

Subject: Technical Panels, Testimony, and More Updates

From: MACOORA <info@macoora.org>

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To: MACOORA <info@macoora.org>



To: Friends of MACOORA, the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association

From: Judith T. Krauthamer, Executive Director

Date: October 2, 2009

Regarding: Ocean Observing Updates and More

Registration is now online:

Understanding the Coastal Ocean: Partnerships for a Changing World, NOV 17 and 18

Our fourth annual conference, Understanding the Coastal Ocean: Partnerships for a Changing World, will be held November 17 and 18, 2009 in Portsmouth, VA.

Conference registration is complimentary, as are meals and the evening event. Our meeting venue is the beautiful Renaissance Hotel overlooking the Elizabeth River in Portsmouth Virginia, easily accessible by car or inexpensive flights.

Our hotel rate is under \$110 a night and the government rate is even less! Be sure to register before Nov 1 for these incredible rates.



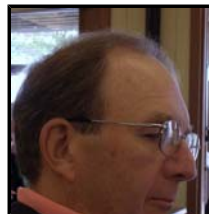
We anticipate an attendance of our colleagues from the military, industry, academia and government. Our meeting will focus on critical partnerships as we navigate through a changing ocean/climate environment, a growing coastal society, and diverging research and information needs. There will be ample networking opportunities throughout both days, and during the evening event at the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

Exhibition Tables are going-- confirm your table now. Contact Liz Smith, exsmith@odu.edu, 757-683-5842.

[Bob Gagosian](#), President of Ocean Leadership and [Jack Dunnigan](#), Assistant Administrator for NOAA's Ocean Service, will share their visions for the future at the opening plenary. Panels include State Partnerships, Industry Partnerships, Maritime Industry Partnerships, and Federal Partnerships. The program includes-- at no cost to registrants-- two workshops. [Data Management and Communications \(DMAC\) De-Mystified](#), led by Eoin Howlett of ASA Inc. will explain in understandable terms the complex and highly sophisticated techniques utilized in ocean observations. [Outreach and Education](#), led by Fredrika Moser of Maryland Sea Grant and Jeff Yapalater of the Freeport Tuna Club, will investigate reaching our many audiences.

You must register to attend. Please join us for an exciting event.

MACOORA Testifies Before the Administration's Ocean Policy Task Force



On September 24, 2009, MACOORA testified before the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force on the [Interim Ocean Policy Report](#)



. Dr. Wendell Brown, MACOORA Board of Directors representative of the Massachusetts/Rhode Island subregion, and professor in the School for Marine Science and Technology at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, represented MACOORA at the public hearing. “We in MACOORA have embraced the Ocean Commission’s position on ocean observing --recognizing the enormous national benefits that have accrued from the weather observing network, it is time to invest in a similar observational and forecasting capability for the oceans. We echo the positions of the Pew Commission report that ocean observations play a distinct, critical role that should be augmented and funded. Without greater understanding of coastal ocean dynamics and processes, wise use and management of coastal ocean resources cannot be achieved.” [Read more.](#)

MACOORA and Coast Day

MACOORA will be represented at [Coast Day](#) this October 4th. The University of Delaware’s Coast Day, held at the Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, introduces thousands of people each year to the wonders of the sea and the importance of Delaware’s marine and coastal resources. Hosted by the UD College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment and the Delaware Sea Grant College Program, Coast Day began 32 years ago as a small open house designed to introduce visitors to ocean research.

Ocean Observatories Initiative Meeting

The Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) network is scheduled to begin construction this fall. In anticipation of this new facility, a series of science community workshops will be held to introduce ocean scientists, educators, and the broader science community to the full scope of the OOI network design and capabilities. The first of these workshops will take place on Nov. 11-12, 2009 in Baltimore, MD. Presentations will focus on descriptions of the OOI construction design, the multi-disciplinary sensors to be deployed, and the timeline for construction, data availability, and data access. [Register now.](#)

Government Affairs Updates

The Mid-Atlantic Governors’ Agreement on Ocean Conservation has brought the Governors of VA, MD, DE, NJ, NY together as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) and has charged the States to collaboratively address priorities for shared action. The recently released MARCO [report](#) presents priority issues, the Governors’ goals and objectives for each priority, and initial actions to be taken by the States. Key among these is marine spatial planning, a process that facilitates decision-making by presenting information on the suitability of offshore areas for certain activities.

Two bills were introduced in the House this September. [H.R.3609](#) (9/21/09)- Wetlands Conservation Investment Act of 2009, amends amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the capital gain or loss treatment of the sale or exchange of mitigation credits earned by restoring wetlands (Rep. Melancon, LA). [H.R.3650](#) establishes a National Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Program, to develop and coordinate a comprehensive and integrated strategy to address harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, and to provide for the development and implementation of comprehensive regional action plans to reduce harmful algal blooms and hypoxia.

Datasets, Maps, and Guides

[Data.gov](#)

increases public access to high value, machine readable datasets generated by the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. Data.gov includes searchable [catalogs](#) that provide access to "raw" datasets and various tools. In the "raw" data catalog, you may access data in XML, Text/CSV, KML/KMZ, Feeds, XLS, or ESRI Shapefile formats. The catalog of tools links you to sites that include data mining and extraction tools and widgets. For example, ten million archive images of the Earth's surface are available for immediate selection and free download via the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center's Global Visualization. Or have access to currently observed river conditions and current forecasts for rivers; data is collected from automated sensors and are generally from equipment maintained by the US Geological Survey.

[Smart Growth Guide for Coastal and Waterfront Communities Released](#) . On September 9, NOAA, EPA, the International City/County Management Association, and Rhode Island Sea Grant, released “Smart Growth for Coastal and Waterfront Communities.” Developed in consultation with the national Smart Growth Network, the inter-agency guide builds on the network’s ten smart growth principles to create coastal and waterfront-specific strategies for development.

[The National Surface Current Mapping Plan is available](#) . There are dozens of institutions that own and operate HF radars within the US. The maps accessible on the [IOOS website](#) are the most up-to-date maps of existing and proposed HF radar sites.

Membership has its benefits.

[Join MACOORA NOW!](#)

Are you interested in ocean observations, coastal management, and visionary leadership ? Join MACOORA and be a part of the future.

Comments, questions, or concerns? Email info@macoora.org