



Success

Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System

CeNCOOS

OceanObs: The CeNCOOS Online Database for Ocean Observing

Project Description

OceanObs was created in May 2005 in collaboration with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMON). It is the first web based metadata inventory for research on the ocean and factors that influence this environment in northern and central California. It is also a data discovery tool for a variety of users. Metadata includes CeNCOOS partner: program descriptions, principle investigators, data manager contact information, links to research data products and study sites. The site provides a tool for partner programs to manage their metadata.

Applications

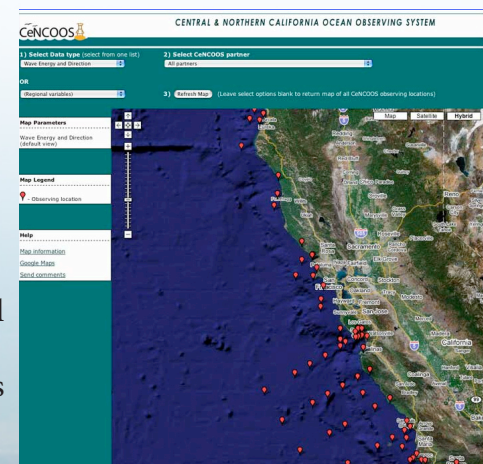
- OceanObs is a continually evolving web database that allows users to search for information collected by researchers.
- Metadata is added to the inventory by partner data managers and CeNCOOS staff.
- Users can scroll through the observing project inventory component of OceanObs and click on links to view information and links to program data or use the query option to view all programs studying a particular variable of interest.
- The OceanObs interactive Google map allows users to search for sites sampled by partner research programs. Query menus allow sites to be narrowed down to those sampled by program, variable or subregion.

Value

- OceanObs has expanded in its 2+ years of operation to represent a valuable resource to regional researchers, resource managers, policy makers, educators, industries and recreational enthusiasts.
- The inventories current statistics include: 52 partner programs, 111 variables, 85 unique devices, 2615 study sites and 390 data products.
- A cost-free way for partner programs to organize past, present and future activities to benefit themselves and other information seekers
- A place for researchers to find scientific collaborations and avoid redundancy in activities throughout the region by becoming aware of other projects.

Future Development

- ◆ Our goal is to continue adding research partners from the region and update current programs, while improving OceanObs capabilities and easy of use.
- ◆ OceanObs represents an important step toward integrating data from multiple disciplines of ocean research by identifying sources and formats of existing data.
- ◆ OceanObs is a regional node serving the national observing system (IOOS) in its efforts to create a national registry of ocean observing.



Resources

- <http://www.cencoos.org>
- <http://oceanobs.org>