

Participants: (SSC) Malcolm Spaulding, Janet Campbell, Paul Currier, Pete Jumars, John Trowbridge, John Cannon, Ru Morrison, Cassie Durette, Don Anderson (CINAR), Diane Gould (US EPA), Irene Watts (for John Winkelman, USCG); (UCONN) Jim O'Donnell, Kevin O'Brien, Al Hanson, Jack Ringelberg, Cheryl Zimmerman, Ron Rozsa (Consultant); (Canada) Peter Smith, Michael Szemerda; (Phone) Linda Mercer, Josie Quintrell (NFRA).

Welcome and Introductions-

November 13 Board Meeting Minutes- Unanimously approved (Jim O'Donnell motioned, Pete Jumars second)

NOAA IOOS Update- NOAA IOOS office was unable to call in due to snow day.

NFRA Update- Josie Quintrell provided the board with an update on NFRA activities; Discussed appropriations and President's FY11 budget (\$14.6M for regions, \$6.5M for IOOS office); Going to explore partnership with OMB for sensor funding; Wants to work with PMEL for ocean acidification sensors. NFRA releases their regional document this month that highlights the 11 regions. Focus is marine operations, coastal hazards, climate change, ecosystems, water quality, and marine spatial planning. NFRA Executive Committee has been making monthly trips to DC. NFRA has their board meeting next week in DC. Regional document is a living document. Next year is 3-5 year grants and document will be updated. We're asking for \$53M for IOOS in FY11 (includes \$10M for National Surface Current Plan). NFRA will be submitting comments for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning. NFRA used NERACOOS as an example of how regions could work with regional organizations (NROC). NERACOOS is being seen very well on national level.

Committee Reports

- **Finance-** Summary report was distributed previously- no comments.
- **Conflict of Interest-** No changes but need to sign for 2010.
- **Nominating** (J. Ringelberg)
 - Bylaw Amendment- distributed and approved; result will be attached to these minutes.
 - We are still looking for replacement for Bonnie; fishing industry from Maine. [ACTION] Ru contacted Patrice McCaron but she was too busy. Malcolm recommended reengaging the Sea Grant Directors.
 - Jim O'Donnell motioned to add Mel Cote as ex-officio member of the board. Janet Campbell second. All in favor; none opposed. Will send email in 45 days for vote. [ACTION]
 - The board recommended changing bylaws to the same procedure as Sea Grant Directors for the Academic Consortium. John Trowbridge will communicate with Susan Avery and other academic members and report back to the board on status of NEAC [ACTION].
 - Nominating committee within the year needs to review new officers and member terms.

Operations Update

- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning- We have been working hard to position ourselves to be center of CMSP conversation. We've been recognized by NROC as part of regional effort. From the Task Force document, there will be the need for data integration and management capacity. We have been trying to work with NROC on how to implement framework. NERACOOS is submitting joint comments with GoM Council and NROC. Malcolm and Ru met with key people to form a data portal for the Northeast. MOP potentially has funds for a NE Ocean Data Portal. ASA and GMRI are drafting scopes of work. NERACOOS as lead is submitting proposal for MMS BAA Topic 8 (Data integration).
- At next NROC meeting (February 18), Ru will lead one-hour discussion on how NROC's regional partners will want to interact on CMSP actions.
- May submit GEOSS EPA proposal.
- NERACOOS should leverage their assets to find other sources of funding. The SPI Team is developing criteria to determine buoy locations. Malcolm suggested contacting regulators (such as Brian Thompson, CT CZM) so that as a

requirement of permits for siting offshore structures, they share their data with NERACOOS. General agreement was for SPI Team to look into the process and develop a formal way of servicing this [ACTION].

Website updates

- CO2 buoy with PMEL sensor (measures CO2 pressure in air and water) online at website.
- We are continually working to create and update data streams available.
- Have SMART Bay Group (Newfoundland) observations available on website.
- New Model and Observation Viewer compares models (NECOFS-FVCOM and Wave Watch 3) with real-time data. John Cannon at NWS used this during storm last month.
- Coastal Flooding Tool is now online (hosted by GMRI) and combines wave height and water level to give better understanding of splash over and erosion.

NWS Update (John Cannon)- Feedback has been outstanding. Need to make sure right units used in products. NWS communicates to the public in feet (emergency responders use feet).

- SONS Update- Oil Spill of National Significance, March 22. Patriot's Day storm will cause spill. Drills will be using NERACOOS products and NERACOOS will get name recognition.
- John Cannon suggested researching Board members at the Maine Fishermen's Forum in March. (Had booth at MLA Tradeshow, will have space at ME Fishermen's Forum.)
- Coastal inundation products- NERACOOS buoy data has been used and Splash-over information is helpful. Combine near shore wave data with storm tide gauges. New way to show data is gridded storm tide forecasts. Final product releases flood category: None, minor, major, etc.

Nonprofit Status- Completed and submitted nonprofit package to IRS; now waiting for determination.

GoM Regional Ocean Science Council- The Board discussed the GoMROSC and its role with NERACOOS. GoMROSC is an organization of NE Region Sea Grant Directors, academics, industry, and others. Biggest project is to produce the Gulf of Maine Strategic Regional Ocean Science Plan. NERACOOS will explore partnership for outreach as the geographic footprints are parallel.

Regional Planning Prospectus (distributed previously)- To move forward with a coordinated regional planning process by hosting workshops and meetings.

MOU Status- Have current and active MOU with NROC, looking to NeCODP, NEOSEC, and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Ru visited their right whale passive acoustic monitoring buoy with Zdenka Willis (IOOS PO) in January. The board would like to see logos of MOU partners on our website [ACTION].

Meetings update

- HAB Retrospective Meeting for 2009 was hosted at SSC, video-conferenced with NOAA.
- Water Quality Workshop (Baltimore, January 25-26) was hosted by the three east coast RAs and attended by a mix of researchers and managers. Success stories were shared, including Paul and Ru's update on nutrient criteria in Great Bay using IOOS data. Zdenka invited Ru and Paul to present this to Dr. Lubchencho (Head of NOAA).
- DC Trips with NFRA- Visits are important. Northeast could be pilot region.
- MACOORA Annual Meeting- Ru attended in November. NERACOOS has a good working relationship with Mid-Atlantic region and is discussing collaboration for SURA proposal.
- NFRA Board Meeting and Hill Visits- Next week Malcolm and Pete will be visiting DC. Meetings with key staff are being scheduled. Goal is to promote regional message.
- Ocean Sciences Meeting- Malcolm is hosting MSP session on 26th. Ru is co-chairing with OBIS a Town Hall on 23rd.

RCOOS Grant Update- John Trowbridge provided the board with an update; Currently in Year 3, approximately 50% of money goes to UMaine. Other money goes to UCONN, BIO, UNH, UMASSD, URI, and GoMOOS/GMRI. Progress reports have been submitted every 6 months, last one sent October 30 and next is due in April. Change in program manager to Regina Evans. No comments received from last report. These reports will soon be posted online at request of the board [ACTION].

NEOSEC Partnership (Perrin Chick, Education Coordinator for SSC and Chair of NEOSEC)- NEOSEC extended a letter of support to NERACOOS proposing funds offered be spent to support a meeting in May (highlighting ocean observing), the Ocean Literacy Summit in November, and web presence. An MOU has been approved by the NEOSEC Executive Committee and Governing Council. Cassie attended NEOSEC Governing Council meeting for NERACOOS in

February 8, 2010

December. Perrin proposed to the Board that NERACOOS support NEOSEC activities and the MOU to leverage NEOSEC work and help NERACOOS Education and Outreach goals. All in favor; none opposed.

CINAR (Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region)- Don Anderson provided a PowerPoint Presentation on CINAR activities and ESP Sensors. CINAR Mission is to conduct and coordinate research with partners including GMRI, Rutgers, UMaine, UMaryland, and WHOI. Focus is on ecosystem forecasting, monitoring, management; protection and restoration of resources; sustained ocean observations and climate research; education and outreach. CINAR is working with other regional cooperative institutes. Don discussed CINAR funding and its challenges.

ESP Update, "Environmental Sample Processor and NERACOOS"- Don discussed PSP blooms and cyst distribution in the region. The system needs real-time *Alexandrium* abundance measurements to better forecast (using ESP). One ESP has been purchased by EPA for NERACOOS, delivery expected April/May. NSF will purchase 5, awarded to WHOI. There are 3 moorings for the 6 sensors; need funds for deployment, recovery, and maintenance. This is an opportunity for NERACOOS as this biological sensor capability only exists in our region.

- SPI Team members will engage Don in buoy location criteria conversation [ACTION], Malcolm will follow up with SPI Team to see Don's input in this process [ACTION].

Previous year cyst abundance is first order indicator of the next year's bloom. Currently drafting press release for massive red tide prediction for 2010. Don will add NERACOOS to Northeast PSP listserv [ACTION]. The Board discussed posting forecasts on NERACOOS website; need to be cautious of disclaimer. NERACOOS will post links to important HAB information from Don [ACTION].

Northeast Coastal and Ocean Data Partnership MOU (Paul Currier)- Partnership between NERACOOS and NeCODP would take over functions of DIF. Partnering would allow for DIF members to meet once while maintaining two organizations. Partnership can incorporate new information to NERACOOS since focus has been coastal and not estuarine environments. Consensus of board is to move forward with MOU.

GMRI/GoMOOS Update (John Annala and Tom Shyka)- "Defining long-term NERACOOS/GMRI Relationship, February 2, 2010" outlined the transition of GoMOOS brand out of existence (distributed previously). GMRI sees three goals and four areas to address while transitioning of brand. Brand transition to begin in June. The board discussed creating matrix of functions for GMRI and NERACOOS to see where there is overlap. GoMOOS staff are still providing coordination support for NeCODP (partners own and maintain data; GMRI hosts website as coordination of links). GoMOOS website pieces will be distributed appropriately. The board expressed interest in standardization of Regional Association websites. Discussed archiving data between NERACOOS and NeCODP and agreed on future discussions. Comments and input on transition should be sent to Malcolm and Ru by next week. [ACTION]

SPI Update (Jim O'Donnell)-Strategic Plan Draft has been released to SPI Team. The board discussed strategy issues and decisions; should look into other sources of funding. The Board asked that the SPI Team bring options to them and they will make decisions. The 2010 plan should be a 5-year plan; surveys should be redone to include climate change. After SPI Team reviews draft, then it will go to the board for comment.

- We are planning workshops this year engaging Ron Rozsa in the South and David Keeley in the North of region; goal is to show regional leadership plan for 5 years out. NROC brings federal partners and resources; should engage EPA and USGS, NOAA IOOS PO. Sea Grant has done this workshop. Money from RA Planning grant (runs out May 2011) will go towards 5-year proposal due in October.

Next Meeting- Next meeting May 17.

Minutes submitted by: Cassie Durette