Dear Members, Partners, and Friends:

Thank you for your continued collaboration and support! Your partnership ensures that NERACOOS can continue to produce, integrate, and communicate high-quality ocean information throughout the Northeast.

Collaboration is critical to our work addressing ocean and coastal issues, as identified within our IOOS® theme areas, including: (1) marine operations, (2) coastal hazards, (3) climate variability and change, and (4) ecosystems, fisheries, and water quality. Within this report we’ve highlighted a few of our standout accomplishments from 2015. These stories demonstrate our commitment to ensuring safety, economic and environmental resilience, and sustainable use of the coastal ocean throughout the Northeast.

As always, we appreciate hearing from you, so please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

J. Ru Morrison, Ph.D.
Executive Director, NERACOOS

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BECOME A MEMBER

Become a member of NERACOOS to support the production, integration, and communication of high-quality ocean information:

WWW.NERACOOS.ORG/MEMBERSHIP


VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR REAL-TIME OCEAN AND WEATHER DATA AND UPDATES ON NERACOOS ACTIVITIES

STAY CONNECTED

Our mission is to produce, integrate, and communicate high-quality information that helps ensure safety, economic and environmental resilience, and sustainable use of the coastal oceans.

www.neracoos.org

Delivering ocean information to the people who need it

“Protecting Long Island Sound is critical to Connecticut’s economy and our culture. It generates billions for the state annually in tourism, fishing, and boating. It’s home to hundreds of diverse species of wildlife, and its 1,300 square miles of coastline are the site of happy memories for my family and countless others across the state. Whether it’s the Coast Guard or lawmakers, researchers or advocates, people across Connecticut rely on NERACOOS’ data to make the best decisions to protect our oceans and boost coastal resiliency. On behalf of all of Connecticut, I thank NERACOOS for their critical work.”

U.S. Senator Chris Murphy (CT)
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84% of NERACOOS funds go directly to our partners to produce and integrate ocean information.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Delivering ocean information to the people who need it.
DEPLOYING NEXT-GENERATION TECHNOLOGY FOR MONITORING WATER QUALITY

An unprecedented view of nutrient levels in our coastal waters is now available to coastal managers, scientists, and policy makers. Over the past year, NERACOOS and its partners have begun the deployment of automated nutrient sensors throughout New England. The University of Maine and the University of New Hampshire have successfully deployed several of these high-tech sensors in the Gulf of Maine and in Great Bay, N.H., respectively. In the next two years, the project will deploy several more sensors in the Gulf of Maine, Long Island Sound, and Narragansett Bay. This sensor network will form one of the largest real-time coastal nutrient observatories in North America. The unique data collected by the observatory will help inform the science and management community of critical issues like eutrophication, harmful algal blooms, and ocean and coastal acidification. The IOOS Ocean Technology Transition program provides the funding for this project.

NEW LOBSTER FORECASTS RELY ON NERACOOS BUOY DATA

NERACOOS buoy data are being used by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) to create landing forecasts of Maine lobster. NERACOOS buoys provide the only real-time observations of water temperatures below the surface in the Gulf of Maine — information essential to GMRI’s ability to forecast the dates when the lobster fishery will “turn on.” GMRI’s forecast provides a 2- to 3-month warning of conditions that could affect the Gulf of Maine’s most valuable fishery. This warning allows the market to be better prepared for the peaks in the lobster season, supporting the Northeast’s economy. More information is available at www.gmri.org/lobster-forecast.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Providing opportunities for the next generation of ocean professionals is a critical component of NERACOOS. With support from New Hampshire HSCORP, NERACOOS had the opportunity to work closely with two interns, Jennifer Holland and Shelby Dillman, who immersed themselves in projects related to ocean acidification and ecosystem change throughout the summer of 2015. Jennifer and Shelby felt inspired to make these coastal and ocean-related issues a more prominent part of their studies and futures after working with NERACOOS.

ENSURING FORECASTS AND REAL-TIME DATA IN ANY WEATHER

When coastal storms threaten the Northeast, many people — including fishermen, emergency managers, commercial mariners, U.S. Coast Guard personnel, and weather forecasters — turn to ocean data and forecasts from NERACOOS to help prepare and safely navigate. In particular, National Weather Service (NWS) forecasters use data from NERACOOS buoys to assess the danger of coastal impacts from wave runup. During Winter Storm Jonas, in 2015, NERACOOS wind, wave, and water-level data assisted the NWS in developing forecasts and warnings, and aided them in predicting coastal flooding. As a result, NWS forecasters delivered accurate forecasts to residents who could then take the proper precautions.

In 2015, NERACOOS and its partners made significant improvements in their data communications systems to help ensure the delivery of forecasts and real-time observations. Cloud-based solutions will deliver critical data and forecasts to neracoos.org during power outages and extreme weather events.

NERACOOS is funded primarily by NOAA through the U.S. IOOS Program. In 2015 NERACOOS successfully brought in additional funding from the IOOS Ocean Technology Transfer Program, NOAA, and the Northeast Regional Ocean Council.

NERACOOS buoy data in Great Bay

OCEAN INFORMATION FOR SAFETY, RESILIENCE, STEWARDSHIP

The GMRI’s lobster forecast provides a 2- to 3-month warning of conditions that could affect the Gulf of Maine’s most valuable fishery. This warning allows the market to be better prepared for the peaks in the lobster season, supporting the Northeast’s economy.

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**NEW Lobster FORECASTS RELY ON NERACOOS BuOy DATA**

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NERACOOS buoys provide the only real-time observation of water temperatures below the surface in the Gulf of Maine — information essential to GMRI’s ability to forecast the date when the lobster fishery will “switch on.” GMRI’s forecast provides a 2- to 3-month warning of conditions that could affect the Gulf of Maine Research Institute’s ability to forecast the date when the lobster fishery will “switch on.”

**INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION**

Providing opportunities for the next generation of ocean professionals is a critical component of NERACOOS. With support from New Hampshire EPSCoR, NERACOOS had the opportunity to work closely with two interns, Jennifer Halstead and Shelby Manley, who interned themselves in projects related to ocean acidification and ocean ecosystem change for the summer. In 2015, the interns expanded on skills related to outreach and education, data management, and collaboration, and were able to gain a broader world experience working on coastal and ocean issues and projects. More importantly, Jen and Shelby felt inspired to make these coastal and ocean-related issues a more prominent part of their studies and future work after working with NERACOOS.
ENSURING FORECASTS AND REAL-TIME DATA IN ANY WEATHER

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DEPLOYING NEXT-GENERATION TECHNOLOGY FOR MONITORING WATER QUALITY

OCEAN INFORMATION FOR SAFETY, RESILIENCE, STEWARDSHIP

An unprecedented view of nutrient levels in our coastal waters is now available to coastal managers, scientists, and policy makers. Over the past year, NERACOOS and its partners have begun the deployment of automated nutrient sensors throughout New England. The University of Maine and the University of New Hampshire have successfully deployed several of these high-tech sensors in the Gulf of Maine and in Great Bay, NH, respectively. In the next two years, the project will deploy even more sensors in the Gulf of Maine, Long Island Sound, and Narragansett Bay. This sensor network will form one of the largest real-time coastal nutrient observatories in North America. The unique data collected by the observatory will help inform the science and management community of critical issues like coastal eutrophication, harmful algal blooms, and ocean and coastal acidification. The IOOS Ocean Change Transitions program provides the funding for this project.

NERACOOS is funded primarily by NOAA through the U.S. IOOS Program. In 2015 NERACOOS successfully brought in additional funding through the IOOS Ocean Technology Transfer Program, NOAA, and the Northeast Regional Ocean Council.

2015 FINANCIALS

The numbers presented here were derived from NERACOOS’ audited financial statements. The 2015 Annual Report and 2015 audited financial statements are available at www.neracoos.org.

REVENUES: $2,984,651

NERACOOS 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

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<th>Source</th>
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<th>2012</th>
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EXPENSES: $3,301,593

NERACOOS 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Marketing &amp; Communications</td>
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