

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 5, 2013

Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal and Ocean Observing Systems
195 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 240
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Friends,

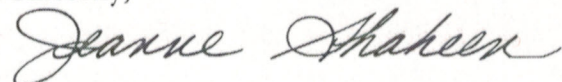
Thank you for the invitation to attend your annual Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems meeting. I want to pass along my congratulations to NERACOOS for five strong years of advocacy and community engagement.

We in New Hampshire are always aware that the oceans are one of our most important and beautiful resources. Industries and civilians alike all benefit from the vibrant New Hampshire coastline. Through your dedicated research and outreach efforts, NERACOOS has broadened the understanding of the ocean and provided policymakers and officials with the information they need to manage coastal waters most effectively. This input helps to ensure the long-term sustainability of this valuable natural resource.

For the last five years, your projects have reinforced the belief that our actions today to preserve our oceans can have a positive impact on the long-term interests of the state. This vision is critical to spreading the message of responsible management of our coastal waters. Thank you all for your hard work and support of this important cause.

Congratulations on this important anniversary, and I look forward to hearing of your continued successes in the future.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator