



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System Program  
July 17, 2008

Dr. David Martin, President  
Dr. Jan Newton, Executive Director  
Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS)  
Applied Physics Laboratory  
University of Washington  
1013 NE 40<sup>th</sup> Street  
Seattle, WA 98105-6698

Dear Drs. Martin and Newton:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for presenting a highly informative briefing on the status of the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS). I also greatly appreciated the presentation you delivered highlighting coordination and cooperation with Alaska, and our Central and Southern California Observing System partners, and the inclusion of one of your industry partners, Mr. Steve Uczekaj, who has contributed to advancing our National Data Management and Communication efforts.

As you know, this is the first year NOAA has undertaken a program review of all eleven Regional Associations. Our primary objective is to gain greater understanding of each RA, including the issues you face in implementing your contribution to the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS).

I recognize the implementation challenges NANOOS and our other regional partners face given current funding levels. I also recognize the impact this has on regional stakeholder engagement. I hope you will convey to your membership that NOAA is fully committed to developing IOOS, and we will continue to work internally and with our regional partners to improve our ability to justify and advocate for the critical resources needed to develop IOOS. We have many challenges ahead, but together – through strong partnership, joint advocacy, and tangible results – I believe we can fulfill the IOOS vision.

Thank you for your support of the NOAA IOOS program's efforts to implement IOOS, and for your continued work in the Northwest region. The progress NANOOS has made towards its objectives is impressive, and I look forward to continuing our partnership well into the future.

Sincerely,

Zdenka Willis  
Director  
NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System  
program



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