

Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Supports a National Network of Certified Regional Observing Systems

IOOS is essentially the weather service for the coastal ocean and Great Lakes, providing the ability to “see” what is happening above and below the water surface and making these insights readily available.

IOOS consists of 17 federal agencies with 11 regional observing systems.

All 11 regional observing systems meet rigorous federal standards for governance and data management.

Why Certification Matters

- IOOS provides national consistency while addressing unique and diverse regional needs.
- IOOS provides ready access and preserves data with transparency and documentation.
- Certification enhances efficient interagency coordination at the regional and national level.



Certification



Governance

The regional structure promotes coordination and collaboration at the regional level, and ensures stable and long-lasting organizations.



Data Management

The data served by the Regional Associations are of the same high quality as those served by the federal government. Certification ensures that data are consistent and reliable.

IOOS Regional Associations deliver federal-quality data from the water, to the user, to the archive.



Data served through IOOS regions are quality-checked and archived with NOAA's National Center for Environmental Information for long-term storage and access.



Data products address the specific needs of regional users while conforming to national standards and requirements.

Who Uses IOOS Data?

- Emergency managers
- Fishermen
- Oil spill responders
- Ports
- Public health officials (e.g. beaches, water quality)
- Recreational boaters
- Researchers
- Seafood safety officials
- Shellfish growers
- Tribes
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Office of Naval Research
- U.S. Arctic Research Commission
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of State
- Private Industry

Benefits of Certification

- Users have confidence in the data served by IOOS regions.
- Certification enhances efficient interagency coordination.
- Federal agencies rely on IOOS regions to access non-federal data and to disseminate integrated data on a regional level.
- Researchers and others can work with IOOS regions to fulfill data management requirements of publicly-funded grants.
- Certification provides liability protection for Regional Associations.

2018

All 11 regional observing systems are certified.

2009

ICOOS Act passed, establishing IOOS and the process for certification.

2000

Federal government envisioned IOOS with a network of certified regional system serving quality data.



The national network of regional observing systems provides services to the entire coastline of the U.S., including the islands and territories and the Great Lakes. The IOOS regional observing systems provide a forum for convening regional experts, agencies, industry and users to discuss mutual needs, leverage assets and share expert knowledge.

More Information



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