



FY2011: Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System Development

U.S. IOOS® is an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. NOAA continued a merit-based funding process in 2011 to further development of the IOOS regional network. IOOS regional partners provide coordination with regional stakeholders while contributing data and other outputs to the national system – supporting regional priorities while advancing national objectives.

GREAT LAKES REGION

The Great Lakes Observing System provides coverage for the coastal zone within the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan, bordering on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

NOAA Funding:

Prior to FY 2011, IOOS regional partners received two awards – one for development of the Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS), and one for planning and stakeholder engagement by a Regional Association (RA). In FY 2011, IOOS made a single award to each region for management of these activities. Funds awarded by NOAA since establishment of the U.S. IOOS Program Office are as follows:

FY 2011 - \$1,400,000

FY 2010 - \$1,080,815 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA

(In FY 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency provided a total of \$3,000,000 for GLOS observing and modeling activities in support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Of this total, \$730,815 was included in the RCOOS award.)

FY 2009 - \$350,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA

FY 2008 - \$350,000 RCOOS, \$400,000 RA



Regional Priorities:

The only freshwater region of IOOS, the Great Lakes is home to over 40 million US and Canadian citizens, many tribal groups, eight states and two provinces. The region's coastline totals nearly 11,000 miles, and the Great Lakes and their connecting channels form the largest fresh surface water system on Earth, holding nine-tenths of the U.S. fresh surface water supply. The Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) was formed to coordinate the regional observing network that plays a critical role in the management of these valuable resources.

In addition to addressing issues similar to other IOOS regions (e.g., spill response, search and rescue, beach quality, and beach hazards such as rip and channel currents), GLOS is also positioned to address unique regional issues resulting from its freshwater composition and geography. These issues include source water protection; providing



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baseline data to managers of Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs) and Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs); identifying, collecting and integrating key fishery and associated environmental (physical, chemical and biological) observations to support state and provincial fishery managers; understanding the impacts of climate change upon net basin water supplies; assisting municipal/regional planners in adapting to climate change; and prioritizing maintenance funds for key port and harbor infrastructure.

In 2011 GLOS will continue:

- Deployment and operation of observing system platforms, including buoys, autonomous underwater vehicles, gliders, and vessels of opportunity;
- Program management and partner coordination;
- Data Management and Communication activities to include identifying baseline information for measuring progress, continuing integration of existing priority data sets, and identifying priority opportunities for data standards, quality management system, and protocol development;
- Refining and enhancing existing tools as needed and identifying emerging opportunities for model and tool development;
- Facilitation of the Ecosystem Forecasting Modeling Framework pilot that has been proposed for Lake Michigan; and
- Outreach and education efforts including identifying priority targets for GLOS membership, initiating evaluation of existing tools, sustaining promotion and engagement activities, and maintaining website content, including quarterly newsletters, updates on meetings and events, and news stories as appropriate.

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