

NOAA Research International Activities Office FY03 Annual Operating Plan

Introduction

The NOAA Research International Activities Office (IA) plays a major role in facilitating and managing international collaboration in science. It serves as an interface between the research community and the policy and administrative community, both internationally and domestically. Working with NOAA Research and other U.S. research centers, IA aims to help meet both the international needs of the scientific community, as well as the broader needs for sound scientific information for policy and resource management decisions by government and the public. IA strives to consistently advocate the integrity of NOAA Research, lead by maintaining and developing strategic international partnerships, and work closely with its customers to deliver optimal return on investment.

Our Vision

A community that recognizes the importance of international science and technology cooperation for the improved understanding and sustainable use of the marine and atmospheric environment.

Our Mission

To enable NOAA Research to develop new environmental tools and capabilities by fostering strategic international partnerships, and providing critical support to its policy and operational needs.

IA Strategic Pillars

IA deliverables for FY03 support four broad objectives or strategic pillars, which are outlined in our Strategic Framework for Action. These pillars, which are listed below, assist NOAA Research to develop new environmental tools and capabilities, and serve the broader policy and administrative needs of the organization.

- < Advise NOAA Research and the Office of the Under Secretary on international research programs and issues in support of U.S. foreign policy objectives
- < Support NOAA Research programs, and its laboratories on international administrative and operational needs
- < Promote strategic alliances by developing new opportunities for partnerships with national and international organizations that benefit NOAA Research programs in climate, atmospheric, and marine research and

- < Lead U.S. oceanic and marine science and technology partnerships by administrating bilateral agreements with China, Japan and France.

FY03 Activities and Deliverables

The IA Annual Operating Plan is a performance-based tool that accounts for specific products and services the office is committed to providing for FY03. These products and services are referred to in this plan as deliverables, which are grouped in into five categories. The first four refer to the strategic pillars previously described, which support the long-term strategic goals of IA's Strategic Framework for Action. The fifth category includes administrative and management deliverables which improve IA office efficiency and operations, maximize available staff resources and talents, and meet professional developmental needs for the office.

I. Advise NOAA and its research leadership on international research programs and issues in support of U.S. foreign policy objectives.

IA will support the priorities of the Assistant Administrator for NOAA Research and the Office of the Under Secretary by coupling research activities with emerging foreign policies, national initiatives and priorities aimed at delivering new predictive and resource management capabilities for the atmosphere, oceans, and climate. IA will disseminate information about NOAA Research programs and initiatives to ensure support from policy makers in the White House Science Office, the Department of State and other agencies in the U.S. and overseas.

- ' Advise and support NOAA Research management and the Office of the Under Secretary as appropriate on high-level S&T meetings and with visiting foreign delegations, (ongoing).
- ' Advise NOAA Research on priority climate issues to assist with U.S. policy formulation and advance research, (ongoing).
- ' Consult with, and advise NOAA Research Associate Directors for Climate, Oceans and Atmospheric Sciences to stay informed on priority issues in research, and to develop a strategy for approaching international organizations to form potential partnerships, (ongoing).
- ' Serve as principal for NOAA Research on NOAA's International Advisory Council (IAC) to assist with implementing PRT recommendations on international issues, (ongoing).
- ' Sponsor three brown-bag seminars that inform the broader NOAA community of IA's international science programs and projects, (ongoing).

II. Support NOAA Research programs and its laboratories on international administrative and operational needs.

IA will provide guidance and service for NOAA Research scientists participating in international collaborations and serve as a liaison to the foreign policy community both domestically and abroad.

- ' Support CMDL's efforts to maintain its global air sampling network and assist with establishing new sampling sites where possible, (ongoing).
- ' Assist the Office for Weather and Air Quality in quantifying the potential societal/economic values to users of weather forecast improvements brought about by THORPEX research, (Q2).
- ' Prepare and process Country Clearance Cables for NOAA Research personnel traveling overseas, (ongoing).
- ' Assist OAR Laboratories with any problematic issues involving field campaigns and research operations overseas, (ongoing).
- ' Enhance outreach, education, and personal interaction between IA Staff and NOAA Research laboratories and programs by initiating site visits, attending lab and science reviews, and providing briefings and information on IA support services to scientists, (ongoing).
- ' Serve as a conduit for NOAA Research international issues with the U.S. and foreign policy communities on programmatic, policy and administrative issues, (ongoing).
- ' Complete a NOAA Research-wide assessment of its products, services, and technical expertise, to link them with international funding opportunities, (Q4).
- ' Develop NOAA Research's capacity to access and provide information on IA's products, services, and technical expertise as well as assess opportunities for NOAA Research scientists and technicians to collaborate with the international community, (Q4).
- ' Facilitate communication and promote interaction on NOAA Research's programs and priorities with other NOAA line offices, USG agencies, and the international community, (ongoing).
- ' Provide and/or arrange for NOAA Research and program briefings to national and international representatives, (ongoing).
- ' Staff and respond to administrative and informational requests from NOAA HQ and other agencies, (ongoing).

III. Promote strategic alliances by exploring new opportunities for partnerships with

national and international organizations that benefit NOAA Research programs in climate, atmospheric, and marine research.

IA will focus on developing partnerships with NOAA Line Offices, other government agencies, academia, the private sector, civil society and the international community to support the NOAA Research Partnership Mission of cooperative research focused on global-scale environmental issues.

- ' Team with NOAA Arctic Research Office to advance NOAA science priorities and facilitate collaborative partnerships in Arctic research with China, Korea and Russia, (ongoing).
- ' Advance U.S. undersea science by initiating/facilitating new international collaborative partnerships for the Office of Ocean Exploration with Japan and Korea, (Q3).
- ' Develop stronger partnerships and cooperative programs with international, governmental, and non-governmental organizations, and multi-lateral development institutions, including but not limited to, the World Bank, USAID, and the State Department, (Q4).
- ' Work with NOAA Research personnel to identify funding opportunities and collaborate on the submission of proposals to the international community, (ongoing).
- ' Develop a proposal with FSL and Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia in Mozambique to bring Mozambique scientists to FSL to produce an operational Southern Africa regional mesoscale model, (Q1).
- ' Organize briefings with USAID/DOS by Sea Grant on invasive species and the Sea Grant model, (Q3).
- ' Advance US-Japan collaboration on ocean data assimilation and climate modeling, (ongoing).
- ' Lead U.S. preparatory and follow-up efforts for a workshop to develop a regional Sea Grant program in Southeast Asia through the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Program in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), (Q3).
- ' Develop an intranet database tool for international funding opportunities and disseminate to NOAA Research and its university partners via the IA webpage, (Q3).
- ' Disseminate announcements for funding opportunities, solicit and submit proposals from the NOAA Research community to the Oceans, Environment & Scientific Initiative (OESI) and/or other programs, (ongoing).

IV. Lead U.S. oceanic and marine science and technology partnerships by administrating bilateral agreements with China, Japan and France.

International S&T agreements are valuable tools for ensuring the access to data, facilities, sites and scientific expertise, as well as sharing the costs of global-scale environmental research programs. On behalf of the U.S. Government, IA will administer three bilateral agreements in marine and ocean sciences with China, France and Japan. In addition, IA will participate in other, strategic bilateral frameworks to gain necessary political support to advance NOAA Research priorities and programs.

China

- ' Lead the U.S. preparatory and executive efforts to participate in the 16th Joint Working Group Meeting on Cooperation for the Marine and Fishery Science and Technology, (Q4).
- ' Lead U.S. preparatory, executive and follow-up efforts for the 1st U.S.-China Joint Coordination Panel Meeting for Polar Science, (Q3).
- ' Advance U.S. interests in Argo data analysis and assimilation studies by hosting a Chinese modeler at GFDL, (Q2) and ongoing
- ' Advance NOAA/CMDL carbon cycle monitoring and studies by implementing new collaborative projects with China, (Q2).
- ' Promote a partnership with China on cooperation in the field of atmospheric research by sending U.S. scientists on board the Chinese Icebreaker, *the Xuelong*, (Q4).

France

- ' Provide administrative support to the U.S. scientific team for a follow-up workshop on “New Developments in Shellfish Maricultural Genetics” to be held in the U.S., (Q4).

Japan

- ' Lead the U.S. preparatory and executive efforts for the 31st UJNR Aquaculture Panel Meeting in Yokohama, Japan, (Q1)
- ' Initiate preparations for the 32nd UJNR Aquaculture Panel Meeting, to be held in the U.S. in FY04, (Q4).
- ' Team with OSS, NURP, OE, and Navy to develop a U.S. proposal for the future of the UJNR Submersible Research, Diving Physiology, and Marine Facilities Panel, (ongoing).

Korea

- Develop/define new collaborative partnership in Arctic research Korea through the 5th U.S.-Korea Joint Working Group Meeting of the Science and Technology, (Q1).
- ' Lead U.S. preparatory, executive and follow-up efforts for a science workshop on seaweed polyculture and offshore aquaculture technology, (Q1).
- ' Lead U.S. activities to strengthen the Korea Sea Grant College Program by establishing improved channels of communication and defining joint science projects (Q2) and ongoing
- ' Team with the NOAA Library and develop a web page data base of the US-Korea aquaculture program, (Q3).
- ' Serve as U.S. focal point for coordinating activities in developing capacity on Argo data analysis, application, and assimilation with the Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI), (Q2) and ongoing

Southeast Asia

- ' Explore collaborative opportunities in applications of the Sea Grant model, (Q3).
- ' Serve as U.S. focal point to co-host a workshop in SE Asia aimed at organizing /developing a multi-national Sea Grant program in the region, (Q3).

Latin America

- ' Identify links between the U.S. Third Border Initiative and the Oceans, Environment, and Science Grant from the State Department, (Q2) and ongoing.
- ' Assess and develop a reference database on marine and coastal resource activities of international organizations and local NGOs in Mexico, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, and Brazil, (Q2).
- ' Review and compile existing environment & development information on the Gulf of Fonseca, (Q3).
- ' Conduct a socio-economic analysis and governance baseline study in Nicaragua & Honduras in the areas surrounding the Gulf of Fonseca, (Q3).
- ' Commission two-papers through the University of Rhode Island Sea Grant Program and the Coastal Resources Center that will be compiled into one white paper. Each paper will 1) integrate international experience in a developing country context: an analysis of long-term financial stability; effective linkages between applied research, extension, and public education, and 2) identify the benefits of the Sea Grant model to marine and coastal resource issues in the Gulf of Fonseca (primarily Nicaragua and Honduras), (Q3)

- ' Serve as U.S. lead to host two international meetings aimed at developing a multi-year implementation plan for a Sea Grant in Latin America, (Q4).
- ' Create a 'tri-party' agreement between, the Ministry of Agriculture – Honduras, University Zamorano - Honduras, and NOAA Research International to assess the applicability of the Sea Grant model to deal with issues in the Gulf of Fonseca, (Q3).
- ' Identify, engage, and develop working relationships with representatives of the international science community, international organizations, foreign embassies, and foreign institutions based in Washington, D.C. that are relevant to the program objectives in Central America, (ongoing).
- ' Identify funding and write proposals that support and advance NOAA Research's international program objectives in Central America, (ongoing).

V. IA Management, Administration and Diversity

- ' Finalize and implement the FY03 IA Annual Operating Plan, (Q1).
- ' Plan and hold the IA Annual retreat, (Q3).
- ' Re-examine long-range goals and objectives of the Strategic Framework for Action, (Q3).
- ' Restructure IA staff responsibilities based on shifting priorities, available staff and talent pool, (Q1).
- ' Enroll every IA staff member in professional training courses, tailored to individual developmental needs, (ongoing).
- ' Support NOAA's diversity policy by hosting an ORISE intern, (Q3).
- ' Hire 2 contractors to assist with the OESI grant, (Q3).
- ' Acquire 1 Presidential Management Intern (on detail) to complete a socio-economic and governance baseline assessment in the Gulf of Fonseca, (Q3).

FY03 IA Performance Scorecard

Deliverables	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Ongoing	Total
Projected						
Completed						
Additional						