



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
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Program Director
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Dear Clarissa and Henry,

On behalf of NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC), I enthusiastically endorse the data and services provided by the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS).

Dan Rudnick's (SCCOOS) ERDDAP server underneath the IOOS glider DAC is an example of this collaboration that greatly improved both machine and user access to IOOS glider data as well as improving the import of data from the points of origin. ERDDAP has proven to be an excellent "middleware" server solution and the IOOS glider DAC implementation is an example of the utility of this software. SWFSC will continue its close collaboration with the IOOS Glider DAC to ensure data access.

SWFSC is tasked with analyzing environmental data to assist with the multiple NMFS mandates through the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of developing sustainable yields of commercial fisheries and protecting the environment through implementation of the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and international agreements. SWFSC uses all available data, including IOOS shore station and HFR surface current data, in the analyses they prepare. Two specific assessments are the annual "State of the California Current" report provided to the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) program and the California Current Ecosystem Report provided each spring to the Pacific Fishery Management Council as input to their Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP). SWFSC is also assisting the west coast National Marine Sanctuaries as they prepare their condition reports and is participating in the CalEPA review of environmental indices. IOOS data are incorporated in all of these analyses.

Coupled with CoastWatch satellite sea surface temperature (SST) imagery, estimates of coastal upwelling and harmful algal blooms (HABS) help provide important local indices of conditions impacting California Current fisheries. In addition to the numerous reports and analyses, SWFSC has published a new upwelling index that is computed using a regional ocean model (ROMS). IOOS-supported shore stations and especially HFR surface currents are data sets that are being ingested into the model. The twelve-year record of west coast HFR surface currents is critical for determining whether these data can improve the resolution of the upwelling index; and if successful, future operation of the array will remain critical for determining environmental indices.

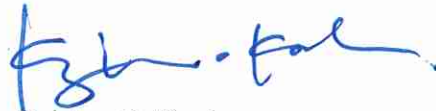


Recognition of the benefits of collaboration toward meeting both IOOS and NMFS mandates is further strengthened by across-line participation. Lynn de Witt (SWFSC) is on the CenCOOS Governing Board, I (the SWFSC Director) was just appointed to the SCCOOS Governance Board and Toby Garfield (SWFSC) serves on the CeNCOOS/SCCOOS Joint Science Advisory Council (JSAC).

SWFSC values the efforts made by the California regional associations (SCCOOS and CeNCOOS), and also the efforts made by their partners from universities and other institutions that comprise the observing system. These additional contributions by others extend the reach and impact of the IOOS investment.

There is a clear, continuing need to operate, maintain and improve the regional observing systems. We would like to see CeNCOOS & SCCOOS expand and have the capacity to increase instrumentation and provide more information and products. We strongly endorse the need for fully developed Regional Associations that benefit our health, wildlife, economy and oceans through a focus on ecosystems and climate, coastal hazards, water quality, and marine operations.

Sincerely,



Kristen C. Koch
Science and Research Director
Southwest Fisheries Science Center