

Implementation Charter for NANOOS

Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems

Whereas the Congress and the National Ocean Research Leadership Council have made the implementation of an integrated ocean and coastal observing system a high priority; and

Whereas the Congress has directed that a plan include the development of "integrated regional systems" as vital components of a national system; and

Whereas in the coming decade, a national, integrated ocean observing system will become operational, and information from this system will serve national needs for the following:

- Detecting and forecasting oceanic components of climate variability;
- Facilitating safe and efficient marine operations;
- Ensuring national security;
- Managing resources for sustainable use;
- Preserving and restoring healthy marine ecosystems;
- Mitigating natural hazards;
- Ensuring public health; and

Whereas the NORLC has asked the Ocean.US Office, as the National Office for an Integrated and Sustained Ocean Observing System, to draft an implementation plan for an integrated ocean observing system that calls for a federation of regional coastal ocean observing systems with sustained funding; and

Whereas a significant number of observing efforts already exist in the coastal waters of the nation's ports, harbors, estuaries, continental shelf, and exclusive economic zone, including those of the Pacific Northwest and these systems can add greatly to the goal of an integrated national ocean observing system; and

Whereas these systems, which are in various stages of development, from nascent to well established, in general are not "integrated" in that frequently, they do not serve the multiple users or purposes called for by the NORLC, share standards and protocols, or address different spatial and temporal scales; and

Whereas it is in the vital interest of these regions to organize themselves in order to have a voice in the development of the rules and procedures that will govern a National Federation of Regional Associations of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems; and

Whereas it is in the vital interest of these various Regional Associations to be prepared to effectively utilize funds that may be appropriated in the future as part of a national ocean observing system; and

Whereas these systems need continual evaluation and improvement to incorporate new methodology, technology and requirements; and

Whereas it is appropriate to begin discussion of the responsibilities and benefits of establishing a Pacific Northwest Regional Association that will lead to a Pacific Northwest regional observing system,

Therefore, the undersigned Signatories hereby resolve to work together toward the establishment of a Pacific Northwest Regional Association to develop a governance structure and foster inter-regional coordination for a Pacific Northwest ocean observing system; to work toward common data management standards; and to openly share data, metadata and related information.

A. PURPOSE:

- a. To explore the cooperative steps necessary, within the Pacific Northwest region, to establish a Pacific Northwest Regional Association, to be known as NANOOS, the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems.
- b. To collaborate with Ocean.US and other Regional Associations to establish a National Federation of Regional Associations.

B. DEFINITIONS:

- a. The Coastal Ocean encompasses the region from head of tide to the seaward boundary of the EEZ, including the Great Lakes.
- b. A Coastal Ocean Observing System is a system designed to produce and disseminate ocean observations and related products deemed necessary to the users, in a common manner and according to sound scientific practice. The system links the needs of users to measurements of the coastal oceans and the Great Lakes on a regional or sub-regional basis. Such a system requires a managed, interactive flow of data and information among three subsystems: 1) the observing subsystem (measurement and transmission of data); 2) the communications network and data management subsystem (organizing, cataloging and disseminating data and information); and 3) analysis and applications subsystem (translating data into products in response to user needs and requirements). The regional observing system consists of the infrastructure and expertise required for each of these subsystems. It also includes oversight, evaluation, and evolution mechanisms that insure the continued and routine flow of data and information, and the evolution of a system that adapts to the needs of the user groups and to the development of new technologies and understanding.

c. A Regional Association is a partnership of information producers and users allied to manage coastal ocean observing systems within its region to the benefit of stakeholders and the public.

d. A National Federation of Regional Associations is the organization representing a nationally coordinated network of Regional Associations.

C. SIGNATORY QUALIFICATIONS: The Signatories to this Resolution are strongly committed to the establishment of a sustained Pacific Northwest coastal observing system.

D. IMPLEMENTATION: The Signatories resolve to:

Collaborate to establish NANOOS, the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems.

Develop governance structures for NANOOS (the articles and bylaws of the Regional Association), through community involvement and workshops.

Give acting authority to an interim Steering Committee, composed initially of David Martin, Jan Newton, Antonio Baptista, Jack Barth and Mike Kosro, until such time as the NANOOS articles and bylaws are adopted. The committee may be modified to reflect community input.

Participate in the formulation of national standards and protocols for data management and communication

Advocate free and open sharing of data, metadata and related information consistent with Ocean.US recommendations

Foster improved public awareness, involvement and education

Identify and engage stakeholders and establish a process by which we continuously assess the Pacific Northwest needs and the alignment of NANOOS with those needs.

Collaborate and integrate with other West Coast, national and Canadian regional observing consortia.

E. RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY: Nothing herein shall be construed in any way as limiting the authority of individual Signatories in carrying out their respective responsibilities.

Portland, Oregon
October 24, 2003