



Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Integrated Ocean Observing System bill signed into law by President Obama

To: CeNCOOS Community
From: CeNCOOS Staff
Re: Passage of IOOS Legislation
Date: March 30, 2009

Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation Act of 2009 signed into law

Today, March 30, 2009, President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 into law. A part of this bill, the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation Act of 2009, provides authorization for the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

What does this mean for CeNCOOS?

This represents a major step forward! It establishes IOOS as a formal program and recognizes the eleven regional systems, including the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS), as a key part of that program. The legislation also remedies some issues for the existing IOOS program such as providing liability coverage to the regions for data dissemination, establishing procedures for transferring money between federal agencies, and establishing NOAA as the lead federal agency.

While the legislation does not provide immediate additional funding for IOOS or CeNCOOS, it does establish the program in statute. Without this authorizing legislation, IOOS was vulnerable to shifting priorities of NOAA and the Department of Commerce, particularly during lean economic times when funds are scarce. The legislation is a clear statement that Congress believes that IOOS is a valuable and necessary program.



**After 8 long years, we finally have authorization for the
Integrated Ocean Observing System!!!**