Geophysical Research Abstracts, Vol. 7, 08762, 2005
SRef-ID: 1607-7962/gra/EGU05-A-08762

The US Integrated Ocean Observing System

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The US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS; see http://ocean.us) is the United States component of the Global Ocean Observing System and consists of an open-ocean and a coastal ocean component. Observations of oceanic variables, such as currents, water levels, temperatures, and surface meteorology, and model products based on these observations have been available in real-time from several locations around the US for a number of years. These local and regional ocean observing systems constitute prototypes for the coastal component of the Integrated Ocean Observing System. Some successes of these systems include increased safety and efficiency of maritime transportation, improved search and rescue, improved response to spills of hazardous materials, and increased efficiency of electric power generation in coastal regions. Specific examples will be presented from the NOAA Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS; see http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/d_ports.html), the Southeast Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing System (SEACOOS; see http://seacoos.org), the New Jersey Shelf Observing System (http://rucool.rutgers.edu/mrs/), the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System (http://gomoos.org), and from other regional efforts. In support of the development of the IOOS, the Alliance for Coastal Technologies (http://act-us.info) is fostering new sensor technologies for coastal ocean observation through workshops, an online database and discussion forum, and technology verification trials.