

1 December 2006

As a result of numerous workshops and meetings over the past two years, the Board of Directors of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System Regional Association (GCOOS-RA) recognizes that making substantial improvements to hurricane intensity forecasts is a high priority need and requirement of the many stakeholders in the Gulf of Mexico coastal environment. Therefore, the Board strongly endorses a national research effort designed and focused on delivering substantial improvements to hurricane intensity forecasts.

Further, to ensure national research of the highest caliber, the Board endorses a competitive process for the selection of research initiatives, both internal and external to our federal agencies and the long standing national hurricane research plan.

Further, the Board endorses enriching existing federal research with new and innovative programs of scientific merit from a broader scientific community as the best approach to meeting the pressing national need for rapid improvements in hurricane intensity forecasts. One such particularly noteworthy program is elucidated in the prospectus for the Hurricane Intensity Forecast Improvement and Impacts Projection (HiFi) Program (see [http://www.nova.edu/ocean/hifi/hifi\\_prospectus.pdf](http://www.nova.edu/ocean/hifi/hifi_prospectus.pdf)).

Sincerely,

Ray Toll  
Chair, GCOOS-RA Board of Directors