

The Development of the Florida COOS
Proposal and evolving state, multi-state
regional and national COOS efforts:

A Case study in organizing group
behavior within the environment of
public policy formation

by

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Step One: Formation of a Florida COOS Caucus and the Development of a Recurring Agenda

Agenda for the "Florida COOS Caucus" on TUE/7 JUN 05 in Orlando at NSU/SEC

CO-CONVENERS: Dean Otis Brown, UM and Dean Peter Betzer, USF
HOST: Dean Richard Dodge, NSU;
FACILITATOR: Tom Gustafson, NSU

NOTE: COOS (Coastal Ocean Observing System) refers to the coastal ocean (viz., the 200 nautical mile) EEZ, including inland to the head-of-tide) component of IOOS (Integrated Ocean Observing System).

0930 - PRE-MEETING "MINGLE"

1000 - WELCOMING (& OVERVIEW) REMARKS (Dick Dodge)

1010 - INTRODUCTION (Otis Brown and Pete Betzer, Moderators)

- Relevant highlights from the US Commission on Ocean Policy (Frank Miller-Karger)
- COOS (RAs, NFRA, OCEANUS; "national backbone"; regional enhancements; RCOOS; SECOORA & GCOOS) (Chris Mooers)
- User needs for coastal ocean environmental and ecological information (from a selection of state and private entities in Florida; see speaker list)
- Provider capabilities for such information (from a selection of academic, private, and government institutions in Florida; see speaker list)
- Available organizational infrastructure (from a selection of Florida entities; see speaker list)

Working Lunch

1300 - COMMON INTERESTS (Pete Betzer and Chris Mooers, Moderators)

- SECOORA and GCOOS (Florida participation, cross-fertilization, etc.)
- Bridging SECOORA, GCOOS, and CaRA; Bahamas, Belize, and Caribbean
- Etc.

1430 - PLAN OF ACTION (Otis Brown and Tom Gustafson, Moderators)

- SECOORA, GCOOS, and other priorities
- Formation (or adoption) of a Florida COOS stakeholders group
- Further communication; e.g., identification of additional stakeholders, a broader meeting of stakeholders
- Etc.

1550 - CLOSING (& SUMMARY) REMARKS (Dick Dodge)

1600 - ADJOURN

Florida Coastal Ocean Observing Systems Caucus Meeting 4

Friday, January 13, 2006 • at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Education Center
5600 US 1 North, Ft. Pierce, Florida • 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Florida Coastal Ocean Observing Systems Caucus Meeting 3

Tuesday, December 6, 2005 • University of South Florida College of Marine
Science • St. Petersburg within Florida Fish & Wildlife Institute Auditorium •

Florida Coastal Ocean Observing Systems Caucus Meeting

Tuesday, August 2, 2005 • NSU Orlando Student Educational Center
First Floor Multimedia Room • 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

- Welcome, Overview and Introduction - Dean Richard Dodge, Ph.D.
♦ Featured Speaker: Ellen Prager, Ph.D.
- Panel Discussion on Current COOS Activities and Opportunities -
Rod Zika, Ph.D. & Dean Peter Betzer, Ph.D. as Co-conveners.
Panel Subjects: SECOORA ♦ GCOOS ♦ FL Oceans and Coastal Council ♦ CaRA
IOCARIBE-GOOS ♦ Gulf of Mexico Alliance ♦ FOA ♦ SEACOOS ♦ Ocean Studies Board
- Common Interests - Chris Mooers, Ph.D. & George Maul, Ph.D.
- Plan of Action - Tom Gustafson, J.D.
- Closing Comments - Dean Richard Dodge, Ph.D.

Refreshments at Orlando Student Educational Center



Peter Betzer, Ph.D. as Host
M. Clark, P.E.
is and Opportunities -
Dodge, Ph.D. as Co-conveners.
♦ CaRA & IOCARIBE-GOOS
♦ National Data Buoy Center
Issues
ther, Ph.D.
st revisions will be offered
arrangements with USF CMS

Ph.D.
Co-conveners:
RIBE-GOOS,
Florida's Water
Council
Dodge, Ph.D.,
HBOI

Step Two:

Identification of FL COOS Caucus participants and their institutional leadership

- 700 names identified on the FL COOS Caucus invitation list and efforts to expand list with each FL COOS Caucus meeting
- Identification of drafting team for the Florida COOS proposal as an example of project specific working groups
- Identification of FL COOS Caucus host institutions as a de facto executive committee

Step Three: Recognition of Mutual Interests

- The use of the FL COOS Caucus meetings as town hall direct democracy efforts to formulate common interests and identify what is in Florida's best COOS interests
- The use of the Florida COOS proposal drafting team to establish a white paper proposal that adjusted the many COOS interests and requirements into a single coherent , very readable, and timely proposal (three pages in length, identifying specific funding requirements, and presented to the FOCRC 1 10 2006)

Step Four:

Action plans that recognize Florida is not an island (although it is a peninsula)

- You need to first answer the question: How does Florida fit within the larger picture?

The Global Ocean Observing System is an end-to-end system of observations, data management, and production and delivery of products/services being coordinated by United Nations agencies with participation of some 100 ocean nations. Florida is part of one such national effort (the USA effort to coordinate the development of an operational and integrated and sustained ocean observing system is called IOOS) through participation in multi-state regional associations (GCOOS and SECOORA), GoMA (a U.S. Ocean Action Plan recognized regional partnership), and a state statute (Oceans and Coastal Resources Act) that directs the Florida Oceans and Coastal Resources Council to propose initial research plan by January 2006

Step Four (continued):

Action plans that recognize Florida is not an island (but it need not be a swamp)

- You need to answer a second question: How does Florida use its statutory directives to its advantage? The FOCRC is directed by the *Oceans and Coastal Resources Act* to complete a Florida Oceans and Coastal Scientific Research Plan which shall be used by the legislature in making funding decisions.

OCR Act provides for research projects proposed by the FOCRC to meet at least one of the following objectives:

- (a) Exploring opportunities to improve coastal ecosystem functioning and health through watershed approaches to managing freshwater and improving water quality.
- (b) Evaluating current habitat conservation, restoring and maintaining programs, and recommending improvements in the areas of research, monitoring, and assessment.
- (c) Promoting marine biomedical or biotechnology research and product discovery and development to enhance Florida's opportunity to maximize the beneficial uses of marine-derived bioproducts and reduce negative health impacts of marine organisms.
- (d) Creating consensus and strategies on how Florida can contribute to sustainable management of ocean wildlife and habitat.
- (e) Documenting through examination of existing and new research the impact of marine and coastal debris and current best practices to reduce debris.
- (f) Providing methods to achieve sustainable fisheries through better science, governance, stock enhancements and consideration of habitat and secondary impacts such as bycatch.

OCR Act provides for research projects proposed by the FOCRC to meet at least one of the following objectives:

- (g) Documenting gaps in current protection strategies for marine mammals.
- (h) Promoting research and new methods to preserve and restore coral reefs and other coral communities.
- (i) Achieving sustainable marine aquaculture.
- (j) Reviewing existing and ongoing studies on preventing and responding to the spread of invasive and nonnative marine and estuarine species.
- (k) Exploring ocean-based renewable energy technologies and climate change-related impacts to Florida's coastal area.
- (l) Enhancing science education opportunities such as virtual marine technology centers.
- (m) Sustaining abundant birdlife and encouraging the recreational and economic benefits associated with ocean and coastal wildlife observation and photography.
- (n) Developing a statewide analysis of the economic value associated with ocean and coastal resources, developing economic baseline data, methodologies, and consistent measures of oceans and coastal resource economic activity and value, and developing reports that educate Floridians, the United States Commission on Ocean Policy, local, state, and federal agencies and others on the importance of ocean and coastal resources.

OCR Act also provides for a comprehensive oceans and coastal resource assessment by 12 1 2006 that shall serve as a baseline of information to be used in assisting in the FOCRC's research plan and it must include:

- (a) Patterns of use of oceans and coastal resources;
- (b) Natural resource features, including, but not limited to, habitat, bathymetry, surficial geology, circulation, and tidal currents;
- (c) The location of current and proposed oceans and coastal research and monitoring infrastructure;
- (d) Industrial, commercial, coastal observing system, ships, subs, and recreational transit patterns; and
- (e) Socioeconomic trends of the state's oceans and coastal resources and oceans and coastal economy.

Step Four (continued):

Action plans that recognize Florida is not an island (but it could be a beacon to show the way to fund COOS)

- The Florida Seaport and Economic Development Program provides a means to use the Florida's transportation trust funds for improvements to the 14 deep water ports including COOS related efforts to improve port operations (See Florida Statutes,, Chapter 311 and FDOT web site at: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/seaport/fsteddesc.htm>)

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