

Global Ocean Observing Systems



Edited by
Yonggang Liu
Heather Kerker
Robert H. Weisberg



Coastal Ocean Observing Systems

Edited by

Yonggang Liu

College of Marine Science, University of South Florida,
St. Petersburg, FL, USA

Heather Kerker

Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System, University of
Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI, USA;
Sea Connections Consulting, Virginia, USA

Dr. Robert H. Weisberg

College of Marine Science, University of South Florida,
St. Petersburg, FL, USA



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Contributors

Eric J. Anderson

Great Lake Environmental Research Laboratory, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Matthew R. Archer

Department of Ocean Sciences, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, FL, USA

Luiz Paulo de Freitas Assad

Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Becky Baltes

U.S. IOOS Program Office, NOAA, Silver Spring, MD, USA

Cecília Bergman

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Aric Bickel

Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System, Moss Landing, CA, USA

Eric P. Bjorkstedt

NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

Ana Carolina Boechat

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Jose Carlos Nieto Borge

Universidad de Alcalá, Spain

Marie Bundy

Office for Coastal Management/NOS/NOAA, Silver Spring, MD, USA

Edward J. Buskey

Marine Science Institute, University of Texas, Port Aransas, TX, USA

Marcelo Montenegro Cabral

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Russell Callender

National Ocean Service, NOAA, Silver Spring, MD, USA

Ruben Carrasco

Institute of Coastal Research, Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany

Eugenio Pugliese Carratelli

Maritime Engineering Division University of Salerno (MEDUS), University of Salerno, Fisciano, Italy; CUGRI—University Centre for Research on Major Hazard, Fisciano, Italy

Matthew Carrier

Naval Research Laboratory, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, USA

Melissa L. Carter

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, CA, USA

Gabriel Vieira de Carvalho

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rubén Castro

Facultad de Ciencias Marinas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Ensenada, Baja California, México

Jeremy Cothran

Arnold School of Public Health and the Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA

Leonardo Maturo Marques da Cruz

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Fabio Dentale

Maritime Engineering Division University of Salerno (MEDUS), University of Salerno, Fisciano, Italy

L. Kellie Dixon

Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, FL, USA

Feliciano Dominguez

Instituto de Investigaciones Oceanológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Ensenada, Baja California, México

Jennifer Dorton

Center for Marine Science, University of North Carolina—Wilmington, Wilmington, NC, USA

Reginaldo Durazo

Facultad de Ciencias Marinas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Ensenada, Baja California, México

Christopher A. Edwards

Department of Ocean Sciences, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

Todd Fake

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA

Matthew C. Ferner

San Francisco Bay NERR, San Francisco State University, Tiburon, CA, USA

Jerome Fiechter

Department of Ocean Sciences, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

Xavier Flores-Vidal

Instituto de Investigaciones Oceanológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Ensenada, Baja California, México

Maurício da Rocha Fragoso

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Charlton Galvarino

Second Creek Consulting, Columbia, SC, USA

Henery Ferreira Garção

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Eduardo Gil

Instituto de Investigaciones Oceanológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Ensenada, Baja California, México

Eric W. Gill

Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Memorial University, NL, Canada

Klaus-Werner Gurgel

Institute of Oceanography, University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

Jack Harlan

NOAA/U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, Silver Spring, MD, USA

Lisa Hazard

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, USA

Debra Hernandez

Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association, Charleston, SC, USA

Jochen Horstmann

Institute of Coastal Research, Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany

Matthew K. Howard

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA

Meredith D.A. Howard

Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, Costa Mesa, CA, USA

Weimin Huang

Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Memorial University, NL, Canada

Michael G. Jacox

Department of Ocean Sciences, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

Benjamin Jaimes

Department of Ocean Sciences, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, FL, USA

Robert E. Jensen

US Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Research and Development Center, Washington, DC, USA

Ann E. Jochens

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA

Adrian Jones

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Cambridge, MD, USA

Carolyn Keen

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, USA

Heath Kelsey

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Cambridge, MD, USA

Heather Kerkerer

Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI, USA; Sea Connections Consulting, Virginia, USA

Barbara Kirkpatrick

Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System, College Station, TX, USA; Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, FL, USA

Gary J. Kirkpatrick

Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, FL, USA

Shinichi Kobara

Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA

Josh Kohut

Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System and Rutgers University, Newport, NJ, USA

Raphael M. Kudela

Ocean Sciences Department, Institute for Marine Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

Luiz Landau

Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Chad Lembke

College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA

Lynn Leonard

Department of Geography and Geology, University of North Carolina—Wilmington, Wilmington, NC, USA

Yonggang Liu

College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA

Giovanni Ludeno

Institute for Electromagnetic Sensing of the Environment (IREA), Italian National Research Council (CNR), Napoli, Italy; Department of the Industrial and Information Engineering, Second University of Naples, Aversa, Italy

Rick Luetlich

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Bjoern Lund

Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, USA

John Manderson

National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Silver Spring, MD, USA

Livia Sant'Angelo Mariano

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Jorge Martinez-Pedraja

Department of Ocean Sciences, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, FL, USA

Molly McCammon

Alaska Ocean Observing System, Anchorage, AK, USA

Clifford R. Merz

College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA

Tiago Cardoso de Miranda

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Andrew M. Moore

Department of Ocean Sciences, University of California Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA, USA

Philip Muscarella

Naval Research Laboratory, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, USA

Antonio Natale

Institute for Electromagnetic Sensing of the Environment (IREA), Italian National Research Council (CNR), Napoli, Italy

Luis F. Navarro

Instituto de Investigaciones Oceanológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Ensenada, Baja California, México

Hans Ngodock

Naval Research Laboratory, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, USA

André Luis Santi Coimbra de Oliveira

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Mark Otero

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, USA

Júlio Augusto de Castro Pellegrini

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Leif Petersen

Helzel Messtechnik GmbH, Kaltenkirchen, Germany

William T. Peterson

NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, WA, USA

Flávia Pozzi Pimentel

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Dwayne E. Porter

Arnold School of Public Health and the Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA

Josie Quintrell

IOOS Association, Harpswell, ME, USA

Dan Ramage

Arnold School of Public Health and the Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA

Jennifer Read

University of Michigan Water Center, Ann Arbor, MI, USA; Great Lakes Observing System, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Ferdinando Reale

Maritime Engineering Division University of Salerno (MEDUS), University of Salerno, Fisciano, Italy

William G. Reay

Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA, USA

Frederico Luna Rinaldi

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Leslie Rosenfeld

Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System, Moss Landing, CA, USA

Moninya Roughan

Coastal and Regional Oceanography Lab, School of Mathematics and Statistics, UNSW Australia, UNSW, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Francisco Alves dos Santos

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Natalia Gomes dos Santos

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Amandine Schaeffer

Coastal and Regional Oceanography Lab, School of Mathematics and Statistics, UNSW Australia, UNSW, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Oscar M. Schofield

Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA

David J. Schwab

University of Michigan Water Center, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Jorg Seemann

Institute of Coastal Research, Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany

Francesco Serafino

Institute for Electromagnetic Sensing of the Environment (IREA), Italian National Research Council (CNR), Napoli, Italy

Justin Shapiro

Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, FL, USA

Lynn K. Shay

Department of Ocean Sciences, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, FL, USA

Christina Simoniello

Texas A&M University, Based at University of South Florida, College of Marine Science, St. Petersburg, FL, USA

Erik Smith

North Inlet Winyah Bay NERR, Georgetown, SC, USA; The Baruch Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA

Scott Smith

Naval Research Laboratory, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, USA

Felipe Lobo Mendes Soares

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Innocent Souopgui

Department of Marine Science, University of Southern Mississippi, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, USA

Michael Spranger

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

Richard P. Stumpf

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, NOAA, Silver Spring, MD, USA

Vembu Subramanian

Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association, Charleston, SC, USA

Iain M. Suthers

School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UNSW Australia, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Eric Terrill

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, USA

Julie Thomas

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, USA

Pedro Marques São Tiago

PROOCEANO Serviço Oceanográfico, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Michelle Tomlinson

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Dwight Trueblood

Office for Coastal Management/NOS/NOAA, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, USA

Stephanie Watson

Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System Consultant, Based at Stennis, MS, USA

Robert H. Weisberg

College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA

Zdenka Willis

U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System Office, Silver Spring, MD, USA

Lucy R. Wyatt

ACORN, College of Science, Technology and Engineering, Centre for Tropical Water and Aquatic Ecosystem Research, James Cook University, Townsville, QLD, Australia; School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK

Lianyuan Zheng

College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA

Preface

Whether far or near, the ocean plays a role in everyone's life. The ocean drives weather and climate patterns across the globe, hosts an abundance of wildlife that support fishing industries and provide food for the world, serves as a highway for vessels that deliver everyday materials, and supports economies as a tourism destination. A healthy relationship with the oceans requires that we understand it. One way to understand it is through observing.

In 2004, the Pew Ocean Commission and the U.S. Ocean Commission released reports that stressed the need for expanding coastal ocean observing capabilities and improving collaborations among entities collecting ocean information. The recommendation mirrored similar initiatives in other countries, as well as set the stage for other countries to follow suit. In response to these recommendations, there are now regional, national, and global ocean observing systems designed to provide critical coastal and ocean information for decision-making. *Coastal Ocean Observing Systems: Advances and Syntheses* highlights the system development, scientific discoveries, technology advancements, societal benefits, and partnerships made over the last decade of growth and international support of coastal ocean observing entities.

The contents of this book were originally derived from the 2014 Ocean Sciences Meeting Session #009 entitled, "Scientific and Societal Benefits from Integrated Coastal Ocean Observations and Networked Marine Laboratories." The session included 24 presentations from different academic institutions, private sectors, government agencies, and observing programs. The presentations covered various aspects of the development and value of coastal ocean observing systems and provided a state-of-the-art overview of the science and technology in this field. Some of the book chapters are contributed by the participants and are based on their presentation topics and developments since. Other invited chapters cover lessons learned in building effective coastal observing systems and new technologies; improving, analyzing, and sharing acquired data; applying observed data to advance the science of coastal oceanography; creating inter-agency and interinstitutional partnerships at regional and international scales; and in developing decision-making products that greatly impact our economy, society, and environment.

The book includes worldwide examples of advancement in coastal observing systems. It features a collection from international academics, managements, and industries on the latest developments in several emerging issues of coastal ocean observing systems, with a focus on reporting scientific and technological knowledge gained and the resulting societal benefits.

The audience for this book may be as diverse as the individuals involved in moving a coastal ocean observing system from an idea to an operational, beneficial entity. Government and academic leaders, scientists, oceanographers, and ocean engineers will find value in the coastal ocean observing system developments,

scientific syntheses, and technology advancements. Resource managers, students, state and federal agencies, and legislators, for example, will also find value in learning more about the societal benefits and users of coastal ocean observing systems and data. The chapters that highlight lessons learned on partnerships, governance, structure, data management, and stakeholder relationships may act as guidance to parties interested in establishing, restructuring, or improving similar systems. Additional readers may include the media and general public interested in marine science, ocean observing, and the coastal environment.

Yonggang Liu, Heather Kerkering, and Robert H. Weisberg
Editors

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Alexander, Charles	Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA
Archer, Matthew	Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, USA
Arellano, Ana R.	College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, USA
Beard, Russ	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Coastal Data Development Center, USA
Beardsley, Robert C.	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, USA
Beck, Marcus	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USA
Blumberg, Alan F.	Davidson Laboratory, Stevens Institute of Technology, USA
Chen, Zhiqiang	South Florida Water Management District, USA
Cosoli, Simone	Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e Geofisica Sperimentale, Italy
Flampouris, Stylianos	Naval Research Laboratory, University of Southern Mississippi, USA
Horstmann, Jochen	Department of Radar Hydrography, Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Germany
Huang, Weimin	Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering, Memorial University, Canada
Kirkpatrick, Barbara	Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System, Mote Marine Laboratory, USA
Le Hanaff, Matthieu	Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, USA

Li, Zhijin	Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, USA
McCabe, Ryan M.	Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean, University of Washington, USA
McCammon, Molly	Alaska Ocean Observing System, USA
Merz, Clifford R.	College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, USA
Moltmann, Tim	Integrated Marine Observing System, University of Tasmania, Australia
Morrison, J. Ru	Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, USA
Paduan, Jeffrey D.	Naval Postgraduate School, USA
Oliver, Matthew	College of Earth, Ocean and Environment, University of Delaware, USA
Pan, Chudong	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Florida Atlantic University, USA
Proctor, Roger	Integrated Marine Observing System, University of Tasmania, Australia
Quintrell, Josie	The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Association, USA
Rivas, David A.	Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada (CICESE), Departamento de Oceanografía Biológica, Mexico
Rubio, Anna	AZTI-Tecnalia, Marine Research Division, Herrera Kaia Portualdea, Spain
Senet, Christian	Bundesamt fuer Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie, Germany
Solabarrieta, Lohitzune	AZTI-Tecnalia, Marine Research Division, Herrera Kaia Portualdea, Spain
Subramanian, Vembu	Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association, USA
Vann, Timi S.	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USA
Vicen-Bueno, Raúl	Signal Theory and Communications Department, Superior Polytechnic School, University of Alcalá, Spain
Vilibic, Ivica	Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Physical Oceanography Laboratory, Croatia
Wee, Brian	National Ecological Observatory Network, Inc., Smithsonian Institution, USA
White, David L.	College of Engineering and Science, Clemson University, USA
Zhang, Aijun	Center for Operational Oceanographic Products & Services, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric, USA
Zhang, Minwei	College of Marine Science, University of South Florida, USA
Zhao, Jun	Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, United Arab Emirates