



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN**

**Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS)**

**AND**

**Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS)**

**AND**

**Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS)**

**FOR INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVING IN THE  
CALIFORNIA CURRENT LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM**

**INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System (IOOS) is a national integrated system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprising Federal and non-Federal components coordinated at the national level by the National Ocean Research Leadership Council and at the regional level by a network of eleven regional information coordination entities (RICE). IOOS includes in situ, remote, and other coastal and ocean observations, technologies, and data management and communication systems. The system is designed to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure the timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data to support regional and national needs for ocean and coastal information.

**PARTIES**

The West Coast regional components of IOOS, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties,” are the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS), the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS), and the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS). At the sub-regional scale, SCCOOS integrates and delivers coastal observations in the Southern California Bight, with collaborators in Baja California; CeNCOOS, from Point Conception to the California-Oregon border; and NANOOS, in Oregon and Washington, with partners in British Columbia. Together, the three RICEs provide key observations, data, and information products that meet unique place-based needs, as well as broader regional stakeholder needs, through collaborations between academic institutions, state and federal agencies, private industry, and non-profit organizations. To achieve this, the RICEs engage end-users of coastal and ocean data and information to identify priority research and management questions and related requirements for observational data and decision support within the three unique sub-regional geographies.

## **MUTUAL INTEREST OF THE PARTIES**

The three West Coast RICEs share responsibility for observing the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CCLME). This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) affirms the Parties' commitment to jointly plan CCLME observations and share information that will mutually benefit each sub-region and the larger CCLME. In addition, important issues in regional ocean governance, management, science, and marine operations span the West Coast and CCLME, including, but not limited to, the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA), the Pacific Coast Collaborative (PCC), the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI), and the designation of the West Coast as a single regional planning area for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) in the National Ocean Policy (NOP). The Parties commit to work together at the CCLME scale, and to work cooperatively with governmental and non-governmental entities to identify and provide information products for multiple users within the region that inform scientific, economic and management activities in areas including: fisheries and water quality; climate variability and change; coastal hazards; marine commerce and safety; and priorities identified by the NOP, WCGA, PCC and other region-wide marine and ocean groups. The Parties recognize that collaborating and leveraging human and financial resources will benefit planning and decision-making at both sub-regional and CCLME levels.

## **PURPOSE**

This agreement is to further the mission of the U.S. IOOS by expanding and strengthening West Coast regional ocean observing collaboration to improve linkages between the three West Coast RICEs to serve the needs for ocean observation, data, and information at the scale of the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

In fulfilling the objectives of this MOU, the Parties agree to participate in and be responsible for activities as follows:

1. The Parties will work together to address (and if needed identify) shared regional coastal and ocean management themes and priorities through coordinated interactions with a diverse set of stakeholders, and will seek to inform and align with regional governance priorities. In addition, the Parties will seek to collaborate with our international neighbors to the north and south to fully encompass the entire CCLME.
2. The Parties will ensure that common elements of ocean observing are jointly planned and conducted in a similar manner to enable coherent integration.
3. The Parties will seek to integrate available information using common formats and jointly advance circulation and ecosystem models that span the CCLME. The Parties will actively collaborate to advance easy, open, and rapid stakeholder access to West Coast data products through website linkages and develop and coordinate shared visualization and data-serving systems (which may include but are not limited to high frequency (HF) radar surface current mapping, glider data, wave observations and forecasts, harmful algal blooms (HABs), and key climate variables).
4. The Parties will promote and maintain West Coast-wide interactions between data providers and users including government agencies and regional bodies as appropriate; the scientific community; and other public and private entities. The Parties will represent, as appropriate, a cohesive ocean observing system for the West Coast region to the nation and to the national IOOS system, improving large-scale data interoperability and product sharing, and ultimately benefiting the users of the system on the West Coast.

**FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS**

This MOU does not constitute a legal or financial commitment on the part of any Party. Any funding requested by and/or awarded to the MOU's Parties will be made to the home institution of the individual Party.

**TERM**

This MOU is effective as of the date of signature by all Parties and will continue for five (5) years and may be renewed by mutual agreement of the Parties at the end of that term. Any Party may terminate upon 30 days written notice to the other Parties. All joint projects in progress at the time of such notice shall be completed in accordance with the least disruptive impact on the research or operations and may be extended by mutual agreement beyond the termination date.

**MODIFICATIONS**

Proposals to modify the terms of this MOU can be initiated by any Party and are subject to approval of all Parties.

**AUTHORITY**

IOOS is authorized by Congress under the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 [Public Law No. 111-11 (33 U.S.C. §3601-3610)].

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Jan Newton  
Executive Director  
Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems

9/26/11  
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Date

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Leslie Rosenfeld  
Program Director  
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Julianna Thomas  
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