

HYDROGRAPHIC SERVICES REVIEW PANEL (HSRP) COMMENTS

First Annual Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Development Plan

Recommendations:

1. The HSRP supports the development of an integrated ocean and coastal observing system.
2. The HSRP places the highest priority on those components of IOOS that support safe and efficient maritime operations.
3. Given that authorizing language already exists in the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 2002, which requires NOAA to fund, develop, and maintain real-time observation systems for maritime use, and that NOAA already has a program for quality control and observation integration, the HSRP recommends for such observations that:
 - A. NOAA be designated the lead agency for integration of real-time observations carried out by the federal and nonfederal partners.
 - B. To the extent practicable, data collected by federal and nonfederal partners with maritime applicability should be quality controlled and distributed by NOAA for maritime operational use.
 - C. To the extent practicable, observation systems funded by NOAA research channels be required to be quality controlled and available for maritime use.
 - D. PORTS and NWLON be identified as key components of the “federal backbone,” and be given priority in the IOOS implementation plan.
4. The HSRP recommends that the charting and mapping component be incorporated into the IOOS plan to better address the 7 societal goals, in particular, safe and efficient navigation, and funding be increased to eliminate the 13-year survey backlog for critical areas.
5. The HSRP recommends that the IOOS plan emphasize the importance of near-shore observations to support safe and efficient maritime operations.