

IOOS Legislation

Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act

Public Law No. 111-11

- **Directs President to establish a National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System coordinated by the NORLC (Council)**
 - Council provides System policy oversight & coordination
 - Approves & Adopts System budgets developed by the Committee
 - Develops Public/Private Use Policy w/in 6 months of enactment
 - Establishes Interagency Ocean Observation Committee
- **Interagency Ocean Observation Committee (Committee)**
 - Prepare annual & long-term plans for System design, maintenance & expansion
 - Provide annual coordinated, comprehensive budget requests to Congress
 - Establish observation variables & consult with regions on System obs priorities
 - Establish System protocols and standards for DMAC
 - Develop certification standards and compliance procedures for non-federal assets including Regional Information Coordination Entities (RICEs)
 - Identify gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of federal & non-federal assets
 - Obtain an independent cost estimate for System operations & maintenance
 - *within 1 year of enactment, through NOAA & NSF Administrators*



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- **Identifies NOAA as Lead Federal Agency**
 - Establish an IOOS Program Office within NOAA utilizing interagency staff
 - Implement a merit-based competitive funding process for non-federal assets
 - Develop evaluation & review process for all non-federal assets
 - Formulate annual process to identify gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements to federal and non-federal assets
 - Develop & be responsible for DMAC
 - Establish a System Advisory Committee
- **Regional Information Coordination Entities (RICEs)**
 - Certified or established by contract/agreement by NOAA Administrator
 - Identify gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements to federal and non-federal assets (and make other recommendations for required plans)
 - Develop & operate under a strategic operational plan
- **Report to Congress w/in 2 years of enactment and every 2 years thereafter**
 - Identification of federal and non-federal assets integrated into the System
 - Description of benefits to users of data products resulting from the System
 - Recommendations on System modifications and future funding levels
- **Establishes Civil Liability Provision**
- **Authorizes appropriation of “such sums as are necessary” through 2013**

