



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NOAA Announces Funding to Support Ocean Observing in the Pacific Northwest

NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) is awarding \$1.9M in fiscal year 2008 competitive grant funding to support ocean observing efforts in the Pacific Northwest.

The NOAA grant award will go to the Applied Physics Laboratory at University of Washington, where it will be used in support of the continued development of the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) and associated management efforts. David Martin, Ph.D., associate director of the Applied Physics Laboratory will serve as the project's lead investigator.

"We are exceptionally pleased to continue our partnership efforts with NOAA to establish and maintain an Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional program in the Pacific Northwest," said Martin. "Our goal is to seamlessly integrate our regional effort into the national enterprise to benefit the country."

The aim is to maintain and enhance ocean and coastal observations in the region, make regional data easier to access and use, identify and prioritize future needs for ocean information, and monitor environmental conditions so decision-makers can minimize the impact of severe weather, natural hazards, and other emergencies.

"Regional partnerships are critical to the success of a national Integrated Ocean Observing System," said Zdenka Willis, NOAA IOOS program director. "With increased understanding of our oceans and coasts comes an increased ability to keep our nation safe, our economy secure, and our environment healthy and productive."

NANOOS is one recipient in an anticipated series of nationwide IOOS grant funded projects, totaling \$20.4M this year. Those grants will support the continuation of 17 multi-year projects awarded in 2007, as well as new efforts in 2008.

"This agreement represents another big step forward for the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observing System, as called for in the President's Ocean Action Plan," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "This year's award is a great example of NOAA's dedication to our ocean and coastal observing capacity, as well as our commitment to work with our regional partners."

This money supports NOAA's efforts to develop a national IOOS, a vital tool for tracking, predicting, managing, and adapting to changes in our coastal and ocean environments. This network of people and technology is consolidating coastal and ocean data, so it is easily accessible and can be used by scientists and decision-makers to get a 'bigger picture' view of environmental change.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 70 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing Program: <http://www.ioos.noaa.gov>