



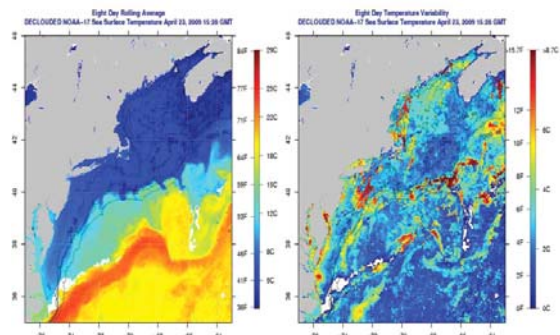
To: Friends of MACOORA
From: Judith T. Krauthamer, MACOORA Executive Director
Re: New Products and Other Updates

New Ocean Current Data to Improve Search and Rescue Activities. Washington (May 4)—A new set of ocean observing data that enhances the ability to track probable paths of victims and drifting survivor craft should improve search and rescue efforts along the U.S. coast. The data comes from the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®), part of a joint effort among Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (**MACOORA**), the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security. The new data sets include surface current maps from high frequency radar systems. The technology measures speed and direction of ocean surface currents in near real time, which the Coast Guard can then use to guide its search and rescue operations with greater accuracy. The maps can also be used to support other scientific work, such as oil spill response, harmful algal bloom monitoring, and water quality assessments. A short term predictive system that allows 24-hour forecasts for sea surface currents based on the most recent ocean observations will also be available in the Mid-Atlantic region. “The Coast Guard is continuously striving to enhance its Search and Rescue capabilities by obtaining the latest operational environmental products that NOAA has to offer. Better data means search efforts can be focused on smaller areas, saving more lives by allowing us to locate and assist distressed persons more quickly,” said Jack Frost USCG’s Program Manager for Search and Rescue Optimal Planning System (SAROPS).



MACOORA’s High Frequency radar operations have been expanded. Three new sites were added to the network in 2009. Rutgers obtained an additional CODAR system that had been on loan to Mote Marine lab. The University of Delaware added a standard range system at Indian River, DE. A long range system was installed at Little Island Park, VA. Before the data for this system was added to the network, the site underwent a twenty point inspection. This standard operating procedure in order for a site to be admitted to the network can be found on the **MARCOOS** web site at <http://www.marcoos.us/publications.htm>. A key goal for MARCOOS high frequency radar site operations has been to operate and update the system consistent with the existing best practices. A web log, <http://marcoos.us/wp/wp> was created for the operators to share information and facilitate in the repair of malfunctioning radars.

The most popular satellite product that **MARCOOS** produces is sea surface temperature (SST). We have developed a cloud filtering algorithm that increases the data quality of the SST. This is an important step not only for end-users of SST imagery but also for modelers who



assimilate the SST data into their ocean forecasts. Cloud filtered images are being delivered in real time to the web:

(http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?product=sst_decloud®ion=bigbight¬humbs=0)

The MARCOOS/HOPS Real-Time Forecast has been operational for two months. It is presently assimilating 3-day composite input from the Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory and the **MARCOOS** group at University of Delaware/College of Marine and Earth Studies. The forecast fields (temperature, salt, currents) are available at www.mast.umassd.edu/modeling/RTF for different levels at 6-hourly intervals for the full domain, for a zoom domain for Mid15 Atlantic Shelf, and for another zoom region for the Gulf of Maine.

Forecasts were made available to first responders during the rescue and recovery operations of US Airways Flight 1545 from the New York Harbor Observing and Prediction System (NYHOPS). An extensive skill assessment for 2 years of NYHOPS forecast water level is almost complete, against data from over 70 tide gages scattered around the NYHOPS region.

NOAA's Climate Program Office requests input from policy makers on research priorities: NOAA's Climate Program Office is soliciting information from stakeholders, including state coastal managers, that will help them develop priorities for a limited set of academic/research centers that work with NOAA to improve its capabilities in aspects of climate, climate prediction, and efforts to bring climate science and information into policy and decision making. In a second request, they are seeking information on state-of-the-art climate risk management research and practices on timescales ranging from weeks to decades and adaptation techniques and strategies for dealing with climate change in developing countries. Responses to the requests, which can be read in their entirety online, are due May 15. For more information: http://www.cpo.noaa.gov/index.jsp?pg=/news/news_index.jsp&news=2009/3-30_request_sustained.html.

Nominations are being sought for appointment by the Secretary of Commerce to serve on the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) beginning in October 2009. MAFAC is the only federal advisory committee with the responsibility to advise the Secretary of Commerce on all matters concerning living marine resources that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. The committee makes recommendations to the secretary to assist in the development and implementation of departmental regulation. Membership is voluntary, and except for reimbursable travel and related expenses, service is without pay. The committee meets twice a year with supplementary subcommittee meetings as determined necessary by the Committee Chairperson. No less than 15 and no more than 21 individuals may serve on the committee. Apply on or before June 5, 2009. <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/>

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Membership: July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010
Amount: \$500

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