

*Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP)*  
*FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS*  
**NOAA Hydrographic Services Role in the Integrated Ocean Observing System  
(IOOS)**

**HSRP Tasking**

The HSRP has been asked to provide recommendations on the role that NOAA's hydrographic services should have in the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS).

**HSRP Findings and Recommendations**

***The HSRP finds that:***

The development of an IOOS has both real-time and long-term benefits to the protection and understanding of our coastal resources and direct, critical applications for maritime commerce and general navigation. Recent large-scale weather events have underscored the need for an IOOS system, composed of several existing and proposed systems linked together, to predict and report real-time information, such as storm surge observations, water levels, and tide information, to promote safe navigation at all times and avoid potential loss of life and environmental consequences from ship groundings.

In addition to new IOOS networks, the HSRP recognizes that NOAA currently supports and operates a number of programs that provide observing criteria to fulfill the seven societal IOOS goals identified by Congress:

- Detecting and forecasting oceanic components of climate variability
- Facilitating safe and efficient marine operations
- Ensuring national security
- Managing resources for sustainable use
- Preserving and restoring healthy marine ecosystems
- Mitigating natural hazards
- Ensuring public health

***Therefore, the HSRP Recommends:***

Further development and expansion of NOAA's observing programs as critical components of a national IOOS system that will respond to as many national, regional, and local needs as possible, including, but not limited to: navigation and other uses by mariners; wave prediction; shoreline erosion and bathymetric change prediction; water salinity; and weather forecasting. The HSRP also recognizes numerous other uses that IOOS could and should provide, and encourages those uses to broaden public support for and expansion of the IOOS system.

Sufficient funding for IOOS to support navigational services, including, but not limited to: near-shore and offshore current measurements and water levels; wind speed and direction; vertical clearances (bridge air gap); salinity; wave height; and, visibility.

The HSRP supports NOAA as the lead coordinating agency for the development of a national IOOS development plan, including a timeframe for implementation and line item funding recommendations from which the existing NOAA system of observations will be developed and enhanced.