Coastal Observation Technology System Project Summary – 2004

Project Name/Title: Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS): Shelf to Shoreline Observatory Development

Date Project Initiated: Anticipate a June 1, 2004, start date

Recipient Institution: Funds will be directed to the Joint Institute for Marine Observations (JIMO) at Scripps Institution of Oceanography; JIMO will then allocate funding to all sub-awardees.

Primary Contact:

Dr. Eric Terrill
Marine Physical Lab, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
University of California, San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093-0213
Phone: (858) 822-3101
Fax: (858) 534-7132
E-mail: *eterrill@ucsd.edu*

Project Web Site: *sccoos.ucsd.edu*

Brief Project Summary: The Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) is a consortium that extends from Northern Baja California in Mexico to Morro Bay at the southern edge of central California. The consortium aims to streamline, coordinate, and further develop individual institutional efforts by creating an integrated, multidisciplinary coastal observatory in the Bight of Southern California to provide data and information primarily for the benefit of society. Sound scientific approaches will be used in the development of SCCOOS to enable the effective translation of observations to users. By leveraging existing infrastructure, partnerships, and private, local, state, and federal resources, SCCOOS plans to develop an operational coastal observing system to address issues in coastal water quality, marine life resources, and coastal hazards for end user communities spanning local, state, and federal governments and the public. This system will provide water-quality and natural resource managers, scientists, and policy makers with the scientific bases for evaluating the effectiveness of management strategies and designing new approaches, and will also serve as a risk management and early warning tool.

Accomplishments to Date: The coming fiscal year will mark the first year of funding for SCCOOS.

Current Year Objectives: Launch the pilot Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System and begin integrating and distributing existing observations in the Southern California Bight (SCB), adding new observations, and developing and distributing data syntheses. The pilot-SCCOOS will be tailored to consolidate

information from federal, state, and local sources to form an integrated system with an output tuned to managers at all governmental levels. The project will develop methods to (a) find optimal sensor networking schemes, (b) increase the flow of data to allow efficient, adaptive on-sight sampling, (c) create real-time information products by merging data and real-time analyses, (d) distribute data products to disparate end-users, and (e) initiate K-12 education and outreach programs.

SCCOOS will also, as part of a separately funded NOAA project, begin to gather detailed definitions of users and needs, synthesize these needs to determine which regions can be effectively addressed in SCCOOS and under which timeframe, and finalize development of a flexible organizational structure that allows for the delivery of products to and receipt of resources from local, state, and federal agencies. SCCOOS has also submitted a proposal to California state government for $11 million to install a complete coastal ocean current monitoring system in the bight, relying primarily upon high-frequency radar. This proposal will likely be funded at the end of the summer.

Partners: California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo; California State University, Los Angeles; Centro de Investigacion Cientifica y de Educacion Superior de Ensenada; Jet Propulsion Laboratory, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego; Universidad Autonoma de Baja California; University of California, Santa Barbara; University of California, Irvine; University of California, Los Angeles; University of Southern California; Southern California Coastal Water Research Project.