

Zdenka's Opening Remarks – MARACOOS 2012 Annual Meeting – Nov

Good morning and it always my pleasure to be here with MARACOOS. Our thoughts are with our colleagues who are still very much involved in recovery efforts after the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy. A storm with the lowest central pressure of any storm in our hemisphere, with peak winds of greater than 60 mph in Virginia, Maine, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, dumped over 10 inches of rain in New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and Delaware and over two feet of snow in North Carolina, Maryland, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. Many areas were flooded not only from storm surge but also inland from streams and rivers, and the buoys in Lake Michigan recorded a 21 foot wave.

I want to begin by thanking you for the observing and forecasting efforts pre storm that allowed folks to prepare and during the storm that keep vital information flowing to support the forecast efforts. Once again we have proved that **IOOS[®] works!**

Next I want to thank MARACOOS for your support during MTS Oceans 12 – where IOOS hit a grand slam. Our booth looked great and was very well coordinated with the US IOOS Program Office, MARACOOS, NERACOOS and SECOORA – it showed we really are a complete system. We were across from NOAA booth and NOAA's display team complemented us on how we coordinated with them and that they understood US IOOS much better. They thought, and I agree, that we all did a wonderful job of showcasing the importance of ocean observing. Thanks to Scott and Mike who worked really hard for the Ignite event. There were also many papers by the MARACOOS team. Dr. Sullivan and NOAA headquarters were still talking about IOOS and Oceans 12 several days after the event which really is a quite a feat for DC where unfortunately problems tend to dominate our days.

IOOS is a cross-sector enterprise that touches almost every aspect of ocean science and management. US IOOS has some exciting times ahead and we need to be prepared to take advantage of this opportunity. IOOS just stood up the Federal Advisory Committee. The members of the IOOS Advisory Committee come from the state, local, tribal government sector, academia and industry and are geographically diverse. Dr. Rick Spinrad, Oregon State University, chairs the IOOS AC; Tony MacDonald – a member of MARACOOS is 1 of 13 members of the FAC. Federal advisory committees are unique and valuable contributors to improving how the federal government functions. FACs tend to think more broadly and in a more integrated fashion than any one federal agency. FACs tend to think more deeply on given topics than we often make the time to do in our day-to-day federal lives. I feel this Committee has the right members, hailing from the many ocean observing sectors and geographies, to be a strong voice of support and guidance for this national endeavor. We had a very successful first meeting and the FAC is working on a 100 day statement.

The IOOS Summit, being held in 2 weeks, comes ten years after the Airlie House workshop that laid out a shared vision for IOOS. The upcoming Summit offers us the ability to reflect on what we set out to do and to measure progress to date.

The IOOS townhall during Oceans12 was billed as a prelude to the summit. Dr. Sullivan, NOAA's Assistant Secretary for Observations and Predictions, provided the opening remarks and she made three points that I think are worth conveying again.

- (1) She has joined the IOOS story in progress and is pleased to be a part of the story making
- (2) During the summit we need to take a look at what is working, why it worked and seek to replicate those efforts. Equally we need to take a strong at what have been the impediments and look each other in the eye and say "What are we going to do about this?"

(3) We are unlikely to see rising budgets – community must recognize a path forward that is a “constant dollar pathway” and she asked the question is this beyond our innovative technology but quickly answered that she thought we were up for the challenge.

Next week will bring change, whether the Presidential Administration changes ranks come January or begins its second term, changes are certain to happen politically. We need to be ready.

At the townhall, former Secretary of the Navy Don Winter talked about the need for IOOS to have a consensus on priorities, we need to agree on the relative ranking of IOOS with other priorities. He urged us to have a simple, cogent and consistent set of objectives that we all support and articulate.

These words could not have been more on the mark and we have the opportunity with the Federal Advisory Committee, the Summit and you to prepare our message that **IOOS works**, and we really can demonstrate the value of an integrated IOOS for the nation. IOOS as a brand stands enabling decisions making and underpinning scientific advances.

Your agenda reflects what IOOS is about, connecting to those who need information to make a myriad of decisions and I look forward to the decisions and I look forward to the sessions and engaging in the dialog with you.