

Northwest Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Industry Workshop
Sponsored By:
The Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems
(NANOOS)

Workshop Prospectus

NANOOS Objectives

The mission of the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) is to coordinate and support the development, implementation, and operation of a regional coastal ocean observing system (RCOOS), as part of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), and to provide data and data products regarding the ocean to a diversity of end users in a timely fashion, on spatial and temporal scales appropriate for their needs. The RCOOS that NANOOS proposes to initiate, capitalize, manage, and improve over time is meant to supplement the coastal backbone observing capabilities provided by various federal agencies in the Pacific Northwest (e.g., NOAA buoys and CMAN stations, future NOAA PORTS systems, USGS stream gauges, USACE wave stations, etc.). This effort is strongly supported by the Commission on Ocean Policy.

NANOOS, as part of the national IOOS effort, is a system designed to produce and disseminate ocean observations and related products deemed necessary to its users, in a common manner and according to sound scientific practice. It is a regional organization through which to integrate and sustain existing observing capability, to strategize for new operational systems, and to provide easy access to data, data products, model forecasts, etc. about regional marine conditions.

Industry's Role in the IOOS

Beyond simply being recipients and users of its data and products, industry will also play a vital role in IOOS, from its inception through its continued operation and maintenance. This participation will not be limited solely to companies within the maritime arena, but will cut across many sectors. In fact, sustaining support of IOOS will create a demand for start-up companies throughout all the participating regions, thereby creating new jobs. Among the examples of the roles industry will play:

- Large systems integrators have already been enlisted to begin to plan its architecture
- Hardware, software and services will be provided by telecommunications, IT and IS firms to develop and operate the infrastructure required for data transport, collection and distribution
- Existing and in-place infrastructure owned and operated by industry will be critical (offshore platforms, shore-based cell phone and radio towers, terrestrial and offshore communication cables)
- Sensor systems – both extant and those yet to be developed to fulfill the IOOS mission – will represent an appreciable market for the ocean industry

- Deployment – many of the assets and organic talent required to deploy complex elements of IOOS – work boats and cable lay vessels, ROVs – reside in the private sector
- Operation – IOOS will be a nationwide 24X7 managed network – economies of scale may be achieved by enlisting some of the many companies in the US who are expert, staffed and equipped and already managing similar networks.
- Maintenance – in some regions there already exist numerous offshore service companies that could add the continued maintenance of IOOS to their client list. In many other regions, however, this demand will spawn a new industry
- End user – IOOS data, in its delivered form, will be of immediate value to a number of industries, among them: shipping, recreation/tourism, and energy utilities.
- Value added resellers – there are other companies (and IOOS is likely to encourage establishment of even more) who would use IOOS data to produce custom products for specific users on a for-cost basis.

Invitation for participation in NANOOS

There are many roles for industry within NANOOS, including as users to define useful products you need and as part of the system, implementing observations or data technology. We welcome you to learn more about NANOOS from our website, www.nanoos.org, and by participating in our workshop, announced below. We hope you will become a member of NANOOS by having your organization sign the MOA on the website.

Announcement of Industry User Workshop

Please come to a workshop designed to introduce and engage the industry sector in this Pacific Northwest effort. Our workshop will be 11 August 2005 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. It will be held at The Museum of Flight's View Lounge, located at 9404 E Marginal Way South, Seattle, Washington, 98168.