FY2010: Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System Development

NOAA continued a merit-based funding process in 2010 to enhance regional coastal ocean observing systems (RCOOS) and achieve three long-term outcomes: establishing coordinated regional observing and data management infrastructures, developing applications and products for regional stakeholders, and crafting regional and national data management and communications protocols. In addition, regional associations received planning grant awards designed to assist them in stakeholder engagement, education and outreach, and long-range planning activities.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

The Southern California Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) provides coverages south from Point Conception to the Mexico border.

Funding:

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 awards to this region include $1,400,00 for the RCOOS, $11,900 to support a shellfish industry ocean acidification workshop, and $510,000 to continue support for High Frequency Radar for search-and-rescue operations. The 2010 Regional Association (RA) Planning Grant award to this region is $395,210.
FY 2009 - $1,341,466 RCOOS (3 awards), $393,093 RA
FY 2008 - $500,000 RCOOS, $353,785 RA

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Regional Priorities and Objectives:

SCCOOS works to inform short-term decision-making and long-term assessment of the coastal ocean through sustained physical and biological observations. This project addresses activities identified as priorities by the SCCOOS stakeholder community. These include supporting the southern California beach water quality management community with issues related to Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), maintaining area-wide ocean assessment to identify secular trends in the environment and their relationship to ecosystem variability; supporting operational users, such as search and rescue, oil spill response, and marine safety, as well as managing and distributing ocean information of public interest.

In FY10, funds will support ongoing operations and maintenance for underwater gliders, the high frequency radar system, and automated shore stations. Continued funding will be provided for an augmentation to the California Cooperative Fisheries Investigation (CalCOFI) and the SCCOOS HAB surveillance program. Model evaluation and forecasts will continue with both the fine resolution and real-time Regional Ocean Modeling System. Data management funds will be utilized for participation in the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) regional observation registry, adapting to industry standards, restructuring of current storage and archival formats of core variables, and cross compatibility between significant programs. Education and Outreach, as well as the development of new data products, will continue to be supported by leveraging the SCCOOS RA grant.

In order to quantify trends in ocean acidification and upwelling-induced hypoxia, SCCOOS will initiate observations of dissolved oxygen on glider transects with the installation of new sensors on those platforms. Observations of seabird and marine mammals will be added through a partnership with the Farallon Institute for Advanced Ecosystem Research to maintain a valuable time record of top predatory species that are indicators of marine ecosystem health

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and climate change. SCCOOS will also develop integrated, customized products for alongshore currents and inundation that promote safe recreational use of beaches. These products will be provided to the National Weather Service for coastal flooding and rip current predictions.

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