

Communications [mailto:macoora@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:07 PM

To: macoora@verizon.net

Subject: MACOORA, Landmark Legislation, New Products and Other Updates



To: Friends of MACOORA

From: Judith T. Krauthamer, MACOORA Executive Director

Re: Landmark Legislation, New Products and Other Updates

President Obama signed into law 3/30/2009 H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. The largest conservation bill to pass in 15 years, Obama stated, "This bipartisan bill has been many years in the making, and is one of the most important pieces of natural resource legislation in decades". The law establishes the organizational, legal and financial framework for the IOOS program, clarifies the role of the regions (including MACOORA) as part of the national program, provides the regions with liability protection for the provision of data and forecasts, establishes NOAA as the lead for this interagency program, and establishes an advisory committee to ensure the program is responsive to the needs of users. For more information, contact MACOORA, macoora@verizon.net or contact: Josie Quintrell, executive director, National Federation of Regional Associations for Coastal and Ocean Observing, jquintrell@suscom-maine.net.



MACOORA Board Director, Dr. Michael Bruno, received an impact award at the annual DHS summit in Washington DC last week for their response to the emergency landing of the aircraft in the Hudson. Kudos to IOOS-- the MARCOOS grant is one of the grants supporting of Alan Blumberg's model. He writes that although it is great recognition, "I wish it recognized our entire center."



Bruno is a Feiler Chair Professor and Dean, School of Engineering & Science, Stevens Institute of Technology, Center for Maritime Studies. Dr. Blumberg 's work is directed towards understanding and predicting the flow processes operating in rivers, lakes, estuaries and the oceans. His research makes use of numerical models, laboratory experiments and field measurements. These efforts have contributed to understanding the physical dynamics of estuarine and coastal ocean circulation and to the creation of ocean observing and forecasting systems which are used for environmental studies, surface vessel operations, and as a basis for maritime security. See http://www.stevens.edu/ses/cms/People/faculty_profile.php?faculty_id=84.

In late March, a 71-foot scallop fishing boat sank 75 miles offshore, with dire consequences for the crew. According to MACOORA Board Director, professor Scott Glenn of the Rutgers University's Institute of Marine and Coastal Studies, Coast Guard officers called oceanographers at Rutgers University for help forecasting the ocean currents and winds to guide their search, and to reconstruct weather conditions on the morning Lady Mary sank. The institute operates a sophisticated ocean sensing laboratory that draws in data from weather

buoys, satellites and radar that measures wave heights, and can assemble it all into detailed reports and charts. For more information, read

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20090326/NEWS01/90326018/1006/news01>

Search and Rescue Optimal Planning System (SAROPS) is a comprehensive search and rescue (SAR) planning system used by the United States Coast Guard in the planning and execution of almost all SAR cases in and around the United States and the Caribbean. It is anticipated that the Coast Guard will be going operational with MACOORA data in SAROPS in late April.

NOAA wants to start implementing a MARCOOS developed cloud filtering algorithm for NOAA satellite data. This is an example of how MARCOOS provides products to NOAA. For more information, contact Dr. Matthew J. Oliver, College of Marine and Earth Studies at the University of Delaware, <http://www.ocean.udel.edu/people/profile.aspx?moliver>



The Mid-Atlantic Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARCOOS) has assembled a HF (High Frequency) Radar network of 26 installations from North Carolina to Massachusetts. MARCOOS uses the HF radars to measure 2D sea surface current fields, and then feeds that data into its Short Term Predictive System (STPS) to predict the next 24 hours of currents and tides. For more information, contact Art Allen, USCG, Arthur.A.Allen@uscg.mil

Save this date: April 13. Rutgers University is about to launch their 3rd student-run, long-duration glider mission, this one to cross the Atlantic.

The glider is RU27, which Zdenka Willis just christened The Scarlet Knight. See <http://www.i-cool.org/?cat=38> and scroll down to the March 23 entry. This is MACOORA in action.

The National Weather Service is updating their strategic plan and is seeking comments from the public on critical issues. See <http://www.weather.gov/news/stratplan>

Please send your press releases and items of interest to macoora@verizon.net. Having problems reading this email? Please let us know!