



**IOOS Enterprise Updates  
IOOS Association**

**SECOORA Annual Meeting  
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Jacksonville, FL**

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# What is the IOOS Association?

- Membership of all 11 IOOS Regional Associations
- Facilitates communication and coordination across IOOS regions, NOAA, and other federal agencies
- Promotes the value and increase visibility of IOOS and coastal observing
- Advocates for IOOS funding and other policy supportive of IOOS and ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observation



# About me

- Executive Director since mid-October 2022
- Background in Geoscience / Paleoceanography
- 20+ years at Consortium for Ocean Leadership
  - Program Management and Development
  - Community Building
  - Cross-sectoral and Interagency Partnerships
  - Community-Spanning Issues:
    - Exploration, observation, marine life
    - Ocean literacy, education, and workforce development
    - Addressing gender-based harassment



# Vision for the IOOS Association



Increase impact through strategic initiatives & focus areas that align with policy priorities

Promote greater interagency participation in IOOS and strategic observing strategies that elevates and improves sustainability of the observing enterprise

Grow capacity to support collaboration across IOOS regions

Increase visibility through greater emphasis on a variety of communications

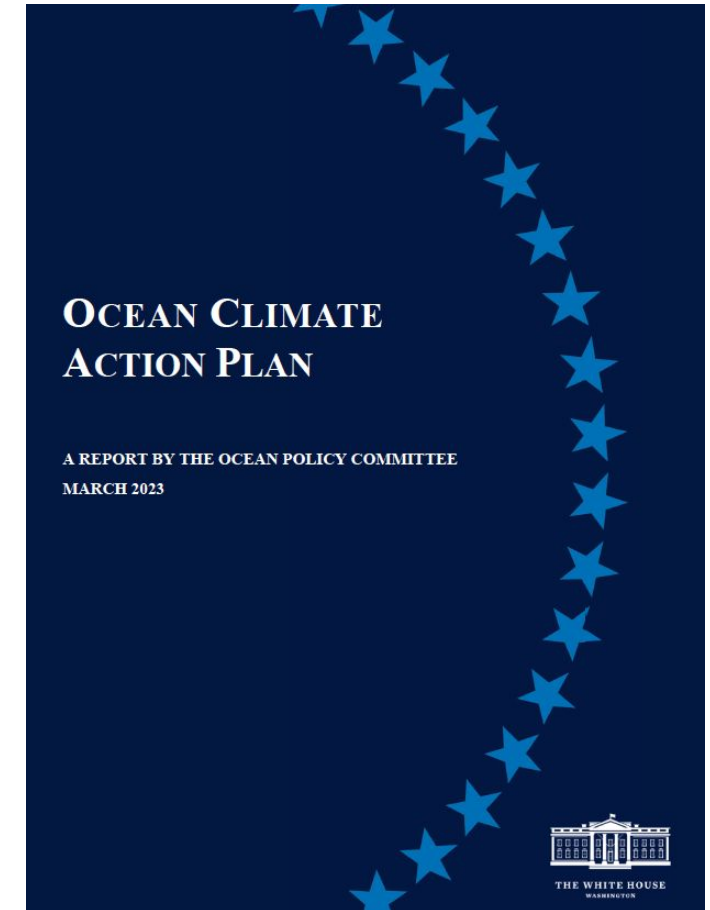
Participate in workforce development and other initiatives that meet IOOS DEIA mission & vision

→ **Increase funding & opportunities for IOOS**

# IOOS Association Initiatives

## Advancing Ocean Observing in Support of Policy Priorities

- Offshore Wind Committee
  - Share lessons learned; strategy for communication, interagency & energy sector engagement
- Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR)
  - NOPP proposal (UCAR led)
  - ARPA-E SEA-CO2 industry day
- Marine Life
  - Co-sponsoring NOPP forum
- National HAB Observing Network (NHABON)
  - Report language: FY20: \$1M; FY21: \$2.5M; FY22: \$2.5M; FY23: \$3M
  - Facilitate steering committee, implementation plan, cross-project communication, webinars



# IOOS Funding: Appropriations at a glance

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
<b>Authorization Level</b> ( <a href="#">P.L. 116-271</a> )	such sums	such sums	such sums	48	50	52	54	56
<b>President's Budget</b>	29.4	19.4	19.4	19.4	69.5	40.5	42.5	?
<b>House Approps</b>	31	37.5	40.5	40.5	50	44	?	?
<b>Senate Approps</b>	33.7	37	39.5	40	47	46	?	?
<b>Enacted</b>	35	38.5	39	40.5	41	42.5	?	?
<b>IA request</b>	35.9	42	43.7	45.25	56.5	75.3	80.5	?

*IOOS Regional line; Amounts in millions of dollars*

*IOOS Appropriations are tracked by ESP Advisors in a [shared document](#)*



# FY24 Request: Year 2 of 5-year campaign

Core Regional Association Support: **\$50M**

Infrastructure Repair and Modernization: **\$25.5**

Innovation and Competitive Grants: **\$5M**

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**Total IOOS Regional request: \$80.5M**

National Program Office: **\$13M** based on FY23 Request

**REPAIR AND PREPARE**

**Regional IOOS Fiscal Year 2024 Request to Repair and Prepare: \$80.5 million**

**Report Language Request:**  
Congress provides an additional \$25.5 million above IOOS core funding levels to address critical infrastructure aging concerns in the IOOS regional system, to be spent according to the highest priority needs of each Regional Association.

The IOOS Association FY24 request for the IOOS Regional Observing budget line includes:

- 1. Core Regional Association Support: \$50 million**  
This will provide sustained operational support, expand engagement to diverse stakeholders and communities, and allow the 11 IOOS RAs to leverage resources to ensure efficiency, develop additional predictive capacity for users, and co-design useful applications for rapidly growing demands. This funding will:
  - Ensure safe and efficient maritime transportation and commerce
  - Monitor changes to fisheries and ecosystems, including HABs
  - Improve understanding and notification of coastal hazards
- 2. Infrastructure repair and modernization: \$25.5 million**  
After 20 years in operation, IOOS' aging observing infrastructure—buoys, gliders, radars, and more—requires immediate investment in order to avoid gaps in critical coastal information. To prevent loss of data and services, IOOS is embarking on a five-year

"Repair and Prepare" campaign to fund the **\$137 million needed** to repair and modernize its regional systems.

The Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) (P.L. 117-58) will fund part, but not all, of this need. We anticipate a total of \$35.75 million from the IIJA over the next five years. Our \$25.5 million request of Congress represents the unmet need (\$101.3 million) spread over the next four years.

**3. Innovation Competitive Grants: \$5 million**  
This investment will provide continued support for competitive grant programs for innovations and partnerships including sensor development, autonomous sampling, and coastal modeling.

**Request for IOOS National Program Office: \$13 million**  
For the IOOS National Office in the NOS Navigation, Observation and Position budget line to: (1) modernize the Data Management and Cyberinfrastructure (DMAC) system to meet user needs and identify system gaps in partnership with the IOOS RAs; (2) develop a biological and marine life observing program; (3) advance the development of coastal modeling products and predictive capabilities; and (4) facilitate integration of non-federal efforts with NOAA, including NOAA's uncrewed system initiative.

Anticipated Infrastructure Funding From IIJA

**Total Needed: \$137 Million**

**\$35.5 M**

# Appropriations Advocacy: Multi-Pronged Strategy

## IOOS Association

- Develop annual request & supporting materials
- Meet with staff of Appropriations subcommittees, other key subcommittees
- Engage bipartisan leadership for Dear Colleague Letters (Senate & House)
- Prepare outside witness testimony
- Support RAs as needed/desired

## Regional Associations

- Programmatic requests to individual offices
- Meetings with individual offices to promote IOOS, talk through the request, and encourage sign on to Dear Colleague Letters

## Strategic advice and support from ESP Advisors



## Dear Colleague Letters:

**Senate Leaders:** Cantwell (D-WA), Wicker (R-MS)

- 29 signatures - 3 Rep., 25 Dem., 1 Ind.

**House Leaders:** Pingree (D-ME), Posey (R-FL), Carbajal (D-CA)

- 60 Signatures – 6 Rep., 54 Dem.



# FY24 Request: Challenges



## Debt Reduction & Balancing the Budget

- **House** → Expect significant to dramatic cuts to discretionary spending (FY22 levels?)
- **Senate** → Expect better than House but... realistic levels for conferencing?

## What can we do?

- **BE PREPARED with concrete impact examples!**
  - Convey impact of reduced/flat funding
- **Make clear distinctions between funding bills / sources**
  - Core funding v. IJA v. IRA → not a zero-sum game!
  - Emphasize sustainability / long-term aspects and the backbone against which all new services and capacities must be leveraged

# Authorizations



## Authorization bills anticipated this Congress → opportunities for input

- Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA) reauthorization
- Weather Act Reauthorization
- NOAA Organic Act
- Others likely...

## IOOS reauthorization (ICOOS / COORA) – FY25

- Commerce Committee requesting input now

# Thank You



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