

**JSOST Washington D.C. Information Session**  
**NOAA Herbert Hoover Building**  
**October 27, 2006**

**Comment:** Are public comments still being accepted?

**Response:** The formal date for public comments closed on October 20 but we are still open to comments received at this session.

**Comment:** Will there be a public comment period for the Implementation Strategy (I.S.)?

**Response:** There will not be a formal public comment period. However, there will be opportunities to have discussions on the I.S.

**Comment:** It seems like the most critical and difficult issues to address are the metrics. Where are we now, what are the rates of improvement, and what is good enough. Are these metrics being addressed?

**Response:** One of the principals in the I.S. is a mechanism to assess performance. What is good enough will be determined by the needs of the users and this will come out of close work with the Subcommittee on Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR).

**Comment:** How do you see the NGOs, academics, local governments, etc. on board when developing their own Implementation Plans?

**Response:** The Federal government cannot carry the entire load for implementation, so we need to find venues and mechanisms to work with states and other folks. We have a commitment for dialogue and an open approach, but any suggestion would be appreciated. A number of states have already modeled their structure after this one, so this is an encouraging step.

**Comment:** The I.S. won't discuss budgets for any particular agency but will there be any discussion of overall budget numbers?

**Response:** Overall budget will be manifested in the next steps and the plans of federal agencies, states, etc. There will not be a budget break down in the IS, but steps to get there. A major hurdle to overcome was to strike the right level of granularity in the priorities. We tried to develop priorities that could be translated into appropriate budget levels. We are also developing internal mechanisms to identify priorities on an annual basis and provide these to the agencies. Hopefully we can have direct interaction with the budget process.

**Comment:** There was a mention of exploring collaborations with other countries. What plans do you have to partner with other countries, especially in the areas of observations?

**Response:** We feel comfortable, since all JSOST members have been involved in this process, that we can position ourselves in a leader position with the priorities listed in the Ocean Research Priorities Plan. There are some niches to fill and there are areas where the US can be a stronger leader, and we need to have more discussions in the future.

**Comment:** Where does the Department of Defense fit into all of this?

**Response:** The Office of Naval Research and the Joint Chiefs of Staff have and continue to play a role in this process; both are members of the JSOST and SIMOR. DOD was not on the Federal State Task Team because their mission is not specifically related to ocean resources.

**Comment:** It seems that it would be beneficial to have an open public comment period for the I.S. in the same way that was done for the Priorities Plan. This might help with the development of individual Implementation Plans.

**Response:** We hope this I.S. is just a starting point and is a way to articulate what the Federal agencies would like to do.

**Comment:** The plan lays out the overall priorities for the U.S. There will be individuals who will take these one, regardless of budget outcomes. How will you convey the grand problems to the general population?

**Response:** We are dealing with this right now. We need to develop a communication strategy, especially with Congress. We have not identified all the mechanisms yet and recognize that this needs to be accomplished.

**Comment:** Interested in how you are going to address some of the public comments that point out a need to add more emphasis on the land/ocean interaction. How will there be more focus on the coastal zone?

**Response:** This document already represents open ocean to coastal science priorities; a significant part of the report focuses on coastal issues. The big part is how to get the federal coastal issues down to the state and local level. This issue will be a challenge for the community to move forward.

**Comment:** How do you plan on emphasizing education in the I.S.?

**Response:** JSOST and SIMOR co-sponsor an Interagency Working Group on Ocean Education and this group has already done a lot (such as the Conference on Ocean Literacy) that has not been presented today. There are also plans to leverage partnerships and other on going activities.

**Comment:** We can't deal with ocean issues without looking at the atmosphere. Is this connection being addressed and how will you integrate these priorities with the atmosphere scientists?

**Response:** A number of theme areas have an atmosphere connection, including climate change and natural hazards.

**Comment:** How is data assimilation being addressed?

**Response:** Many of these elements are being captured in the cross-cutting themes. We hope to build on existing policies and structures (such as ORRAP). We hope to emphasize some of these issues when we incorporate the public comments into the next version of the plan.