

# Coastal Observation Technology System Project Summary – 2004

**Project Name/Title:** Building Regional Association Partnerships in the Northwest: A Proposal to Continue Ongoing Efforts

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**Recipient Institution:** University of Washington

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**Brief Project Summary:** The goal of this project is to foster and enhance Pacific Northwest regional partnerships to grow constituencies that will allow for the eventual installation and long-term maintenance of a Pacific Northwest Regional IOOS. The project proposes to foster the development of strong regional association partnerships through proactively engaging, educating, and entraining stakeholders throughout the Pacific Northwest in the benefits of an integrated regional ocean observing system.

**Accomplishments to Date:**

- Workshop I: held the “Pacific Northwest Regional Ocean Observing System Workshop” from October 23 to 24, 2003, at Portland State University, Oregon. At the conclusion of the workshop, a charter was signed by over 30 people, creating the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) and appointing five individuals as the NANOOS Interim Steering Committee.
- Outreach: numerous outreach talks and briefings given by the interim steering committee to several diverse audiences (elaborated below).
- Pilot project: submitted two complementary pilots for NANOOS; one was funded. “A Pilot Coastal Ocean Observatory for the Estuaries and Shores of Oregon and Washington” (A. Baptista, principal investigator) focuses on regional integration and expansion of existing but disparate observation and modeling capabilities for the estuaries and shores of Oregon and Washington.
- Workshop II: held the “NANOOS Governance Structure and Observing Priorities Workshop” from May 5 to 7, 2004, Oregon Health and Science University, Beaverton, Oregon. Specific output was consensus on governance structure (501-c3) and other design characteristics, as well as prioritized lists for observing capabilities in both the national backbone and for NANOOS.

**Current Year Objectives:**

- Identify the full spectrum of stakeholders having significant interests in the waters of the Pacific Northwest to ensure their views and opinions are fully recognized and taken into account, and that this partnership-building effort takes advantage of their scientific, economic, social, cultural, and operational expertise.

- Proactively engage the regional ocean science community in this partnership-building project to ensure its expertise helps guide the eventual design and evaluation of the system. This approach will ensure the Pacific Northwest Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) evolves to take advantage of new knowledge and technology as they are developed.
- Obtain input about subregional-scale oceanographic concerns by engaging with local stakeholders in advance of a major regional workshop and ensure these factors are addressed at the regional level. NANOOS will work within these smaller groups to build a sense of community and partnerships at the subregional scale and then translate this into strong regional partnerships through larger gatherings and workshops.
- Obtain consensus agreement on the overall process to define a governance structure for a Pacific Northwest Regional Association based on the partnerships developed in this project.
- Build international and interregional partnerships by engaging with Canadian colleagues and other western regional associations to build bridges and ensure seamless integration of their efforts.

To achieve these objectives, NANOOS will proceed with two major efforts over the next two months:

NANOOS coordinator – First, and most importantly, NANOOS wants to hire a coordinator whose focus will be to work on enhancing the partnerships and planning efforts that have been started by the five co-principal investigators. Second-year funding from NOAA will allow for hiring the full-time coordinator to substantially accelerate the NANOOS efforts.

Third NANOOS workshop on scientific system design – The second major effort in the near term will be to hold the third workshop focusing on the scientific system design of the Pacific Northwest Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System (RCOOS) that NANOOS will eventually manage. This highly technical workshop will continue the process of obtaining user group buy-in to the planning that began in the first workshop and was highlighted in the second workshop. NANOOS is committed to continuing the open, inclusive process used at the workshops to obtain the widest consensus possible from the various ocean community stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest.

**Partners:**

- University of Washington
- Oregon State University
- Oregon Health and Science University