

## United States Senate

December 6, 2018

Dear Friends,

I regret that I cannot be there with you today, but I welcome you to the Northeast Regional Association for Coastal Ocean Observing Systems Annual Meeting.

Our oceans are an important natural resource, strengthening our economy, creating jobs, and supporting our high quality of life. As a network that brings together industry professionals, government officials, members of academic institutions, and other organizations, NERACOOS plays a critical role in our coastal communities and represents our strong tradition of working together and collective problem-solving. Through the production, integration, and communication of ocean information NERACOOS and its partners provide important data for a variety of stakeholders, including commercial fishermen, businesses, academia, and local communities.

Once again, thank you to NERACOOS and all of the industry professionals here today for all your work to improve and enhance ocean information gathering. I look forward to continue working together to support NERACOOS and this important work.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator