOMA, WQ Team Coordinator, FL DEP, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, Water Quality Priority Issue Team
- Helmut Portmann, Director, NOAA National Data Buoy Center
- Russell Beard, Director, National Coastal Data Development Center
- Dr. Porfirio Alvarez-Torres, Chief Technical Advisor, Integrated Assessment and management of the Gulf of Mexico large Marine Ecosystem project

GLOS- Great Lakes Observing System

- Dr. Marie Colton, NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory
- Dr. Leon Carl, Regional Executive, USGS
- Col. Vincent Quarles, Chicago District Commander, USACE Great Lakes and Ohio River
- Lt. Col. Michael Derosier, Detroit District Commander, USACE Great Lakes and Ohio River
- Murray Clamen, Canadian Section Secretary, International Joint Commission
- Chuck Lawson, US Section Secretary, International Joint Commission
- Gail Faveri, Boundary Waters Unit Manager, Environment Canada
- Capt. J.E. Ogden, Sector Detroit Commander, United States Coast Guard
- Gary White, Interim Deputy Health Officer, Macomb County (Michigan) Health Department
- Dr. Julie Kinzelman, Laboratory Director, City of Racine (Wisconsin) Department of Health
- Charles Knauf, Remedial Action Plan Coordinator, Monroe County (New York) Department of Public Health
- Rolfe Porter, Acting Commissioner of Water, City of Cleveland Water Department
- Charles May, Chairman pro tem, Great Lakes Small Harbor Coalition
- Mark Ebener, Outgoing Chairman, Lake Superior Technical Committee,
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- David Ullrich, Executive Director, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
- Tim Eder, Executive Director, Great Lakes Commission

MARACOOS- Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System

- James W. Ammerman, Director, New York Sea Grant
- Kevin G. Sellner, Executive Director, Chesapeake Research Consortium
- James M. Falk, Associate Director, Delaware Sea Grant College Program
- Peter M. Rowe, Director, New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium/Sea Grant
- Genevieve Boehm Clifton, Acting Manager, New Jersey Department of Transportation, Office of Maritime Resources
- Daniel J. Leathers, Deputy Dean, University of Delaware, College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment
- Eoin Howlett, President / CEO, Applied Science Associates, Inc.
- Rick Cole, University of South Florida, Ocean Circulation Group
- Robert Tutor, Deputy Executive Director, Delaware River Basin Commission
- Edward J. Kelly, Executive Director, The Maritime Association of the Port of New York/New Jersey
- John P. Manderson, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
- Paul R. Cooper, Vice President, CARIS USA Inc
- Joseph M. Geckle, Homeland Security Coordinator, State Highway Administration, Maryland Department of Transportation
- Darryl R. Symonds, Director of Maritime Measurements Product Lines, Teledyne RD Instruments
- Michael P. Deluca, Senior Associate Director, IMCS, Manager JCNERR, Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, Coastal Education Center
- K.Moser, Commander, United States Coast Guard

NANOOS- Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems

- Carol Bernthal, Superintendent, NOAA Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
- Paul McCollum, Director, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Natural Resources Department
- Ervin Joe Schumacker, Marine Resources Scientist, Quinault Indian Nation
- Robert Bailey, Program Manager, Oregon Coastal Management Program, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
- David Dicks, Executive Director, Puget Sound Partnership
- Vicki McConnell, Ph.D., Oregon State Geologist and Director, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
- Ted Brockett, President, Sound Ocean Systems, Inc.
- Dr. Nordeen Larson, Oceanographer and President, Sea-Bird Electronics, Inc.
- Casey Moore, President, WET Labs, Inc.
- Randy Shuman, Manager, Science and Technical Support, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
- Sean Hastie, Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators
- Frederick Stahr, Ph.D., President, Ocean Inquiry Project
- Jim Bolger, Executive Director, Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking Project
- Jody Kenney, Washington Policy Manager, Surfrider Foundation
- Neil Werner, Executive Director, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
- Christopher Mooers, Research Professor, Portland State University
- Patrick Corcoran, Hazards Outreach Specialist, Oregon Sea Grant and Oregon State University Extension Service
- Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, California, West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health
- Richard Feely, Senior Scientist; Simone Alin, Oceanographer; Christopher Sabine, Supervisory Oceanographer, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory
- Bob Bailey, Program Manager, Oregon Coastal Management Program, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development; Brian Lynn, Coastal/Shorelands Section Manager, Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program, Washington State Department of Energy, Support for CMSP Efforts

NERACOOS- Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems

- Ted Diers, Chair, NROC and Manager, NH Coastal Program, Northeast Regional Ocean Council
- Nicole Bartlett, Chair, New England Federal Partners
- Peyton Robertson, Regional Team Lead, NOAA's North Atlantic Regional Team, North Atlantic Regional Team for NOAA
- Nancy B. Thompson, Science and Research Director, National Marine Fisheries Service
- Northeast Fisheries Science Center
- Robert Thompson, Meteorologist in Charge NWS BOX and John Cannon, Senior Meteorologist NWS Gray, National Weather Service Forecast Office
- Chris Sabine, Supervisory Oceanographer, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory
- Captain J.B. McPherson, Commander, Sector Northern New England, United States Coast Guard
- Steve Lehmann, Scientific Support Coordinator, New England, Office of Response and Restoration, Emergency Response Division
- Paul Rudden, Superintendent, Search and Rescue, Maritimes Region, Canadian Coast Guard
- Mark Tedesco, Director, Long Island Sound Office, Long Island Sound Study
- John Henshaw, Executive Director, Maine Port Authority

- Chris Nash, Shellfish Program Manager, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services; Darcie Couture, Director, Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Program, Maine Department of Marine Resources; Michael Hickey, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, HAB Regional Managers
- Patrice McCarron, Maine Lobstermen's Association; Bonnie Spinazzola, Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen; Dave Casoni, Massachusetts Lobstermen Association; Sheila Dassatt, Downeast Lobstermen's Association; Erin Pelletier Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation,
- Paul Shea, Scituate Conservation Commission Agent, Town of Scituate
- Edward Fratto, Executive Director, Northeast States Emergency Consortium
- Diana Payne, Chair, New England Ocean Science Education Collaborative
- Habib J. Dagher, Director, Advanced Structures and Composites Center, University of Maine, DeepCWind Consortium
- Annette deCharon, Director, Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Collaborative-Ocean Systems (COSEE-OS)
- Richard R. Michaud, City Administrator, City of Saco
- Sylvain De Guise, Director, Connecticut Sea Grant
- Donald M. Anderson, Director of CINAR and Senior Scientist, Biology Department, Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region
- Dr. Alain Vezina, A/Regional Director of Science, Bedford Institute of Oceanography Maritime Region and Dr. Sharon McGladdery, Director, St. Andrew's Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Melville Cote, Manager, Ocean and Coastal Protection Unit, Office of Ecosystem Protection, Environmental Protection Agency
- Kathleen Leyden, Chair, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
- Stephanie Moura, Executive Director and Nicholas Napoli, Science Program Manager, Massachusetts Ocean Partnership
- Michael J. Mickelson, Program Manager, Outfall Monitoring, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
- Michele Dionne, Research Director, Wells NERR; Kenneth Raposa, Research Coordinator, Narragansett Bay NERR; Rachel Stevens, Land Stewardship Coordinator, Great Bay NERR; Chris Weidman, Research Coordinator, Waquoit Bay NERR, National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Frank Aikman III, Chief, Marine Modeling and Analysis Program, National Ocean Service Coast Survey Development Laboratory
- Ross Dickman, Meteorologist in Charge, National Weather Service
- Paul Currier, Chairman, Northeast Coastal and Ocean Data Partnership
- Paul Howard, Executive Director, New England Fisheries Management Council
- Brian G. Whitehouse, President, OEA Technologies
- James Ammerman, Director, New York Sea Grant and Chair, Northeast Sea Grant Consortium, Sea Grant Consortium
- James Ammerman, Director, New York Sea Grant and Chair, Northeast Sea Grant Consortium, Sea Grant LIS
- Benjamin Cowie-Haskell, Deputy Superintendent, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- Arthur Allen, Oceanographer, United States Coast Guard Office of Search and Rescue
- Deanna Bergondo, Assistant Professor of Marine Science, United States Coast Guard Academy
- J.P. Boyle, Western Connecticut State University
- Kirk Bosma, Team Leader and Coastal Engineer, Woods Hole Group

PacIOOS- Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System

- Senator Inouye
- Governor Benigno R. Fitial
- Governor Linda Lingle
- Congressman Bordallo
- Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
- Harry Fritz, Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Republic of Palau
- Ambassador Campbell, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System Governing Council
- Paul Blas, Chairman, Port Users Group Guam

SCCOOS- Southern California Coastl Ocean Observing System

- Jerry R. Schubel, President and CEO, Aquarium of the Pacific
- Cheryl Peach, SIO Director, Birch Aquarium/COSEE California
- Dan Cayan, Director, California Nevada Applications Program
- Katherine Weldon, Coastal Program Manager, City of Encinitas
- Masahiro Dojiri, Division Manager, City of Los Angeles
- Larry Honeybourne, Program Manager, County of Orange, Health Care Agency, Environmental Health
- Mark Jackson, Meteorologist in Charge, WFO LA/Oxnard, National Weather Service, Oxnard
- James Purpura, Meteorologist in Charge, National Weather Service, San Diego
- Rick Baker, Vice President of Education, Ocean Institute
- Rob Rundle, Principal Regional Planner, San Diego Association of Governments
- Stephen Weisberg, Executive Director, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
- Dominic Gregorio, Senior Environmental Scientist, Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board
- Samuel Johnson, Research Geologist, Western Regional Oceans Coordinator, U.S. Geological Survey
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
- California Coastal Conservancy, Sheila Semans
- California Coastkeeper Alliance, Linda Sheehan
- California State University COAST, Krista Kamer
- Center for Ocean Solutions, Meg Caldwell
- COSEE NOW, Janice McDonnell
- West Coast Governors Agreement on Ocean Health

SECOORA- Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association

- Patrick Geer, Chief, Marine Fisheries Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- George Sedberry, Superintendent, Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary
- Todd Kellison, Chief, Fisheries Ecosystems Branch, Beaufort Laboratory, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center
- Email support for nearshore Circulation Model, Rip Current Forecasting
- Frank Alsheimer, Science and Operations Officer, NOAA National Weather Service South Carolina
- Brian Smith, Director, Pinellas County Planning Department
- Jayantha Obeysekera, Department Director, Hydrologic and Environmental Systems Modeling, Southern Florida Water Management District
- Peter Sucsy, Senior Engineer Scientist, Division of Engineering, St. Johns River Water Management District



Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission

P.O. Box 570 • Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 852-2392 • Fax: (907) 852-2303 • Toll Free: 1-800-478-2392

22 September 2010

Molly McCammon, Director
Alaska Ocean Observing System
1007 W. Third Avenue, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. McCammon:

We are writing in support of the Alaska Ocean Observing System's (AOOS) proposal to NOAA to increase coastal and ocean observing in the Arctic. Because we spend much of our time on the ice, especially during spring whaling season, we are particularly interested in sea ice observations, products and forecasts. AOOS's goals of making this information publically available and easy to use would help our subsistence whalers operate more safely. Your work at AOOS is valuable to the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC) and to our member organizations.

We are concerned about the increased ship traffic we are seeing off our coasts due to oil and gas exploration and increasing tourism and commercial shipping. With a longer ice-free season, we are worried about the potential for accidents and oil spills, and the disastrous consequences this could have on our subsistence whaling activities and upon the resources themselves. It is critical that we increase monitoring to improve the understanding of these systems, and also make the information available to responders. The kinds of activities proposed by AOOS in their proposal will work toward these goals.

The Arctic and those of us living in the Arctic are experiencing climate change first hand. We need better information to be able to respond on individual, community, and regional levels. We encourage you to provide full funding for the AOOS proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Johnny L. Aiken, Executive Director



September 17, 2010

Ms. Molly McCammon, Director
Alaska Ocean Observing System
1007 W. Third Avenue, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. McCammon:

I am writing this letter in support of the Alaska Ocean Observing System's (AOOS) proposal to NOAA for Alaska Regional Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems.

The Port of Anchorage is the major regional port serving 80% of Alaska's populated area, including the major military installations, from Homer to the North Slope by means of rail, road and air cargo connections. The Port handles over 90% of all consumer goods sold in the railbelt area of Alaska. In addition, we stage 100% of the exports of refined petroleum products from the state's largest refinery in Fairbanks and facilitate petroleum deliveries from refiners on the Kenai Peninsula and in Valdez.

Anchorage is served regularly by two major container carriers that bring four to five ships weekly from the Pacific Northwest. Petroleum tankers and barges supply jet fuel for military and airport operations, unleaded and low-sulfur diesel fuel for service stations, aviation gasoline for civil aviators, and on-load petroleum products for western Alaska. Ships from Asia call frequently transporting construction and pipeline materials, and refined petroleum. This traffic will only increase, and to serve these needs, the Port has embarked on a major expansion project in collaboration with the Alaska Railroad, the State of Alaska, local military bases, and the Municipality of Anchorage.

The Port is already using NOAA's PORTS system to provide current and tidal information for the ships we service. However, Cook Inlet is a complex body of water, and more precise information on winds, waves, currents, and sediment transport as proposed by AOOS would significantly increase the efficiency of our operations and ensure the safety of marine shipping in Cook Inlet.

Sincerely,

Steve Sheffield
Port Director

2000 Anchorage Port Road | Anchorage, Alaska 99501 | Ph: 907-343-6200 | We've got the goods.

MONTEREY ABALONE COMPANY

September 22, 2010

Dr. Steve Ramp, Program Director
Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
7700 Sandholdt Road
Moss Landing, CA 95039

Dear Dr. Ramp,

The Monterey Bay Abalone Company supports the continued development and operation of the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) through their proposal to the National Oceanographic Partnership Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration titled, "CeNCOOS: Integrating Marine Observations to Inform Decision Makers and the General Public."

The Monterey Bay Abalone Company is located on the Municipal Wharf in Monterey, California. We farm abalone in cages about 15-20 feet under the surface. We have about 200 cages full of abalone and we buy baby abalone from hatcheries and stock them in cages and then harvest help to feed them. Our operations are at the mercy of ocean conditions.

In 2007 an unusual red tide occurred in the Bay, covering approximately 40 miles of coastline. The red tide, caused by the dinoflagellate *Cochlodinium*, had a great impact on our abalone. Over a 3 week period, we lost about 12,000 abalone worth about \$60,000. It was a big loss for our company.

Fortunately, we were able to contact members of the local scientific community, oceanographers who work with CeNCOOS. We gained a better understanding of what was happening and responded by cutting the cages lose and dropping them to the bottom, below most of the concentration of the dinoflagellates. We were able to avoid further serious loss of our stock. In order to have this information accurate and accessible, we need the ocean observing system. For that reason, we support the CeNCOOS efforts to expand algal bloom and water quality studies in Monterey and throughout California.

There is a clear, continuing need to operate, maintain and improve the regional observing system. CeNCOOS data are and will continue to be essential for monitoring both short and long-term environmental change. We would like to see both programs expand and have the capacity to increase instrumentation and provide more information and products. We strongly endorse the need for a fully developed local Regional Association that benefits our health, wildlife, economy and oceans through a focus on ecosystems and climate, coastal hazards, water quality, and marine operations.

Arthur Seavey, Partner

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Caryn Rea
Senior Staff Biologist
Health, Safety & Environment
P.O. Box 100360
Anchorage, AK 99510-0360
Phone 907-265-6515
Fax 907-265-6216
Mobile: 907-229-8972

Sept 27, 2010

Molly McCammon, Director
Alaska Ocean Observing System
1007 W. Third Avenue, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. McCammon:

I am writing this letter in support of the Alaska Ocean Observing System's (AOOS) proposal to NOAA for the Alaska Regional Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems.

ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) is actively involved in onshore and offshore oil and gas exploration and development activities in Alaska's Arctic, as well as in Cook Inlet. We support the efforts of AOOS to increase our knowledge about the nearshore Arctic coastal system, especially with respect to sea ice which affects both marine transportation as well as ship-based exploration activities.

We are currently engaged with AOOS in a joint effort to share information concerning our sampling locations in the Chukchi Sea, along with other oil and gas operators and the AOOS partners, making it available on the AOOS website. We look forward to further collaborations and opportunities to provide support for AOOS' Arctic activities as much as is practicable.

We strongly encourage NOAA to provide full funding for the AOOS proposal. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 907-265-6515.

Sincerely,

Caryn Rea
Senior Staff Biologist



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



WATER ENTERPRISE

NATURAL RESOURCES AND LANDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
Marine Biology Section

3500 Great Highway, San Francisco, CA 94132 • Tel: (415) 242-2200 • Fax: (415) 242-2285

September 20, 2010

- GAVIN NEWSOM
MAYOR
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COMMISSIONER
- JULIE ELLIS
COMMISSIONER
- ANSON B. MORAN
COMMISSIONER
- ED HARRINGTON
GENERAL MANAGER

Dr. Steve Ramp, Program Director
Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
7700 Sandholdt Road
Moss Landing, CA 95039

Dear Dr. Ramp,

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) provides drinking water, power, and wastewater services to the citizens of San Francisco and drinking water to additional Bay Area customers and supports the continued development and operation of the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS). Their proposal to the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration titled, "CeNCOOS: Integrating Marine Observations to Inform Decision Makers and the General Public" deserves to be funded in order to continue the high quality data and products the program provides to users.

The SFPUC was the direct beneficiary of CeNCOOS data and expertise when, in October 2007 during an outfall inspection, the end gate fell off of the SFPUC's ocean outfall approximately 6.5 Km from shore allowing the buoyant freshwater effluent to discharge without passing through diffuser ports designed to provide dilution and mixing. There was immediate concern that the undiluted discharge plume might affect nearshore water quality. Accelerated and expanded shoreline bacteria monitoring eventually indicated that was not the case, however, it was the HF Radar surface-current monitoring data provided by CeNCOOS that really provided the conclusive evidence that the effluent plume did not move shoreward. The rapidity with which CeNCOOS was able to respond to our request for help was truly impressive. Within hours they were able to begin simulating the path of hypothetical particles released hourly from the outfall location. Within 24 hours they provided us with an animation showing the effluent path over the first day. They continued to supply daily and cumulative animations as the event progressed. The information provided by CeNCOOS provided greater confidence for decision making and allowed the responding agencies to make informed decisions regarding beach closures, water quality monitoring, and outfall repair.

Data provided by CeNCOOS also has the potential to support and inform two green energy pilot projects being pursued by the SFPUC – wave energy (offshore) and tidal energy (at the Golden Gate). CeNCOOS capabilities could prove invaluable for siting the projects and for helping to determine environmental impacts.

We particularly support and encourage the role of CeNCOOS in building strong regional partnerships. We currently rely on information sharing from science partners in the region such as the Interagency Ecological Program and the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality. Information from the observing system assets proposed in this effort will integrate nicely into this existing approach. We enthusiastically support your proposal.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Kellogg
Supervising Biologist
Oceanside Biology Laboratory



COAST SEAFOODS COMPANY

EUREKA OFFICE
25 Waterfront Drive
Eureka, CA 95501
Phone (707) 442-2947
FAX (707) 442-3776

1 February, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Greg Dale, I work for Coast Seafoods Company as a shellfish farmer in Humboldt Bay, California. Coast Seafoods has several farms on the west coast as well as hatcheries in Quilcene, WA and Kona, HI. We ship products all around the west coast and frequently make farm and seed management decisions based on water quality data we either generate ourselves or what we can get from other sources. I have worked for quite a few years with CICORE then CeNCOOS to develop and improve water quality monitoring in Humboldt Bay and to increase access to real time monitoring of both off shore and near shore water quality parameters and products.

Coast Seafoods Company supports the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) and the national IOOS in their efforts to provide timely and reliable oceanographic information.

Coast Seafoods Company benefits greatly from CeNCOOS. With an oyster business based in Eureka, CA, South Bend, WA, Quilcene, WA and Kona, HI up-to-date and predictable water quality conditions are critical to the health and fitness of our oysters, our customers and our business. We watch several parameters locally and regionally in an effort to make responsible and informed management decisions. Specifically, we look to CeNCOOS to provide observed and predicted chlorophyll levels inside and outside Humboldt Bay as well as temperature, salinity and other water quality variables. Accurate and timely information greatly improves our ability to effectively manage our business, benefiting our resources, the environment and our local and regional economy.

A good example of the value of CeNCOOS's information is happening as I write this letter. We are making plans to plant our current inventory of nursery clam seed, mostly in Willapa Bay, WA and due to clams having a low tolerance to reduced salinity, especially if stressed by low temps and scarce food, we are monitoring salinities, temps and Chlorophyll a. We do this using hand held meters in multiple places in Willapa bay, WA. It is time consuming and often difficult to get good readings or enough readings to show trends. I did it for many years this way in Humboldt Bay, CA, until CICORE developed and placed a sonde on B Dock in Humboldt Bay. If Willapa Bay had a sonde it would alleviate all this data collection problems and data gaps that we struggle with now to show trends and allow us to commit to planting. I realize that Willapa Bay is in NANOOS so will be working with them to develop a program there

The potential benefits of the Integrated Ocean Observing System are endless. We would like to see CeNCOOS and NANOOS expand and have the capacity to provide more information and products. We strongly endorse the need for a fully developed IOOS that builds on existing federal, regional and local partnerships for the benefit of our health, wildlife, economy and oceans.

Sincerely,

Greg Dale
Southwest Operations Manager



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 312, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073
(831) 454-2022 FAX: (831) 454-3128 TDD: (831) 454-4123

www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/ehhome.htm

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

September 27, 2010

Dr. Steve Ramp, Program Director
Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
7700 Sandholdt Road
Moss Landing, CA 95039

Dear Dr. Ramp,

The Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services supports the continued development and operation of the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) through their proposal to the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration titled, "CeNCOOS: Integrating Marine Observations to Inform Decision Makers and the General Public."

The Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services conducts various activities to protect, preserve and enhance public health, safety and the environment. Our agency collaborates with CeNCOOS in one of our four main program areas: Water Quality Protection. We continuously sample and provide water quality at populated beaches around the County. The data and information collected by CeNCOOS can add great value to our information. Integration of this data has allowed for the discovery of links between harmful algal blooms and human health, wildlife health, land-sea interactions, and overall ocean health. Additionally, we work together to provide the most up-to-date water quality information in user-friendly, web-based formats.

There is a clear, continuing need to operate, maintain and improve the regional observing system. CeNCOOS data are and will continue to be essential for monitoring both short and long-term environmental change. We would like to see CeNCOOS expand and have the capacity to increase instrumentation and provide more information and products. We strongly endorse the need for a fully developed local Regional Association that benefits our health, wildlife, economy and oceans through a focus on ecosystems and climate, coastal hazards, water quality, and marine operations.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. RICKETT,
Water Resources Division Director



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Haley Barbour
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

William W. Walker, Ph.D., Executive Director

September 27, 2008

Re: Letter of Support for the proposal, "Continued Development of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System," by the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System Regional Association (GCOOS-RA)

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and Co-Chair of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) Alliance Management Team, I am writing in support of the GCOOS-RA and national IOOS in their effort to provide timely and accurate ocean and coastal data. I endorse the GCOOS-RA proposal, "Continued Development of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System," being submitted to the Federal Funding Opportunity "FY 2011 Implementation of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)." Ann E. Jochens is the Principal Investigator. The project is for 5-years, with funding to be awarded annually if the federal budget allows.

GOMA is a partnership lead by the Governors of the five States of the Gulf of Mexico established with the goal to significantly increase local, state and federal collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. The current GOMA Action Plan calls for tangible results in the following priority areas: water quality for healthy beaches and seafood, habitat conservation and restoration, ecosystems integration and assessment, coastal community resilience, and environmental education. The GCOOS-RA is a partner and its members participate in our activities.

The GCOOS-RA is working to consolidate the Gulf observing programs under one portal, making access to timely data fast and efficient. Data include physical, biogeochemical, and bathymetry/topography data. Decision makers from federal programs to local first responders rely on timely and accurate information to minimize loss of life and property. Builders, coastal planners, marine energy platforms, fisheries, and the shipping industry use observational data on a daily if not hourly basis. The health and safety of daily Gulf business, exploration, research, and recreation rely on the observational products and services supported by GCOOS and served by NOAA.

GCOOS outreach programs and stakeholder workshops have helped to define specific customer needs and have aided NOAA in targeting programs that use observational data to enhance our mission capabilities. This has resulted in improved products and services derived from surge

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September 17, 2010

Dr. Ann E. Jochens
Department of Oceanography
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-3146

RE: Letter of support for "Continued Development of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System"

Dear Dr. Jochens,
I have reviewed the GCOOS proposal for the "Continued Development of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System" and I am writing on behalf of my agency with enthusiastic support for this effort.

The Texas General Land Office (TGLO) is designated as the state's lead agency for marine oil spill response as well as for coastal management. Because of these dual legislative mandates, we deal with a myriad of coastal issues including coastal development, erosion, permitting, energy exploration and production, wetland protection, and oil spill response. In addition, our state waters (and submerged lands) extend more than 10 miles offshore giving us a very substantial resource to manage. The real time observations you propose for the continental shelf would help us in a variety of ways including sediment transport and oil spill trajectory modeling. I can envision other state agencies benefiting from improvements to harmful algal bloom tracking and storm surge monitoring.

Over the years, we have attempted to provide for some of our own ocean information needs through the TCOON and TABS programs. Even with programs as successful as these, however, we recognize that the scale of the challenge in managing the coast can only be addressed through cooperative work across state lines. Your proposal would be a tremendous help in this regard. I like your proposal for many reasons, but let me just point out a few: (1) it takes a prudent approach of building upon existing successful systems, (2) it holds the potential for filling in gaps with new sensors where there are none, and (3) it clearly targets the enhancements and integration of ocean observations we need in the Gulf for decision-making.

In closing, let me simply restate that I fully support your proposed effort because it has tangible benefits for our state and the entire Gulf region. For our part, we will continue supporting the TABS and TCOON efforts as components to this important region-wide effort.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Martin, Jr., Ph.D.
Director of R&D and Scientific Support
Oil Spill Prevention & Response

Stephen F. Austin Building • 1700 North Congress Avenue • Austin, Texas 78701-1495
Post Office Box 12873 • Austin, Texas 78711-2873
512-463-5001 • 800-998-4GLO
www.glo.state.tx.us

models, sea level rise monitoring, hypoxia and harmful algal bloom programs, ecosystem integrated assessments, and climate impact studies, to list a few focus areas.

GCOOS is off to a great start but needs to expand and maintain the present system. A fully developed national IOOS and mature GCOOS will add to the economic growth, safety and management of marine resources in the Gulf of Mexico. I fully endorse the continued support and further development of the GCOOS by the GCOOS-RA and its partners.

Sincerely,

William W. Walker, Ph.D.

Sincerely,



Department of Public Health
Monroe County, New York

Maggie Brooks
County Executive

Andrew S. Doniger, M.D., M.P.H.
Director

September 24, 2010

Dr. Jennifer Read, Executive Director
Great Lakes Observing System
229 Nickels Arcade
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Dr. Read:

The Rochester Embayment Remedial Action Plan Oversight Committee is pleased to offer support for the project, Implementation of the Great Lakes Observing System, 2011-15* submitted in response to the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) opportunity number NOAA-NOS-IOOS-2011-2002515. We urge funding of this project in its entirety at the requested amount of 4 million dollars annually to ensure operation for a time period that will result in collection of significant and defensible data.

We see this project as complementary to the activities of Oversight Committee partners such as the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative, the Lake Ontario Management Plan committee, and complementary to recent data acquisition efforts such as the Lake Ontario Nearshore Nutrient Study.

The Rochester Embayment Remedial Action Plan Oversight Committee values the actions outlined in this proposal to continue and expand the collection of information begun under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative by expansion of GLOS into the Western Lake Ontario area, especially the Rochester Embayment. We support GLOS and this proposal and again recommend it for full funding.

Sincerely,

Charles Knauf
Remedial Action Plan Coordinator
Rochester Embayment Area of Concern
Environmental Health Project Analyst
Monroe County Department of Public Health
111 Westfall Road
Rochester, NY 14620

111 Westfall Road • Room 915 • Rochester, New York 14620
(585) 753-5476 • (585) 753-5098 FAX
www.monroecounty.gov



City of Cleveland
100 E. Lakeshore Tower

Department of Public Utilities
Division of Water
1301 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-1175
(216) 554-3444
www.clevelandohio.com



September 21, 2010

Dr. Jennifer Read
Executive Director
Great Lakes Observing System
229 Nickels Arcade
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Dear Dr. Read:

I am pleased to provide this letter supporting your proposal, "Implementation of the Great Lakes Observing System, FY2011-15." The proposed activities will address important needs of Cleveland Water related to the quality of raw water taken into our system.

Cleveland Water provides clear, safe water to 1.5 million customers. Cleveland's raw water supply is Lake Erie which, has seen increasing hypoxic conditions during the summer over the past decade or more. Hypoxic water is not a good source of raw water due to the high organic content, taste, odor, and the tendency for manganese to dissolve in low or no oxygen conditions. The presence of manganese, high organic levels, and taste/odor compounds mean the costs for treatment are greatly increased.

Since 2009 the Great Lakes Observing System, through its federal partner of the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, has provided a near shore buoy dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles proximate to our water intakes. The oxygen information tells us when we are in danger of taking in hypoxic water and the temperature information warns us that there is the potential for internal waves allowing us to shut down our intakes in order to avoid taking in low quality raw water or adjust treatment appropriately.

Therefore, Cleveland Water is supportive of your proposal which will continue to provide this important decision support information to us. Cleveland urges NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System to support this proposal at full funding level for each of the next five years in order to provide this important support to our water system.

Sincerely yours,

Rob Porter
Acting Commissioner of Water



HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Mount Clemens Health Center

4325 Elizabeth Road
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
586-459-5255 FAX 586-469-5885
macombcountymichigan.gov/publichealth

Steve C. Gold, M.P.H.
Director/Health Officer

Kevin P. Lukan, M.D.
Medical Director

September 23, 2010

Dr. Jennifer Read, Executive Director
Great Lakes Observing System
Michigan Sea Grant
Samuel T. Dana Building
440 Church St., Suite 4044
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1041

Dear Dr. Read:

SUBJECT: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NOAA-NOS-IOOS-2011-2002515

The Macomb County Health Department (MCHD) is pleased to provide this letter of support of the Michigan Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) in their application for funding under the RFP titled "Implementation of the Great Lakes Observing System, FY2011-15". The proposed activities will address important needs in the Huron-Erie Corridor.

The MCHD, with financial support from Federal, State and Local partners, has established a real time, automated source water monitoring system in the Huron-Erie Corridor. Enhancements provided through the GLOS program will provide a greater degree of public health protection through modeling of flows and predictability of contaminant concentrations at public drinking water intakes.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support and I hope your application is successful.

Sincerely,

Gary R. White, R.S. M.S.
Interim Deputy Health Officer

MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- | | | | | | |
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Maryland Department of Transportation

August 24, 2010

Mr. Judith T. Krauthamer, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MACOORA)
Mid-Atlantic Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARCOOS)
Box 6879
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Dear Judith:

I am writing to express support for the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association and Ocean Observing System proposal to the funding grant, FY 2011 Implementation of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). We believe MARCOORA/MARCOOS will continue to provide a vital, regional backbone for many sub-regional and local efforts being conducted from Massachusetts through North Carolina. The association and its operating arm combined provide vital products and services in Maritime Safety, Ecosystem-Based Management, Water Quality, Coastal Inundation and Offshore Energy from which we benefit.

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) State Highway Administration (SHA) is responsible for constructing, managing and maintaining State highways and bridges. This includes emergency traffic management to support local or regional evacuations, and emergency response to repair highways and bridges damaged by storm inundation or erosion. Forecasts, observations and data provided by MACOORA on waves, wind, water levels, and precipitation before, during and after storms are essential to our ability to support and assist first responders. Additionally these forecast allow us to pre-identify potential areas for inundation and erosion. We look forward to supporting your continued operations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Joseph M. Geckle
Homeland Security Coordinator
Maryland State Highway Administration

My telephone number is _____

Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech: 1.800.735.2258 Statewide toll free
Street Address: Office of Maintenance, 7491 Connelley Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076
www.marylandroads.com Toll Free (MD Only): 1.877.624.6863

THE MARITIME ASSOCIATION
OF THE
PORT OF NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY

Since 1873



PORT GAMBLE S'Klallam TRIBE
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
31912 Little Boston Rd. NE - Kington, WA 98346

February 2nd, 2010



Judith T. Krauthamer, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MACOORA)
Mid-Atlantic Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARCOOS)
Box 6879
Ellicott City, MD 21042

August 24, 2010

Dear Judith,

I am writing to express support for the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association and Ocean Observing System proposal to the funding grant, FY 2011 Implementation of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). We believe MACOORA/MARCOOS will continue to provide a vital, regional backbone for many sub-regional and local efforts being conducted from Massachusetts through North Carolina. The association and its operating arm combined provide vital data, products and outreach services in Maritime Safety, Ecological Decision Support, Water Quality, Coastal Inundation and Offshore Energy from which we benefit.


The Maritime Association of the Port of NY/NJ is comprised of over 500 paid corporate and individual members who are involved in the commercial maritime industry in the Port. Our membership includes such concerns as international ship operators, marine terminal operators, tug and barge operators, admiralty attorneys, organized longshore labor, marine underwriters, harbor truckers, and others. Since 1873 the Maritime Association has promoted the safety of navigation, the security of marine assets and properties, the sustainability of our marine environment, and the economic competitiveness of our Port.

The members of our Maritime Association are essential stakeholders in ensuring a safe, sustainable marine environment. We believe that MACOORA/MARCOOS has enormous capability to develop and sustain practical observing and modeling systems that will contribute to improving the safety of navigation and the sustainability of the marine environment that is essential to our operations.

The success of the Search and Rescue program and the potential to significantly expand and improve the PORTS network are clear indicators of how MACOORA/MARCOOS can be of great use and value to the maritime industry.

I strongly endorse the support for a fully-developed MACOORA/MARCOOS observing system that builds on the exiting federal-regional partnerships.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Relly
Executive Director

PRESIDENT
William Rooney
Hajin Shipping America
VICE PRESIDENT
Brian McAllister
McAllister Towing and
Transportation
Treasurer
Karl Klotzinger
Hydro Marine
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Caldwell Dry Dock &
Repair Co., Inc.
Peter Keyes
Mason Towing Corp.
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The Lambos Firm
Markus Marinakis
Marinakis Chartering, Inc.
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Inc.
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International
Transportation Solutions,
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Carlo Ruggiero
Ruggiero & Ogilvy
Membership Agency, Inc.
Richard Sabatini
States Island Terminal,
LLC
Thomas Stammers
Cruz Terminals Inc.
Kenneth Spahn
Port Authority of NY & NJ
And Vitarana
United Arab Emirates Inc.
COUNSEL
Ernesto Lazzato, Esq.
Hill Rivkins & Hayden
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17 Battery Place, Suite 913 New York, NY 10004 Tel. (212) 425-5704 Fax (212) 635-9498
E-Mail: themaritimeassoc@erols.com Website: <http://www.nymaritime.org>

To Whom It May Concern:

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST) has lived and depended upon the waters of Puget Sound for thousands of years. The complex marine and nearshore ecosystems support our many important subsistence and commercial fisheries resources and ultimately support our own lives, traditions and culture.

These once pristine marine and nearshore systems in our Usual and Accustomed fishing grounds (U&A), which include Hood Canal, Admiralty Inlet and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, are quite literally our life blood. Our elders and ancestors used to maintain and pass on intimate knowledge of these waters and functions. They had to, of course, since the lives of our people depended upon this knowledge and intimate connections.

As modern times have added vast levels of new complexities and challenges to these systems, it has become a major priority for us as a tribal nation to get a handle on the science and most relevant information for these now hugely stressed systems from both baseline and intensive scales. Climate change and its many associated issues especially ocean acidification are at the top of our list of interest along with serial declines of a multitude of species and organisms, primary and secondary productivity and water, sediment and tissue chemistry. Our concerns about these issues is why we became a partner of the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS). PGST is also a partner in the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program (HCDOP) which is investigating the contributing factors and variability of low oxygen concentrations within the inland marine waters of Hood Canal. The implications of the HCDOP investigation will potentially influence a larger sphere of the Puget Sound region.

We are also a member organization of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, a lead entity within the Puget Sound Partnership and Salmon Recovery efforts. Additionally, we are one of the member tribes within the Point No Point Treaty Council as well as the larger Northwest Indian Fish Commission. We conduct various research and monitoring projects and programs all of which are in partnership with other groups and agencies. One of our major partners is the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group which we work with primarily on HCDOP programs but also collaborate with on many other levels.

NANOOS and it's regional Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), has become a data assimilation point for the HCDOP project and most other regional data sets involving the investigation and monitoring of the marine waters of Puget Sound and Hood Canal. NANOOS and IOOS are very important programs for us and perform a critical role in our access to important data and research programs in addition to our ability to obtain access to the best level of scientific understanding of our above described marine and nearshore resources of our U&A.

Phone: (360) 297-4792 Fax: (360) 297-4791



Quinault Indian Nation

POST OFFICE BOX 188 □ TAHOLA, WASHINGTON 98567 □ TELEPHONE (360) 276-8211

January 28, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

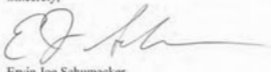
The Quinault Indian Nation is a federally recognized treaty manager of the ocean area adjacent to central and northern Washington State. Quinault has encouraged and conducted research and ocean exploration off our coast to better characterize and understand our ocean environment. The IOOS system and specifically the Regional Association, NANOOS, is an important part of the Quinault Nation's collaborative efforts to better manage and monitor our coastal ocean.

Our Pacific Northwest coast has sadly lacked the monitoring abilities available in other coastal areas of our continental U.S. It is, for the most part, remote, wild and one of the last areas of the lower U.S. coast not severely impacted by civilization. However we now find that ocean reacting to inputs from outside our local area manifested in troubling research findings indicating lowered pH and oxygen levels. Quinault, fellow coastal treaty tribes of Washington and other small, rural communities along this coast are dependent upon the sea and its resources for our cultural identity, sustenance and livelihoods. Physical and biological changes in our ocean can have devastating impacts on the fish and shellfish species that we depend upon. Monitoring systems such as the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) are key components; allowing us to adaptively manage for changes as they occur, alert the public to such issues and to better manage our ocean resources in all conditions.

NANOOS has taken our concerns into account in locating a future deployment off of La Push, Washington. This state of the art moored platform is strategically placed and will monitor many of the key parameters that are important to Quinault and other coastal communities including the potential for early warning of harmful algal blooms (HAB's).

The abilities that NANOOS, and the IOOS system as a whole, have produced, integrated and made available to the public are unprecedented. The Quinault Indian Nation encourages and supports continued funding of the IOOS program to facilitate and expand these abilities both nationally and regionally. As a treaty tribe we encourage this funding to help better protect and manage our natural resources, a federal trust responsibility.

Sincerely,


Ervin Joe Schumacker
Marine Resources Scientist
Quinault Indian Nation
360-276-8211 ext. 327

The newly developed NANOOS data visualization web portal provides a vast array of data to us and other users. This feature of providing real-time and archived data is becoming more critical for our various research and monitoring projects including our partnership efforts with HCDOP projects and programs which are working with local decision-makers challenged with formulating regulatory decisions to address local and regional ecosystem changes.

PGST is a member of the NANOOS community and strongly supports the effort by the National Federation of Regional Associations (NFRA) to build a greater capacity for effective regional ocean observing systems.

Thank you for your time in considering your support for the national IOOS.

Sincerely,


Paul McCollum
Director, Natural Resources Department



Neil W. Werner
Executive Director
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group
Belfair, WA 98528
360-275-3575

25 January 2010



MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Charlestown Navy Yard
100 First Avenue, Building 39
Boston, MA 02129

Frederick A. Laskey
Executive Director

Telephone: (617) 242-6000
Fax: (617) 241-6070
TTY: 617 788-4971

September 24, 2010

Dr. Ru Morrison, Executive Director
Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems
570 Ocean Blvd.
Rye, NH 03870

Dear Ru:

MWRA supports the NERACOOS proposal

MWRA provides water and sewer service to greater Boston. We discharge secondary-treated sewage effluent 15km offshore in Massachusetts Bay. Under our discharge permit, EPA, MADEP, and NMFS require us to protect the valued resources of the bay by monitoring and modeling for environmental effects of the outfall, the largest in the world.

These items in the region's proposal are important to MWRA, listed in order of our priority for receiving NERACOOS funding:

Group	activity	benefit to MWRA	MWRA Complementary Funding
Water quality	Gulf of Maine buoys	Buoy A indicates whether GoM currents are entering Mass Bay, and the quality of water approaching the outfall.	We pay \$50K each year to UMaine to help support this buoy, plus \$30K each year to Bowdoin for measurements of chlorophyll fluorescence.
Model and analysis	NECOFS	NECOFS provides FVCOM, the hydrodynamic component of our water quality model RCA.	We pay \$60K each year to UmassD for running the water quality model
Water quality	ESP (buoy); Drifters	MWRA is required to measure <i>Alexandrium</i> abundance as part of the regional effort. MWRA focuses on detecting outfall nutrient enhancement of the bloom.	We pay consultants about \$100K during bloom years to sample for <i>Alexandrium</i> .
Water quality	CO2 (buoy); Ferries	Provide context for our monitoring data, and data for modeling.	
Water quality	Satellite remote sensing	Regional and local context. UMaine adds substantial value to the product.	

We look forward to contributing to the Integrated Regional Sentinel Monitoring Program. Call me at 617 788-4951 if you need more information.

Mike
Michael J Mickelson, PhD
Program Manager, Outfall Monitoring

To Whom It May Concern:

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG) is one of 14 regional fisheries enhancement groups across the state of Washington, and one of 11 that are directly linked to coastal and inland marine waters.

The HCSEG is a co-manager of the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program (HCDOP) which is investigating the contributing factors and variability of low oxygen concentrations within the inland marine waters of Hood Canal. The implications of the HCDOP investigation will potentially influence a larger sphere of the Puget Sound region.

The Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS), our regional Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), has become a data assimilation point for this project and most other regional data sets involving the investigation and monitoring of the marine waters of Puget Sound and Hood Canal.

The newly developed NANOOS data visualization web portal provides a vast array of data back to users. This feature of providing real-time and archived data is becoming more critical as HCDOP Technical Advisory Committees are working with local decision-makers challenged with formulating regulatory decisions to address local and regional ecosystem changes.

The HCSEG is a member of the NANOOS community and strongly supports the effort by the National Federation of Regional Associations (NFRA) to build a greater capacity for effective regional ocean observing systems.

Thank you for your time in considering your support for the national IOOS.

Sincerely,

Neil W. Werner
Executive Director
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

16 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0016

Tel: 207.624.3564
Fax: 207.624.3251

email: john.h.henshaw@maine.gov
www.maineports.com

September 30, 2010

Ru Morrison
Executive Director
Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems
570 Ocean Blvd.,
Rye, NH 03870

Dear Ru,

I am writing on behalf of the Maine Port Authority to express my support for the application by NERACOOS to the FY2011 Integrated Ocean Observing System Implementation funding opportunity. The Maine Port Authority strives to stimulate commerce by developing marine and rail facilities, and other viable endeavors in a responsible fashion, for the intermodal movement of people and cargo in support of economic development.

Over the past 10 years, the Maine DOT and the Maine Port Authority have invested over \$50 million in the three industrial ports to help promote growth. Today the three ports collectively handle over 1.5 million tons of dry cargo including containers per year. Additionally, Portland and Searsport also handle over 125 million barrels of petroleum products per year. Millions of dollars, thousands of jobs and the well-being of most Maine people depends upon the safe navigation of vessels bringing heating oil, paper company products and other critical cargo to and from Maine ports. NERACOOS buoys, with both their internet and telephone applications, are user-friendly methods to ensure this safe passage along the complex and dynamic Maine coast

The Maine Pilotage Commission is administered by this office and naturally has a vested interest in the continued safe passage of large commercial, ocean-going vessels into and out of Maine's three primary ports of Eastport, Portland and Searsport. The pilots have relied primarily on the buoys located in Casco, Cobscook, and Penobscot Bays to make critical navigational decisions with the vessels that they are charged with operating.

The state has also enjoyed an increase in coastal cruising programs and is currently a summer home for the cruise operations of American Cruise Line, Blount Small Ship Adventures and Clipper Cruise Line. Through the addition of these cruise lines establishing a market for coastal cruises, the ports of Bar Harbor, Bangor, Belfast, Bucksport, Camden, Portland and Rockland have flourished as popular ports of call. The state now handles over 300 port of calls and over 200,000 passengers annually. Again, the safe passage of these cruise vessels and their passengers on board is greatly enhanced by your organization's buoys.

The proposed effort will directly benefit all of our stakeholders interested in safe and efficient operation of vessels and marine shoreside facilities; and the protection of the environment from casualties in and near the coastal waters of Maine. The NERACOOS real-time observations and model forecasts of weather and ocean state are a critical service that helps our stakeholders save money and save lives.

Sincerely,

John Henshaw
Executive Director



Town of Scituate

TOWN HALL
600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway
Scituate, MA 02066



Conservation Commission

Telephone: (781) 545-8721
Fax: (781) 545-8704
Web Site: www.town.scituate.ma.us

Dr. Ru Morrison
Executive Director
Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems
570 Ocean Blvd.
Rye, NH 03870

September 23, 2010

Re: Continued Development of the Northeastern Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (NERACOOS) proposal for a five (5) year period 6-1-2011 to 5-31-2016.

Mr. Morrison:

The Scituate Conservation Commission is writing to express our full support for the continued development of the Northeastern Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (NERACOOS) for a five year period 6-1-2011 to 5-31-2016. The Town of Scituate, a coastal community, experiences significant coastal flooding events on a regular basis. This continued development of the NERACOOS system will significantly aid the ability of staff for the Town of Scituate to provide adequate public safety warnings of potential flooding events; and to provide the overall ability to plan for emergency responses to the public as needed, during coastal flooding events.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Shea
Scituate Conservation Commission Agent



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT
A Public Agency for Environmental Research

September 22, 2010

Dr. Steven Ramp, Executive Director
Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS)

Julie Thomas, Executive Director
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS)

Re: FY2011 Implementation of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

Dear Dr. Ramp and Ms. Thomas,

On behalf of the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) and the California Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Alert Program (HABMAP), I would like to indicate our support for the continued development and operation of California's Ocean Observing Systems, the Central and Northern Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) and the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS). With five-year support from the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), we understand that you will develop new information products and decision support tools, while continuing to provide timely data and critical observations of the coastal ocean.

SCCWRP is a research institute focused on the coastal ecosystems of southern California, from watersheds to the ocean, and our mission is to provide a scientific foundation for the management decisions of our member agencies. In a similar capacity, CeNCOOS and SCCOOS are actively engaged in obtaining and synthesizing ocean observations to meet the needs of coastal managers and decision makers. SCCWRP is able to provide a discussion forum for the outcomes of your data collection and research among various sectors of the water quality management community, via the SCCWRP Commission. In addition, I am in a unique position to assist your upcoming work as a member of the SCCOOS Board of Governors. SCCWRP will continue pursuing collaborations with CeNCOOS and SCCOOS over the next five years to support coastal water quality monitoring and facilitate communication among scientists and water quality managers.

HABMAP is a consortium of researchers and monitoring entities that was formed to promote development of a coordinated statewide harmful algal bloom (HAB) alert network in California. The Steering Committee's current foci include shore-based monitoring of HABs, offshore monitoring, intercalibration workshops and summits, and expanding website capabilities. Longer term objectives include predictive forecasting of HABs; long-term observations from gliders, moorings, coastal stations, and satellites; and development of real-time particle transport models with a product interface that can be used by resource managers. CeNCOOS and SCCOOS have played a major role in HABMAP's establishment, and we look forward to engaging in ongoing collaboration.

In summary, we appreciate the highly effective partnership developed among SCCWRP, California's HAB researchers, and the observing systems to date, and anticipate strengthening this alliance in the future. If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (714) 755-3203.

Sincerely,

Stephen Weisberg, Ph.D.
Executive Director

3535 Harbor Blvd. Suite 110, Costa Mesa, CA 92626-1437
(714) 755-3200 fax (714) 755-3299



City of Encinitas

September 15, 2010

Julie Thomas
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System
Executive Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
University of California San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive #0214
San Diego, CA 92093

Dear Ms. Thomas,

SUBJECT: Implementation of Regional Integrated Ocean Observing Systems: The Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS)

On behalf of the City of Encinitas, I would like to express our support for the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS).

Funding for this program is of critical importance to California coastal constituents, specifically those in the San Diego region. The City of Encinitas utilizes this data on a daily basis for program planning, monitoring, sea level rise and monitoring the affects from El Niño. Every key project along the coast relies on this data for baseline project planning for sediment transport modeling and nearshore habitat assessments. The wave and buoy data is critical for wave forecasting during program planning. The City utilizes the monitoring data for critical analysis on beach width changes due to seasonal and storm changes and predictions how waves will impact our beaches in the future. The data has been utilized by consultants to predict sea level rise over the next 50 years and how it affects the US Army Corps of Engineers studies in Encinitas and Solana Beach. The wave data is critical while analyzing the affect from the El Niño and how our beaches change and by how much. The City is also participating in the inundation and shoreline change project which will be very helpful in prediction of overtopping the Coast Hwy 101 and how that will affect traffic and public resources during high surf advisory.

The El Niño Winter of 2010 re-emphasized the importance of this data when Hwy 101 was undermined and overtopped during the January and February storms. The data provides justification and evidence for FEMA and Coastal Commission while the City repairs existing infrastructure. Detailed wave, current, and inundation information for our coast is invaluable. Given the importance of the information SCCOOS provides, additional funding is needed.

I appreciate your attention to this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at (760) 633-2632 or kweldon@ci.encinitas.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Katherine Weldon
Coastal Program Manager

Tel 760/633-2600 FAX 760/633-2627, 505 South Vulcan Avenue, Encinitas, CA 92024 TDD 760/633-2700

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CALIFORNIA



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September 1, 2010

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Dr. Eric Terrill, Technical Director
Julie Thomas, Executive Director
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS)
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
University of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093

Dear Dr. Terrill and Ms. Thomas:

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM (SCCOOS)

The City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation's Environmental Monitoring Division (EMD) is supportive of the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System efforts to develop the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS) for Southern California. SCCOOS provides badly needed coastal and ocean observations and generates extremely useful products for environmental managers, regulators, and nongovernmental agencies (e.g., environmental groups). The City conducts extensive monitoring in the coastal ocean of Southern California, primarily in Santa Monica Bay. A significant portion of this effort involves tracking the Hyperion Treatment Plant's effluent plume as it is discharged from the 5-Mile Outfall pipe into Santa Monica Bay and estimating bacterial concentrations at ankle depth in the surfzone due to the potential for pathogens to adversely impact public health. The effluent plume has the potential for traveling considerable distances and depositing organic particles, metals, and organic pollutants into the sediment within the Bay. Storm drains are the major source of bacteria and other pollutants to these waters, and they mostly discharge into the surfzone.

Southern California beaches and near-shore waters are world famous, and nearly 80 million people engage in water contact recreational activities at Los Angeles and Orange County beaches every year. This is not only an important component of the Southern California life style, but also an important economic engine for the region. Unfortunately, it has been estimated that between 627,800 and 1,479,200 "excess" cases of gastrointestinal illness occur at these beaches each year with estimated healthcare costs of \$21 million to \$414 million annually; therefore, ensuring good, safe water quality along our coast is an extremely high priority. In addition, the deposition of pollutants and their subsequent accumulation have adverse impacts on the benthic macrofauna and demersal fish and invertebrate communities. Some of the seafood, e.g., white croakers, have been issued fish advisory notices and may not be safe for consumption.

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY — AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Dr. Eric Terrill & Julie Thomas, SCCOOS
Scripps Institution of Oceanography
September 1, 2010
Page 2 of 2

Knowledge of circulation patterns in the coastal region is meager, especially from a regional perspective. A better understanding of circulation in the shallow and near-shore regions could be extremely valuable because it holds the potential to forecast the fate of surfzone and near-shore pollutants, which would increase our ability to protect public health and the environment.

The work conducted by SCCOOS is important because it is focused on improving our understanding and potential for modeling dispersion within a few hundred meters of the shoreline, which is where most water-contact recreation occurs, as well as the near-shore waters. This information will be useful in studying stormwater dispersion and fate, as well as discharges from wastewater treatment plants. I believe this will greatly benefit monitoring efforts aimed at protecting public health and the environment.

In November 2006, the City of Los Angeles' Hyperion Treatment Plant diverted the flow of its wastewater from a pipe with an outfall that is five miles from the shoreline to one that is only one mile from the shoreline in order to inspect the 5-mile pipe. The diversion lasted approximately three days and about 800 million gallons of secondary-treated effluent was discharged through the 1-mile pipe. EMD in conjunction with other researchers conducted an extensive monitoring effort during this diversion. Our monitoring effort greatly benefited from surface current information provided through the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS). The real-time current information provided by SCCOOS enabled us to adaptively modify our sampling grid to better track the discharge plume and to predict the dispersion of the surface plume by the use of a trajectory model developed by SCCOOS researchers using high frequency radar data. If the winds had blown onshore, EMD would have utilized the surfzone model developed by Scripps Institution of Oceanography through SCCOOS to predict the dispersion of the effluent in the surfzone. We believe improved understanding of dispersion in the surfzone may similarly benefit our monitoring efforts in the future, as well as those of other monitoring agencies in southern California, for example the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD), Orange County Sanitation Districts, and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, among several others. Both Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles are very interested in the near-shore current data and surfzone model of SCCOOS to help shed light on the dispersion of legacy pollutants, i.e., DDT and PCBs that were discharged from the LACSD outfall at White's Point and onto the Palos Verdes shelf.

Also, within the next few years, the Hyperion Treatment Plant in Playa del Rey will need to repair the portion of the 5-mile outfall pipe that was identified as problematic during its internal outfall inspection in November 2006. During this repair period, the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Sanitation will call upon and work closely with SCCOOS scientists to design and conduct a monitoring program tailored for the diversion of the secondary-treated effluent from the 5-mile to the 1-mile outfall as the City did in 2006.

In summary, the City of Los Angeles shares an interest in better understanding the dynamics of water transport in the surfzone and near-shore waters, which may increase our understanding of the fate of flow from storm drains and other sources into the surfzone as well as the flow from offshore sources into near-shore waters. Because of this, the City believes it will continue to directly benefit from the ocean observing activities proposed by SCCOOS; the City wholeheartedly endorses the 5-year proposal to the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP)-NOAA for SCCOOS funding and recommends it be funded.

Sincerely,

Masahiro Dojiri, PhD
Division Manager

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**St. Johns River
Water Management District**

Kitty B. Green II, Director • David W. Folk, Assistant Executive Director

4049 Reid Street • P.O. Box 1429 • Palatka, FL 32178-1429 • (386) 329-4500
On the Internet at floridaswater.com.

September 13, 2010

Peter Sheng
Civil and Coastal Engineering Department
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-6580

RE: Your NOAA proposal "A Regional Realtime Forecast System for Water Level, Coastal Inundation, and Circulation in SCOORA Region"

Dr. Sheng,

The St. Johns River Water Management District has a strong interest in your NOAA proposal to set-up a real-time forecast system for coastal areas within our District. Our District has previously cooperated with NOAA and FDEP to fund real-time tidal water level observations in the St. Johns River, Northern Coastal Basin, and Indian River Lagoon. These gauges were relied upon heavily by District staff and other agencies particularly during periods of tropical storms. Recent state funding constraints have severely reduced our network, which was already limited in scope. Having a comprehensive real-time system as described by your proposal would give us an important tool for planning, preparation, response, and mitigation for coastal storms.

Thank you in advance for supporting our efforts to protect Florida's water resources by providing leading-edge research products.

We wish you success in obtaining funding from the NOAA IOOS Program, and look forward to working with you by participating in the stakeholder/user group.

Sincerely,

Peter V. Sucsy, Senior Engineer Scientist
Division of Engineering
psucsy@sjrwm.com
386-329-4455

September 15, 2010

Peter Sheng
Civil and Coastal Engineering Department
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-6580

RE: Your proposal for "An Integrated, Quasi-Operational 24/7 Nowcasting/Forecasting System for Nearshore Water Level, Inundation and circulation"

Dear Dr. Sheng,

Pinellas County is a small peninsular county (approximately 280 square miles), but one of the most densely populated counties in the State of Florida, with close to one million people. The County is virtually built-out, and therefore has the potential for significant infrastructure and asset loss from coastal inundation events. Because of our geography, and as part of our long range planning and disaster planning initiatives, the Pinellas County Planning Department supports the idea of developing tools that allow for better modeling of coastal inundation events. In particular it appears that this initiative will enable real-time forecasting and modeling which can be used as one of several emergency management tools during times of expected and real storm events. This will not replace the range of existing long and short range storm and disaster planning tools, but instead will add an additional tool for emergency managers, planners and engineers to use in responding to storm events.

As a vulnerable peninsular coastal county, the Planning Department supports the development of tools like this that enhance the ability to forecast and manage disaster events and better protect local infrastructure, property and citizens. We look forward to participating in this project as a stakeholder and are interested in the applicability of the end products to our local conditions.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Smith, Director
Pinellas County Planning Department

CC: Peter Yauch, Assistant County Administrator
Sally Bishop, Pinellas County Emergency Management Director
Andrew Squires, Coastal Manager

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
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Clearwater, Florida 33755
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