

## **NEOSEC Governing Council Meeting Notes**

University of Rhode Island Office of Marine Programs, Narragansett RI  
May 21, 2010

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### **Attendees**

Abbey Spargo, Ocean Explorium  
Anne Thessen, Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL)  
Billy Spitzer, New England Aquarium (NEAq)  
Carla Campanion, Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) Ocean Systems  
Carole McCauley, Northeastern University  
Cassie Durette, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS)  
Catherine Cramer, COSEE  
Diana Payne, Connecticut Sea Grant  
Erik Zettler, Sea Education Association (SEA)  
Gail Scowcroft, University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography (URI)  
Jayshree Oberoi, NEAq  
Joan Muller, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR)  
Katie Cubina, Sea Research Foundation (SRF)  
Kelly Matis, SRF  
Kit Van Wagner, Narragansett Bay Research Reserve  
Maryann Scholl, URI  
Molly Olsher, NEAq  
Pam DiBona, NEAq  
Perrin Chick, Seacoast Science Center (SSC)  
Ru Morrison, NERACOOS  
Suzy Ryan, Census of Marine Life Gulf of Maine Area (COML)  
Theresa Torrent-Ellis, Maine Coastal Program

Perrin called the meeting to order at 9am, welcoming everyone to the Spring meeting of the NEOSEC Governing Council.

### **NERACOOS-NEOSEC MOU**

Earlier this year NEOSEC and NERACOOS signed a Memorandum of Understanding, setting the stage for joint projects and mutual support to build ocean literacy by expanding awareness and use of coastal ocean observing data and services. While the Governing Council had previously approved this partnership, this was the first opportunity for the full Council to meet the NERACOOS players.

Ru Morrison, Executive Director of NERACOOS, provided background on NERACOOS: funded by NOAA, it is part of the International Ocean Observing System (IOOS), and one of 11 U.S. regional COOS which together cover the entire U.S. coastline, Hawaii, the Great Lakes, and Alaska. NERACOOS provides information, products, and services to users, setting out platforms, buoys, gliders, etc. to fill current gaps in knowledge. Ru described his effort to draw from and partner with existing networks, e.g., NEOSEC, the Ocean Data Partnership, NROC, etc.. This is one goal of an ongoing series of four workshops, informed by 10 regional organizations, to address NERACOOS priority issues: Ocean and Coastal Ecosystem Health, Maritime Safety and Security, Ocean Energy, and Coastal Hazards Resiliency. The output from these

workshops will help to drive NERACOOS' agenda for the next 5 years. In addition, he hopes that NEOSEC can inform the Education & Outreach (E&O) portion of a proposal in October, which would supplement existing funding for a half-time E&O staff person. Malcolm Spaulding, chair of NERACOOS' Board of Directors added that the organization is pleased to provide some resources to NEOSEC to sustain dedicated E&O around ocean literacy in the region, and they will continue to do that as their own funding allows.

Question: are there certain priorities or accomplishments NERACOOS would like to see, especially those to which NEOSEC can contribute? Ru responded that he sees that the E&O community is doing well with collaboration, accomplishing good work, and thinks that can be highlighted as a model for other regions. NERACOOS' interest is in adding value to existing resources and efforts.

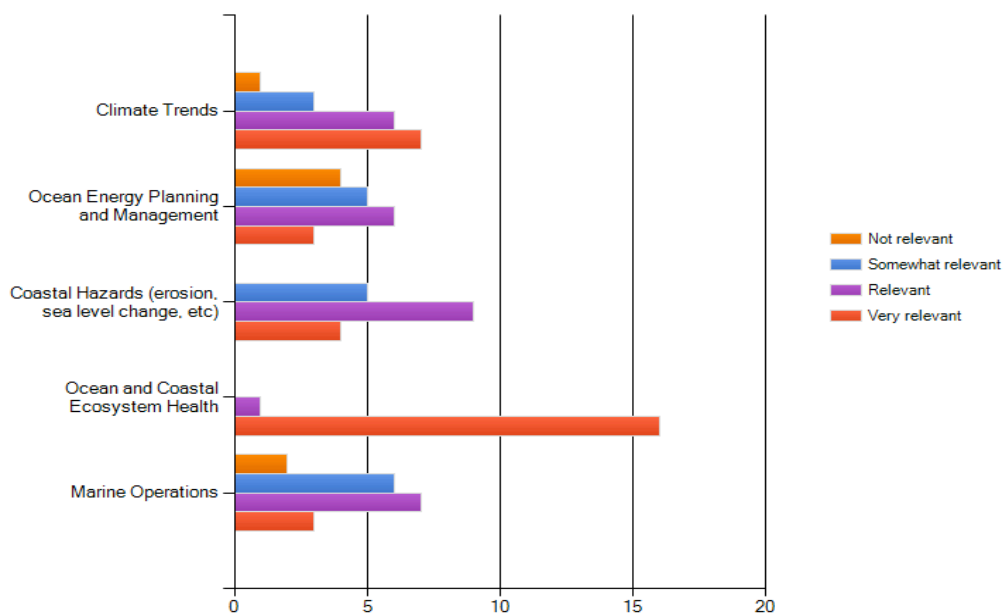
Further, NERACOOS is in the process of helping to distribute the contents of the GoMOOS (Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System) website. GoMOOS and GMRI have merged, and the content of GoMOOS' site (including LI Sound info) will go to GMRI and NERACOOS. The diverse set of users currently includes fishermen, recreational boaters, surfers, educators, journalists, researchers, Coast Guard, and spill response personnel. There may be an opportunity to track whether visits from new audiences and/or NEOSEC members increase as our collaboration continues. The group suggested that NEOSEC's new website might also host some portion of the site where suitable.

### Member Survey Results

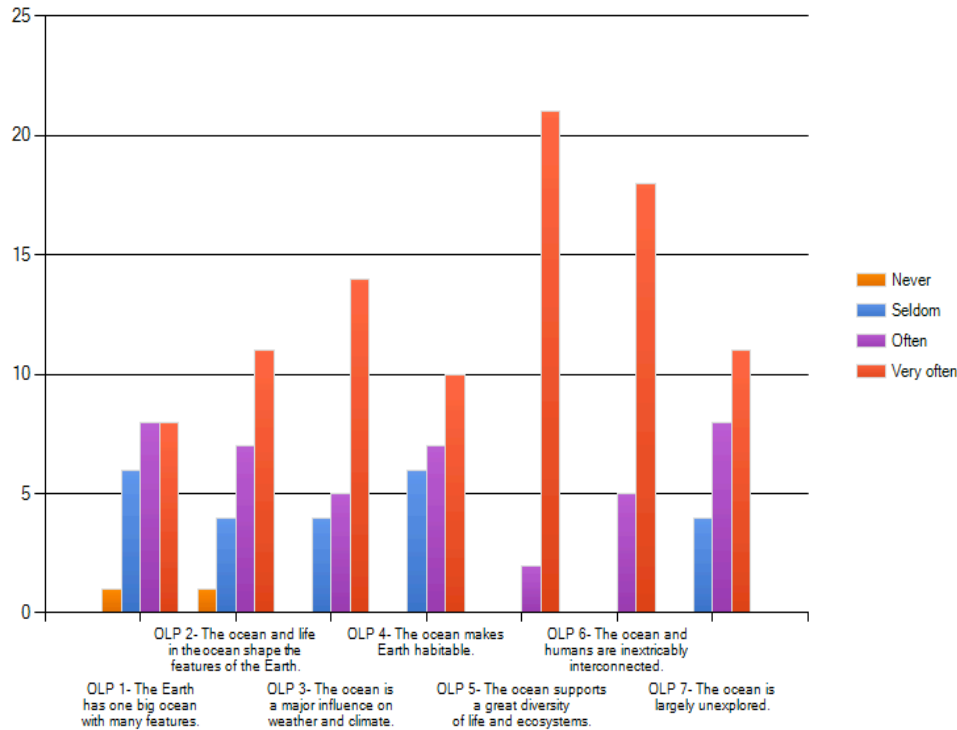
As of the meeting, 24 member institutions had responded to a survey aimed at linking institutional activities with the 7 OL Principles. Cassie and Pam committed to following up to make sure more members contribute. The survey results will serve to identify cross-connections between NEOSEC and NERACOOS, identify barriers to the use of OOS data, and populate the new NEOSEC website.

Cassie highlighted several questions, including:

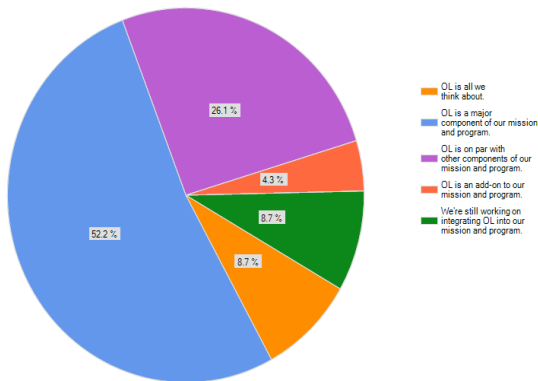
**How relevant is your organization's mission and initiatives to these theme areas?**



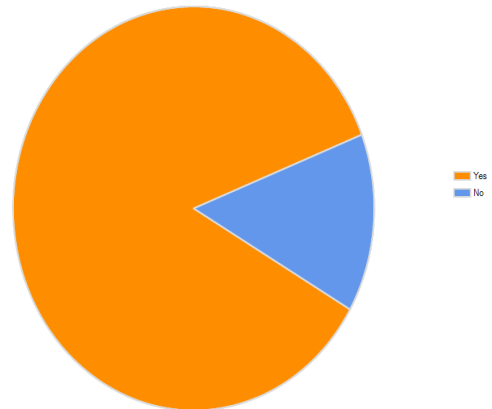
### How often does your organization address the OL Principles?



### How central is the goal of ocean literacy to your organization's work?



### Does your organization use Ocean Observing (OO) Data?



Some member institution representatives spoke about how they are using ocean observing (OO) data.

**URI:** ARMADA project, 2-year program for teachers, introduce them to OO data, how it can be used in the classroom; NOAA buoy data was fed to their website; Hurricane Science and Society, center to be built in Jackson Sq. LA, website will gather data from OOS and expose visitors to that data; Satellite data used generally

**COML-GOMA:** focused on biodiversity, link to physical, biological data (blooms)

**Ocean Explorium:** Science on a Sphere which uses NASA and NOAA imagery and data: forecasting, historical, real-time – display to general public.

**NERRS:** System-wide monitoring system used to track water quality and meteorological data, provided online, building a curriculum to bring that data to the classroom. Teacher on the Estuary program shows teachers how to use data, brings in conservation issues as well. Also used for general outreach re: conditions in the bay, trends in water temperature.

**Stellwagen Bank NMS:** Use one buoy in particular. Have a chain of buoys along the shipping lanes to listen for whales and alert ships regarding their presence; bottom-mounted audio monitors as well. It would be worthwhile to look into the presence/absence of this information on Cornell's website. If there is the ability to have live feed of that audio it would be great resource for teachers and others. It was pointed out that this is a different type (& application, re: changing lanes) of data which is important to share with people.

Several organizations are looking at water quality monitoring data and would like to provide a portal for access to historical data.

**Shoals Marine Lab:** Erik, who is a professor at the program, has students compare their data which is collected on board ship to online data.

**SEA:** During their 6 weeks on shore, the data is used much more extensively as a teaching tool for the students – thermoclines, etc.

**COSEE Network, esp. COSEE NOW:** wealth of resources for educators using monitoring data. All of the COSEEs are linked to an IOOS association. COSEE OS reports that data consistently come into their workshops.

## **Breakout Groups**

Groups were asked to take on OL Principles and discuss how our work connects with them. The goal is to link OO to each Principle. NEOSEC is NERACOOS' E&O arm; can we come up with a tagline for each Principle that links the two?

Groups were provided sheets with the principle & concepts. Groups were then asked to share information around three tasks: OO resources available relating to their principle, OO resources the group would like to see available relating to the principle, and a draft "enhanced OL Principle" that incorporates OO – a tagline that pulls OO in to that principle.

## **Discussion on Breakouts**

As individuals from each group shared with the General council as a whole, there was opportunity to see the new ideas that had been generated around OO and OL Principles:

- Showing how debris moves around. Maine Coastal Program can provide funding & web hosting. SEA has the best data (Atlantic garbage patch)
- Ocean Explorium; connecting data to their science in a sphere, summer teacher program that brings them around the region for a series of experiences. Museum Inst for Teaching Science hosts something similar – 2 weeks each of 9 regions, moving around to different institutions.
- Professional Development program for formal + informal educators, in the classroom and at sea. Collaboration between NEAq and SEA already in the works
- Bringing NERACOOS data to Encyclopedia of Life – data provides information about habitat, link from EOL to NERACOOS data as a way to illustrate the habitat characteristics.

- “Get to know your buoy” interactive online atlas (ala Google Earth) including OO data as well as programs & studies ongoing to demonstrate how the data are being used
- NCN, NEOSEC, NERACOOS, NMEA, IOOS collaborating to develop the OO-based OL principles, moving it from regional to national
- Integrating biological data – ocean tracking network, OBIS into NERACOOS.
- Helping other countries do this as well. Thinking global
- Atlantic-based retrospective for general audiences, formatted according to the OL Principles.

The group acknowledged that NEOSEC is leading the way on collaborative work around ocean science education, and we have some opportunities based on that positioning.

### **Summit Committee update**

Based on group work on May 20<sup>th</sup> and a larger discussion on the 21<sup>st</sup> with the full Governing Council, the Summit program was adjusted.

Several suggestions came from the discussion:

- Offer continuing education credits to teachers.
- Offer funding to cover substitute teachers for the first 25 teachers to register for the summit.
- Add a poster session as part of the exhibits, offered by the presenters from Sessions C & D could add value to the summit day.
- Re: the keynote speaker, allow at least 45min for the talk.
- Re: the panel, each speaker should answer a series of questions in their 12-minute presentations. Next hour, offer questions from the audience, which are taken from cards placed at each table. If an attendee has a follow up question, it will be taken.
- The wrap-up portion should include an exercise similar to Perrin’s, e.g., “what did you learn/ideas you’re walking away with...”
- Saturday field trips need to be added to registration in order to gain accurate head counts.

### **Website/Outreach update**

Carla and Catherine presented sample pages of the new NEOSEC website. Theresa reminded everyone that the goal of the website was to pull together all of our online platforms, and Wordpress was chosen as the place to bring them all together. Ocean7 is to be an interactive landing space on the web that is family oriented, related to the banners, and relatable to the general public. This forced the committee to think about it as a way to present Ocean7 as a campaign of NEOSEC, a logo that the public sees, but underscored by NEOSEC and our programming.

Catherine described the process to date. First, the Governing Council tasked the Outreach Committee with leading this effort at the December meeting; since then the Outreach Committee and a smaller group have worked to produce a draft site. Content is being taken from the existing websites. The next step is building member pages, one for each NEOSEC institutional member. A template will be provided, looking for your input and to connect your work to the OL Principles. Carla is designing it; she can provide us all with access to input the information. A calendar feature was discussed to give everyone the option to be able to upload their events. The website will include pages for each NEOSEC project (e.g., Summer Science, Get WET).

Carla showed some screens that highlight ways in which NEOSEC member institutions are integrating OL into their programs. Visitors can enter and explore the site and members from two directions, either a “NEOSEC/what are we about” side or through the “OL Principles” side.

It was suggested a map that links to the members be put up. Other potential components would be a news feed, joint calendar, feature slideshow.

### **Funding and grant updates**

Billy reported on funding status, including successes that require us to provide deliverables. Pam prepared a spreadsheet summarizing secured and pending funding. The winter workshop/planning session worked well and the 1/10 retreat produced three project descriptions, two of which became proposals in the spring to NOAA and IMLS. All agreed that our organizational growth and development is great, and it is especially gratifying that members have stepped in to take the lead on funding opportunities.

With regard to membership diversity, it will be hard to serve all of our members or include everyone in the programs. This will be an obstacle that we'll need to discuss going forward.