

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

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Dr. Clarissa Anderson  
Executive Director  
Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography  
9500 Gilman Drive, 0214  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0214

28 January 2019

Dear Dr. Anderson,

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Office of Search and Rescue supports your operation of ocean observing and modeling systems along the California coastline by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS). As you know, we are committed to working with you and others to develop ways to improve modeling and predictive tools in U.S. waters, especially those that can improve our abilities to predict search and rescue trajectories. In particular, we are interested in seeing the continued delivery of observational data and predictions into the USCG's Search And Rescue Optimal Planning System (SAROPS). SAROPS is operationally used for search planning at all 49 USCG command centers, including our Sector Command Centers in San Diego and LA/LB. The data and models of the ocean currents along the southern California coastline has greatly improved the Coast Guard's ability to optimally plan searches for lost mariners in that region.

The feedback from USCG search planning personnel on SAROPS has been overwhelmingly positive; however there is room for improvement in the areas of: 1) availability of additional surface current products into SAROPS from the Environmental Data Server (EDS); 2) use of SAROPS in nearshore; and 3) higher confidence in all the surface current products. The ocean currents measured and forecasted velocities from the SCCOOS are available to the Coast Guard EDS for input into SAROPS and has be of enormous benefit to the USCG search and rescue program.

The USCG Search and Rescue program looks forward to your continuing operations of the observational and model systems along the California coast in support of this critical Coast Guard mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur A. Allen".

Arthur A. Allen  
Oceanographer  
U.S. Coast Guard Office of Search and Rescue