## Distribution List for Draft Site-Specific EA for OOI

The following provides a list of federal and state agencies, tribal governments, and other interested parties that were sent a copy (electronic or hardcopy) of the Draft SSEA. Following the distribution list are representative letters illustrating the content of the initial Interagency/Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP) letters as well as all written responses to the IICEP letters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency/Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>USACE</strong></td>
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  EPA Region 1  
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  cc: Don Grant, SPCC Coordinator  
  Tim Williamson |
| Region 10            | Jonathan Freedman  
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<th>Agency/Jurisdiction</th>
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| **Sector Southeastern New England** | US Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England  
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| **Sector Seattle** | D.R. Peloquin  
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| Rhode Island        | Jeff Willis  
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| Makah Nation        | Janine Bowechop, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
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cc: Russ Svec, Fisheries Resources |
| Quileute Nation     | Melvin Moon, Director  
Quileute Natural Resources Department  
Quileute Nation  
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<th>Agency/Jurisdiction</th>
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| Quinault Nation     | Justine James  
Cultural Resources  
Quinault Indian Nation  
PO Box 189  
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cc: Ed Johnstone, Fisheries Resources, Policy Spokesperson  
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<td>New England Fishery Management Council</td>
<td>Paul Howard, Executive Director</td>
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<td>50 Water Street, Mill 2</td>
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<td>Newburyport, MA 01950</td>
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<td><strong>OTHER STAKEHOLDERS/INTERESTED PARTIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Dale Beasley</td>
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<td>Columbia River Crab Fishermen's Association</td>
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<td>P.O. Box 461</td>
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<td>Ilwaco, WA 98624</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>Garrett Dalan, Environmental Health Specialist</td>
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<td>Grays Harbor Marine Resources Committee</td>
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<td>Grays Harbor County</td>
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<td>100 West Broadway, Suite 31</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
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<td>Michael Baldwin</td>
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<td>Mark Cedergreen</td>
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<td>PFMC Council Member &amp; Westport Charter Assoc.</td>
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<td>The Nature Conservancy</td>
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<td>Cosmopolis, WA 98537</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>Bill Walsh, President</td>
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<td>Coalition of Coastal Fisheries</td>
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<td>5132 Donnelly Dr. SE</td>
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<td>Zona Miller</td>
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<td>Robin Leraas</td>
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<td>Port of Grays Harbor</td>
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<td>PO Box 660</td>
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<td>Aberdeen, WA 98520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Scott McMullen, Chairman</td>
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<td>Oregon Fisherman’s Cable Committee (OFCC)</td>
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<td>2021 Marine Dr., Suite 102</td>
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<td>Astoria, OR 97103</td>
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<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Craig Wenrick, Co-Chair</td>
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<td>Pacific City Dorymen’s Association</td>
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<td>P.O. Box 728</td>
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<td>Pacific City, OR 97135</td>
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<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Paul Hanneman, Co-Chair</td>
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<td>P.O. Box 728</td>
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</table>
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<th>Agency/Jurisdiction</th>
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| New England         | Michael L. Marchetti, President  
Eastern New England Scallop Association  
3119 Post Road  
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5 May 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR:  Mark Sudol
Regulatory Branch
Headquarters
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC  20314

ON BEHALF OF:  National Science Foundation (NSF)
Division of Ocean Sciences
Suite 725
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA  22230

SUBJECT:  Site Specific Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI)

Dear Dr. Sudol,

On behalf of NSF, TEC Inc. (TEC), a subcontractor for The Consortium for Ocean Leadership (Ocean Leadership), is preparing a site-specific EA for the installation and operation of the OOI. The site-specific EA will be tiered off of previously developed documents including a Final Programmatic EA (PEA) (June 2008). TEC requested comments on the PEA from the USACE in January 2008; we did not receive any comments from USACE at that time. The Notice of Availability of the Draft PEA was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2008 announcing the opening of a 30-day public comment period. The Final PEA was followed by a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (February 2009) and a Supplemental Environmental Report (SER) (April 2009). TEC requested comments on the SER from the USACE in April 2009; we did not receive any comments from the USACE at that time. The Final PEA, FONSI, and SER for the OOI can be viewed on NSF’s website at: http://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/envcomp/ under “Ocean Observatories Initiative”.

As part of the NEPA process, the environmental analysis of the installation and operation of the OOI now moves from the programmatic to the site-specific stage. The site-specific EA will update information previously described in the PEA and SER with more detailed descriptions of the proposed infrastructure, noting any changes to the location of the infrastructure and the technology to be deployed, as well as addressing any new findings regarding potential impacts. The purpose of this letter is to invite the USACE to act as a Cooperating Agency to provide input early in the site-specific development process, and to assist NSF in identifying potential issues during the preparation of the site-specific EA.

Overview of the OOI

To provide the U.S. ocean sciences research community with the basic sensors and infrastructure required to make sustained, long-term, and adaptive measurements in the oceans, NSF’s Division of Ocean Sciences is funding the construction and operation of the OOI using input from community-wide, national, and international scientific planning efforts. The OOI is building upon recent technological advances, experience with existing ocean observatories, and lessons learned from several successful pilot and test bed projects. When completed, the OOI will be an interactive, globally distributed, integrated network of cutting-edge ocean observing capabilities. The network will enable the next generation of
complex ocean studies at coastal, regional, and global scales. The OOI is a key NSF contribution to the broader effort to establish the operationally focused Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). As these efforts mature, the research-focused observatories envisioned by the OOI will be networked to become an integral part of the IOOS and in turn will be a key and enabling U.S. contribution to the international Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

The OOI infrastructure includes cables, buoys, underwater vehicles, moorings, junction boxes, power generators (solar, wind, and fuel cell), and two-way communications systems. This large-scale infrastructure will support sensors located at the sea surface, in the water column, and at or beneath the seafloor. The OOI will also support data dissemination and archiving, oceanographic process modeling, and education and outreach activities essential to the long-term success of ocean science.

The OOI represents a significant departure from traditional approaches in oceanography and a shift from expeditionary to observatory-based research. It will include the first U.S. multi-node cabled observatory; fixed and relocatable coastal arrays coupled with mobile assets; and advanced buoys for interdisciplinary measurements, especially for data-limited areas of the Southern Ocean and other high-latitude locations.

The OOI Project is funded in part by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) via a cooperative agreement with NSF. Three academic-based Implementing Organizations manage the construction, installation, and operation of the Coastal, Global, Regional, and Cyberinfrastructure components of the OOI. The OOI Program Office, located within Ocean Leadership, provides overall project management, integration, and oversight for the construction and operation of OOI infrastructure. Ocean Leadership is responsible to NSF for delivering the operational OOI network and will be the designated owner/operator of the OOI network.

Global-, Regional-, and Coastal-Scale Nodes

The OOI design includes several moored sensor arrays representing global, regional, and coastal scales. At the global and coastal scales, moored observatories will provide locally generated power to instruments for data collection, and use a satellite link to transmit data. Figures 1, 2a, and 3a represent the OOI infrastructure design at the time the PEA and the SER were completed. Figures 1, 2b, and 3b represent the infrastructure to be deployed in the next 5 years showing the reduction in infrastructure since the PEA and SER.

Four global-scale Nodes (GSN) or buoy sites will be located in the Northern and Southern hemispheres in the Eastern Pacific and Atlantic oceans (Figure 1). The Regional-scale Nodes (RSN) spanning the seafloor of the Juan de Fuca tectonic plate will consist of seafloor observatories with various chemical, biological, physical, and geological sensors linked to shore by submarine cables that provide power and Internet connectivity (Figure 2b). The Endurance Array off the coast of Washington and Oregon (Figure 2b) and the relocatable Pioneer Array off the coast of Massachusetts (Figure 3b) are Coastal-scale Nodes (CSN). Mobile assets - autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and gliders - will be integrated with the GSN, RSN, and CSN observatories.

Environmental Compliance and Interagency Coordination

On behalf of the NSF and in accordance with 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 640, TEC is preparing a site-specific EA pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code §4321, et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (Title 40 CFR §§1500-1508); and Executive Order (EO) 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions.
NSF is moving from the programmatic to the site-specific stage of compliance with the associated regulatory requirements. As explained above, the site-specific EA will be tiered off of the PEA to analyze any potential site-specific impacts not previously addressed in the PEA or SER. The site-specific EA will also serve as an umbrella document to demonstrate or support environmental compliance obligations with other applicable statutes including the River and Harbors Act (RHA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), and Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), among others.

In accordance with EO 12372, *Inter-governmental Review of Federal Programs* and to encourage efficiencies in completing the environmental reviews associated with the OOI, NSF invites USACE to be a Cooperating Agency during the preparation of the site-specific EA and also requests USACE’s assistance in identifying potential issues to be addressed in the site-specific EA. Installation and operation of the OOI will not commence until all required environmental reviews, including NSF’s compliance with the RHA, CWA, MSA, ESA, and CZMA and other applicable statutes, are completed.

On behalf of NSF, TEC requests your comments no later than 5 June 2010; however, comments received at any time throughout the NEPA process will be considered to the extent possible in the preparation of the EA. To submit comments or questions, or to request participation as a Cooperating Agency, please contact Rick Spaulding, Project Manager, TEC at (206) 855-4997, rlspaulding@tecinc.com or Jean McGovern, OOI Program Director, Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF at (703) 292-7591.

Rick Spaulding
Sr. Biologist/Project Manager
TEC Inc.

cc: Jean McGovern, OOI Program Director, NSF
    Susan Banahan, Associate Dir., OOI, Ocean Leadership
    Joanne Bintz, Science & Environmental Compliance Mgr., OOI, Ocean Leadership
    Karen Kochenbach, Northwestern Division, USACE
    Karen Adams, Regulatory Branch Chief, USACE New England District
    James McMillan, Sr. Regulatory Project Manager, Portland District
    Casey Ehorn, Project Manager, Seattle District

**Attachments**
- Figure 1. Geographic Location of the Proposed OOI Infrastructure
- Figure 2a. Location of Pacific Northwest RSN, CSN (Endurance Array), and Associated Glider Mission Boxes Previously Assessed in the 2008 PEA and 2009 SER
- Figure 2b. Location of Pacific Northwest RSN, CSN (Endurance Array), and Associated Glider Mission Boxes to be Installed and Operating by 2015
- Figure 3a. Overview of the Proposed Locations of the Atlantic Coast CSN (Pioneer Array) and Associated AUV and Glider Mission Boxes Previously Assessed in the 2008 PEA and 2009 SER
- Figure 3b. Overview of the Proposed Locations of the Atlantic Coast CSN (Pioneer Array) and Associated AUV and Glider Mission Boxes to be Installed and Operating by 2015
Figure 1
Geographic Locations of the Proposed OOI Infrastructure
to be Installed by 2015

Note: Although the Mid-Atlantic Ridge site was assessed in the PEA and SER, its installation is not anticipated within the next 5 years.
Figure 2a
Location of Pacific Northwest RSN, CSN (Endurance Array), and Associated Glider Mission Boxes Previously Assessed in the 2008 PEA and 2009 SER
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Figure 3b
Location of the Atlantic Coast CSN (Pioneer Array) and Associated AUV and Glider Mission Boxes to be Installed and Operating by 2015
9 April 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Craig Zora
Aquatic Area Manager
Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
601 Bond Rd.
Castle Rock, WA 98611-0190

ON BEHALF OF: National Science Foundation (NSF)
Division of Ocean Sciences
Suite 725
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230

SUBJECT: Site-specific Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI)

Dear Mr. Zora,

On behalf of NSF, TEC Inc. (TEC), a subcontractor for The Consortium for Ocean Leadership (Ocean Leadership), is preparing a site specific EA for the installation and operation of the OOI. The site-specific EA will be tiered off of previously developed documents including a Final Programmatic EA (PEA) (June 2008). TEC requested comments on the PEA from the DNR in January 2008; we did not receive any comments from the DNR at that time. The Notice of Availability of the Draft PEA was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2008 announcing the opening of a 30-day public comment period. The Final PEA was followed by a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (February 2009) and a Supplemental Environmental Report (SER) (April 2009). TEC requested comments on the SER from the DNR in April 2009; we did not receive any comments from the DNR at that time. The Final PEA, FONSI, and SER for the OOI can be viewed on NSF’s website at: http://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/envcomp under “Ocean Observatories Initiative”.

As part of the NEPA process, the environmental analysis of the installation and operation of the OOI now moves from the programmatic to the site-specific stage. The site-specific EA will update information previously described in the PEA and SER with more detailed descriptions of the proposed infrastructure, noting any changes to the location of the infrastructure and the technology to be deployed, as well as addressing any new findings regarding potential environmental impacts. The purpose of this letter is to invite the DNR to provide input early in the site-specific development process, and to assist NSF in identifying potential issues during the preparation of the site-specific EA.

Overview of the OOI

To provide the U.S. ocean sciences research community with the basic sensors and infrastructure required to make sustained, long-term, and adaptive measurements in the oceans, NSF’s Division of Ocean Sciences is funding the construction and operation of the OOI using input from community-wide, national, and international scientific planning efforts. The OOI is building upon recent technological advances, experience with existing ocean observatories, and lessons learned from several successful pilot and test bed projects. When completed, the OOI will be an interactive, globally distributed, integrated network of cutting-edge ocean observing capabilities. The network will enable the next generation of
complex ocean studies at coastal, regional, and global scales. The OOI is a key NSF contribution to the broader effort to establish the operationally focused Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). As these efforts mature, the research-focused observatories envisioned by the OOI will be networked to become an integral part of the IOOS and in turn will be a key and enabling U.S. contribution to the international Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

The OOI infrastructure includes cables, buoys, underwater vehicles, moorings, junction boxes, power generators (solar, wind, and fuel cell), and two-way communications systems. This large-scale infrastructure will support sensors located at the sea surface, in the water column, and at or beneath the seafloor. The OOI will also support data dissemination and archiving, modeling oceanographic processes, and education and outreach activities essential to the long-term success of ocean science.

The OOI represents a significant departure from traditional approaches in oceanography and a shift from expeditionary to observatory-based research. It will include the first U.S. multi-node cabled observatory; fixed and relocatable coastal arrays coupled with mobile assets; and advanced buoys for interdisciplinary measurements, especially for data-limited areas of the Southern Ocean and other high-latitude locations.

The OOI Project is funded in part by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) via a cooperative agreement with NSF. Three academic-based Implementing Organizations manage the construction, installation, and operation of the Coastal, Global, Regional, and Cyberinfrastructure components of the OOI. The OOI Program Office, located within Ocean Leadership, provides overall project management, integration, and oversight for the construction and operation of OOI infrastructure. Ocean Leadership is responsible to NSF for delivering the operational OOI network and will be the designated owner/operator of the OOI network.

Global-, Regional-, and Coastal-Scale Nodes

The OOI design includes several moored sensor arrays representing global, regional, and coastal scales. At the global and coastal scales, moored observatories will provide locally generated power to instruments for data collection, and use a satellite link to transmit data. Figures 1, 2a, and 3a represent the OOI infrastructure design at the time the PEA and the SER were completed. Figures 1, 2b, and 3b represent the infrastructure to be deployed in the next 5 years showing the reduction in infrastructure since the PEA and SER.

Four global-scale Nodes (GSN) or buoy sites will be located in the Northern and Southern hemispheres in the Eastern Pacific and Atlantic oceans (Figure 1). The Regional-scale Nodes (RSN) spanning the seafloor of the Juan de Fuca tectonic plate will consist of seafloor observatories with various chemical, biological, physical, and geological sensors linked to shore by submarine cables that provide power and Internet connectivity (Figure 2b). The Endurance Array off the coast of Washington and Oregon (Figure 2b) and the relocatable Pioneer Array off the coast of Massachusetts (Figure 3b) represent Coastal-scale Nodes (CSN). Mobile assets - autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and gliders - will be integrated with the GSN, RSN, and CSN observatories.

Environmental Compliance and Interagency Coordination

On behalf of the NSF and in accordance with 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 640, TEC is preparing a site-specific EA pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code §4321, et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (Title 40 CFR §§1500-1508); and Executive Order (EO) 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions.
NSF is moving from the programmatic to the site-specific stage of compliance with the associated regulatory requirements. As explained above, the site-specific EA will be tiered off of the PEA to analyze any potential site-specific impacts not previously addressed in the PEA or SER. The site-specific EA will also serve as an umbrella document to demonstrate or support environmental compliance obligations with other applicable statutes including the River and Harbors Act (RHA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), and Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), among others. In particular, the site-specific EA will support a coastal consistency determination under the CZMA.

In accordance with EO 12372, *Inter-governmental Review of Federal Programs* and to encourage efficiencies in completing the environmental reviews associated with the OOI, we request DNR’s assistance in identifying potential issues to be addressed in the site-specific EA for consistency with Washington’s CZMA. Installation and operation of the OOI will not commence until all required environmental reviews, including NSF’s compliance with the CZMA, RHA, CWA, CAA, MSA, ESA, and other applicable statutes, are completed.

On behalf of NSF, TEC requests your comments no later than 9 May 2010; however, comments received at any time throughout the NEPA process will be considered to the extent possible in the preparation of the EA. To submit comments or questions, please contact Rick Spaulding, Project Manager, TEC at (206) 855-4997, rjspaulding@tecinc.com or Jean McGovern, OOI Program Director, Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF at (703) 292-7591.

Rick Spaulding
Sr. Biologist/Project Manager
TEC Inc.

cc: Jean McGovern, Project Officer, NSF
Susan Banahan, Associate Dir., OOI, Ocean Leadership
Joanne Bintz, Science & Environmental Compliance Mgr., OOI, Ocean Leadership
Lori Ochoa, Washington Department of Ecology

**Attachments**

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9 April 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: Justine James
Cultural Resources
Quinault Indian Nation
PO Box 189
Taholah, WA  98587-0189

FROM: National Science Foundation (NSF)
Division of Ocean Sciences
Suite 725
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA  22230

SUBJECT: Site-specific Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI)

Dear Mr. James,

On behalf of NSF, TEC Inc. (TEC), a subcontractor for The Consortium for Ocean Leadership (Ocean Leadership), is preparing a site specific EA for the installation and operation of the OOI. The EA will be tiered off of previously developed documents including a Final Programmatic EA (PEA) (June 2008). The Notice of Availability of the Draft PEA was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2008 announcing the opening of a 30-day public comment period. The Final PEA was followed by a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (February 2009) and a Supplemental Environmental Report (SER) (April 2009). The PEA, FONSI, and SER for the OOI can be viewed on NSF’s website at: http://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/envcomp/ under “Ocean Observatories Initiative”.

As part of the NEPA process, the environmental analysis of the installation and operation of the OOI now moves from the programmatic to the site-specific stage. The site-specific EA will update information previously described in the PEA and SER with more detailed descriptions of the proposed infrastructure, noting any changes to the location of the infrastructure and the technology to be deployed, as well as addressing any new findings regarding potential environmental impacts. The purpose of this letter is to invite the Quinault Nation, which has natural or cultural resource interests and treaty rights within the project area, to provide input early in the site-specific development process and to assist NSF in the identification of potential issues during the preparation of the site specific EA.

Overview of the OOI

To provide the U.S. ocean sciences research community with the basic sensors and infrastructure required to make sustained, long-term, and adaptive measurements in the oceans, NSF’s Division of Ocean Sciences is funding the construction and operation of the OOI using input from community-wide, national, and international scientific planning efforts. The OOI is building upon recent technological advances, experience with existing ocean observatories, and lessons learned from several successful pilot and test bed projects. When completed, the OOI will be an interactive, globally distributed, integrated network of cutting-edge ocean observing capabilities. The network will enable the next generation of complex ocean studies at coastal, regional, and global scales. The OOI is a key NSF contribution to the broader effort to establish the operationally focused Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). As these
efforts mature, the research-focused observatories envisioned by the OOI will be networked to become an integral part of the IOOS and in turn will be a key and enabling U.S. contribution to the international Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

The OOI infrastructure includes cables, buoys, underwater vehicles, moorings, junction boxes, power generators (solar, wind, and fuel cell), and two-way communications systems. This large-scale infrastructure will support sensors located at the sea surface, in the water column, and at or beneath the seafloor. The OOI will also support data dissemination and archiving, modeling oceanographic processes, and education and outreach activities essential to the long-term success of ocean science.

The OOI represents a significant departure from traditional approaches in oceanography and a shift from expeditionary to observatory-based research. It will include the first U.S. multi-node cabled observatory; fixed and relocatable coastal arrays coupled with mobile assets; and advanced buoys for interdisciplinary measurements, especially for data-limited areas of the Southern Ocean and other high-latitude locations.

The OOI Project is funded in part by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) via a cooperative agreement with NSF. Three academic-based Implementing Organizations manage the construction, installation, and operation of the Coastal, Global, Regional, and Cyberinfrastructure components of the OOI. The OOI Program Office, located within Ocean Leadership, provides overall project management, integration, and oversight for the construction and operation of OOI infrastructure. Ocean Leadership is responsible to NSF for delivering the operational OOI network and will be the designated owner/operator of the OOI network.

**Global-, Regional-, and Coastal-Scale Nodes**

The OOI design includes several moored sensor arrays representing global, regional, and coastal scales. At the global and coastal scales, moored observatories will provide locally generated power to instruments for data collection, and use a satellite link to transmit data. Figures 1, 2a, and 3a represent the OOI infrastructure design at the time the PEA and the SER were completed. Figures 1, 2b, and 3b represent the infrastructure to be deployed in the next 5 years showing the reduction in infrastructure since the PEA and SER.

Four global-scale Nodes (GSN) or buoy sites will be located in the Northern and Southern hemispheres in the Eastern Pacific and Atlantic oceans (Figure 1). The Regional-scale Nodes (RSN) spanning the seafloor of the Juan de Fuca tectonic plate will consist of seafloor observatories with various chemical, biological, physical, and geological sensors linked to shore by submarine cables that provide power and Internet connectivity (Figure 2b). The Endurance Array off the coast of Washington and Oregon (Figure 2b) and the relocatable Pioneer Array off the coast of Massachusetts (Figure 3b) represent Coastal-scale Nodes (CSN). Mobile assets - autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and gliders - will be integrated with the GSN, RSN, and CSN observatories.

**Environmental Compliance and Interagency Coordination**

On behalf of the NSF and in accordance with 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 640, TEC is preparing a site-specific EA pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 United States Code §4321, *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (Title 40 CFR §§1500-1508); and Executive Order (EO) 12114, *Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions*. The site-specific EA is also intended to document NSF’s compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 USC §470).
The PEA indicated that all recorded submerged cultural resources would be avoided by the proposed RSN submarine cables, anchored buoys of the CSN, and associated scientific instruments on the seafloor. In addition the proposed activities associated with the use of gliders and the installation and operation of the proposed Endurance Array – Grays Harbor Line (see Figure 2a) will not impact the use or availability of the Tribal Usual and Accustomed (U&A) fishing areas designated by treaty off the west coast of Washington State. These findings will be reviewed again for the site-specific EA.

NSF is moving from the programmatic to the site-specific stage of compliance with the associated regulatory requirements. As explained above, the site-specific EA will be tiered off of the PEA to analyze any potential site-specific impacts not previously addressed in the PEA or SER. The site-specific EA will also serve as an umbrella document to demonstrate or support environmental compliance obligations with other applicable statutes including Section 106 of the NHPA, Clean Water Act (CWA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), among others. In particular, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.3(b), the Section 106 NHPA consultation process will be combined with the site-specific EA (NEPA) analysis.

In accordance with EO 12372, Inter-governmental Review of Federal Programs, NSF requests the Quinault Nation’s assistance in identifying potential issues to be addressed in the site-specific EA and for purposes of conducting Section 106 consultation. Installation and operation of the OOI will not commence until all required environmental reviews, including NSF’s compliance with NHPA Section 106, are completed.

NSF requests your comments no later than 9 May 2010; however, comments received at any time throughout the NEPA process will be considered to the extent possible in the preparation of the site-specific EA. To submit comments or questions, please contact Jean McGovern, OOI Program Director, Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF at (703) 292-7591 or nepacomments@nsf.gov, or Rick Spaulding, Project Manager, TEC at (206) 855-4997.

Jean McGovern
OOI Program Director
NSF

cc: Susan Banahan, Associate Dir., OOI, Ocean Leadership
Joanne Bintz, Science & Environmental Compliance Mgr., OOI, Ocean Leadership
Rick Spaulding, Project Manager, TEC
Ed Johnstone, Fisheries Resources, Policy Spokesperson, Quinault Indian Nation
Joe Schumacker, Fisheries Resources, Quinault Indian Nation

Attachments:
• Figure 1. Geographic Location of the Proposed OOI Infrastructure
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April 20, 2010

Mr. Rick Spaulding
TEC Inc.
6765 NE Day Road
Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110

Re: Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) Project
Log No.: 011108-50-NSF

Dear Mr. Spaulding;

Thank you for contacting our Department. We have reviewed the materials you provided for the proposed Endurance Array – Grays Harbor Line for Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) Project in Grays Harbor County, Washington.

Thank you for your description of the Area of Potential Effect (APE). We concur with your determination of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) as described and illustrated in the attached figures. We understand that once micro-sitting of each facility is decided further on-site cultural resources analysis will occur. We agree.

We look forward to receiving the results of your review, consultations with the concerned tribes, the on-site survey, and your determination of effect when available. We would also appreciate receiving any correspondence or comments from concerned tribes or other parties that you receive as you consult under the requirements of 36 CFR 800.4(a)(4).

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer in compliance with the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and its implementing regulations 36 CFR 800.4. Should additional information become available, our assessment may be revised, including information regarding historic properties that have not yet been identified. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to receiving the professional report on the results of your investigations.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Whitlam, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist
(360)586-3080
e-mail: rob.whitlam@dahp.wa.gov
[This page intentionally left blank.]
TEC, Inc.
Attn: Mr. Rick Spaulding, Project Manager
6765 NE Day Road
Bainbridge Island, WA. 98110

Dear Mr. Spaulding,

I am writing in regards to your letter (Re: Site Specific Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI)) dated April 9th, 2010, which discusses the placement of ocean surface, subsurface and seafloor equipment off the Oregon and Washington coasts, as well as the coast of Massachusetts.

Please be aware this office has jurisdiction over the Oregon and Washington coast part of your project. I am providing a copy of your letter to our First Coast Guard District, Waterways Management Branch as they have jurisdiction over the Massachusetts portion of your project.

To ensure that your west coast project is properly reviewed I ask that you submit information to the following Coast Guard Commands:

- 13th Coast Guard district, Waterways Management Branch
- Coast Guard Sector Seattle, Waterway Management Branch
- Coast Guard Sector Portland, Waterways Management Branch

If you have any questions, contact my representative Mr. Timothy Westcott at (206) 220-7285 or by email at d13-pf-paton@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

B.R. PELOQUIN
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Waterways Management Branch

Encl: Environmental Assessment letter for Ocean Observatories Initiative dated April 9th, 2010

Copy: 1.) Coast Guard Sector Seattle, Waterway Management Branch
2.) Coast Guard Sector Portland, Waterways Management Branch
3.) 1st Coast Guard District, Waterways Management Branch
4.) Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England, Waterways Management Branch
5.) National Science Foundation, Division of Ocean Sciences
Commander
Coast Guard Sector Seattle
Waterway Management Branch
1519 Alaskan Way South, Bldg 4
Seattle, WA. 98134-1192

Commander
Coast Guard Sector Portland
Waterway Management Branch
6767 North Basin
Portland, OR 97217-3992

Commander (dpw)
1st Coast Guard District
408 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02110

Commander
U.S. Coast Guard Sector
Southeastern New England
Waterway Management Branch
1 Little Harbor Road
Woods Hole, MA 02543

National Science Foundation
Division of Ocean Sciences
Attn: Ms. Jean McGovern
4201 Wilson Blvd., Suite 725
Arlington, VA. 22230
Dear Mr. Spaulding:

Thank you for including our Association on your organization's list for comment on the EA for the OOI.

We are in the process of reviewing the University of Washington's *Electro-Magnetic Effects from the OOI/Regional Scaled Nodes Cables* and other related information.

As you may know, our Association represents approximately 200 commercial and recreational marine vessels that designate Pacific City as their "home port". The proposed cable crossing is centered directly within our finfish and shellfish area.

Again, thank you for including us on your list for comment.

Paul Hanneman, co/chair
THE PACIFIC CITY DORYMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.
PO Box 728, Pacific City, Oregon, 97135
(503) 965-6004 or Craig Wenrick, co/chair (503)965-6352
email:  phanneman@wcn.net
email:  seaq@oregoncoast.com
Rick,  
I have attached a letter from Jeff Willis, Deputy Director of the RI Coastal Resources Management Council indicating that the proposed OOI appears to be consistent with the RI Coastal Resources Management Program. A hard copy will follow via snail mail. This sounds like a great project and we look forward to its implementation. Please keep us informed on the progress.  
Thanks  
Janet  

Janet Freedman  
Coastal Geologist  
Coastal Resources Management Council  
4808 Tower Hill Road  
Wakefield, RI 02879  
phone: 401-783-3370  
fax: 401-783-3767  
website: [www.crmc.ri.gov](http://www.crmc.ri.gov)
June 4, 2010

Rick Spaulding, Project Manager (TEC Inc.)
National Science Foundation
Division of Ocean Sciences
Suite 725
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230

RE: Site Specific Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI)

Thank you for the opportunity to identify potential issues to be addressed in the site-specific EA for consistency with Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Program. I have reviewed the Final Programmatic EA (PEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the installation and operation of the Ocean Observatories Initiative. The proposed project appears to be consistent with Rhode Island’s coastal zone management program.

Moreover, I agree that there is a need for data collection on the coastal, regional and global scales to understand and monitor future climate impacts to our oceans. This agency wholeheartedly supports the OOI efforts and look forward to incorporating the data results into the CRMC policy and planning actions.

Sincerely,

Jeff Willis, Deputy Director
Thank you for providing your comments on the scope of EA for the proposed installation and operation of the OOI. Public involvement is a fundamental part of the development of the OOI EA and NSF wants and appreciates your comments. Please provide comments no later than July 23, 2010 to ensure consideration in the Draft EA. Comments may be submitted at this meeting, via email at nepacommments@nsf.gov, or via U.S. Postal Service to the address below. For more information go to http://www.oceanobservatories.org.

***Please print – additional space is provided on back***

1. Name: **MARK CEDERGREEN**

2. Address: **PO BOX 654, WESTPORT, WA 98595**
   (WESTPORT CHARTERBOAT ASSOCIATION)

3. Please check here [ ] if you would like to be on the mailing list.

4. Please check here [ ] if you would like your name/address kept private.

5. Would you like to receive a hard copy [ ] or CD [ ] of the Draft EA?

Please give this form to one of the NSF representatives, place in the comment drop box, or mail by July 23 to:

Jean McGovern
OOI Program Director, Division of Ocean Sciences
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd, Ste 725, Arlington, VA 22230
July 12, 2010

To: Jean McGovern, OOI Program Director  
Division of Ocean Sciences  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Blvd, Ste 725  
Arlington, VA 22230

From: Mark Cedergreen, Executive Director  
Westport Charterboat Association  
POB 654  
Westport, WA 98595

Re: OOI Endurance Array Washington Candidate Sites

General comments:

- Thank you for having a meeting in Westport. Sorry there weren’t more people in attendance
- We are generally supportive of Scientific research
- It would be nice if you worked in fathoms or feet for depth rather than meters!

Specific sites:

**Inshore Site**
- This site is the most controversial of the 3.
  - It lies within some of the most lucrative and heavily fished crab grounds off Washington.
  - 50-200 feet of water are prime crabbing areas
- The north side of Grays Harbor contains 150-200 reefs / pinnacles that are frequented by recreational fishermen both on charter boats and private boats.
- The spot currently designated on the north side is a virtual “freeway” from March through September. Crab season is January through late summer.
- A location south of the Grays Harbor entrance would reduce charter boat encounters by 80+% and there are no reefs between Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay in shallow water.
- Attached are suggested minor changes if you chose not to move to the south. These changes would put a little more distance between your site and an actively fished reef.

**Shelf Site**
- This site has fewer problems than the inshore site.
  - However it lies in a major north-south shipping lane. Tugs & barges mostly.
  - Attached are suggested minor changes if you chose not to move this site. These changes would put a little more distance between your site and an actively fished reef.

**Offshore Site**
- To our knowledge, this site has very few negatives

Thanks again for coming to Westport!
INSHORE OOI LOCATION

As currently proposed 46-59.52 N  124-15.00 W

As proposed by Westport Charterboat Association 47-00.00 N  124-15.00 W

Closed box – 0.2nm radius 46-59.80 – 47-00.20  124-15.30 – 124-14.70

REEF LOCATION

46-59.10 N  
124-15.70 W

RECOMMENDATION: Staying on the 124-15.00 longitude line, move the latitude north from 46-59.52 to 47-00.00 degrees

- Distance from reef to OOI SW corner would be about 0.7 nm or 4250 feet

SHELF OOI LOCATION

As currently proposed 46-59.52 N  124-33.00 W

As proposed by Westport Charterboat Association 47-00.00 N  124-34.00 W

Closed box – 0.5nm radius 46-59.50 – 47-00.50  124-34.70 – 124-33.30

REEF LOCATION

46-59.50 N  
124-32.50 W

RECOMMENDATION: Move the Latitude line north to 47 degrees (creates ½ mile N-S separation and keeps both inshore and shelf sites on the same lat line

- Move OOI longitude line out 1 degree (0.7 nm) to 124-34.00
- 0.5 nm site radius box would establish a separation of 1/2 nm E-W and 0.0 nm N-S
- Distance from eastern N-S boundary of OOI to reef would be about 0.5 nm or 3,000 feet
IN-SHORE

124-16  124-15  124-14

NEW OOI

currently proposed OOI

0.75 mm

REEF

47°

46°59'
SHELF

NEW OOI

0.5 nm Box

Currently Proposed OOI

REEF

3350'

47°

46.59°
July 20, 2010

National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd. Ste 725
Arlington, Va. 22230

Dear Jean McGovern,

The Coalition of Coastal Fisheries is asking for a 90 day delay in the sitting/NEPA process for an ocean project by the National Science Foundation off the Washington coast. The fishing industry is supportive of the project called Ocean Observatories Initiative (O.O.I) as it is proposed to locate an array of sensors off the Washington coast to record base line information about the ocean such as currents, temperatures, salinity, pH, weather conditions, etc. The industry agrees that this information will not only be valuable for our day to day operations, but it also should be useful in the investigation of climate change and ocean acidification.

The problem all our fishing groups have is that the industry was not appraised of the OOI project until late May. Most of our Coalition members are spread from California to Alaska in various fisheries that are most active in the summer months. It is very important that the sensors for the OOI project are carefully located, as the areas covered by the sensors will become inaccessible to the fishing industry. The industry wants to participate to insure that the sensors are located where we can obtain the most information with a minimum interruption to the coastal fishing activity.

Currently, the National Science Foundation is scheduling to have the sitting and draft EA document complete by the end of August. For our fishing organization to have quality input into the sitting and draft EA, we need a minimum of a 90 day delay in the schedule. The 90 day delay will give our industry members time to return from their summer fishing opportunities and have significant correspondence concerning the sitting of the proposed sensor arrays off the Washington coast.

This request would move the target date for sitting decisions to by finalized by the end of November, 2010.

Sincerely,

Bill Walsh, President

cc Grays Harbor County Commissiners
Governor Chris Gregoire
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February 18, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR:              Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
                                      1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203
                                      Silverdale, WA 98315-1101
                                      ATTN: Mrs. Kimberly Kler - NWTRC EIS

FROM:                       The Consortium for Ocean Leadership
                                      Ocean Observing Initiative Project Office
                                      1201 New York Avenue, 4th Floor
                                      Washington, DC 20001

SUBJECT: The Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) Project

Dear Mrs. Kler,

The purpose of this comment is to introduce the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) project to the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest with respect to the Navy’s Northwest Training Range Complex EIS/OEIS and NAVSEA NUWC Keyport Range Complex EIS/OEIS. The Consortium for Ocean Leadership is the lead management organization for the proposed installation and operation of the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) Network. The construction of this ocean observatory will be funded through a cooperative agreement between Ocean Leadership and the National Science Foundation (NSF), with funding from the NSF Major Research Equipment Facilities Construction (MREFC) account. The OOI Project is managed by Ocean Leadership (OL) in collaboration with academic-based Implementing Organizations: the University of Washington, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, University of California – San Diego, Oregon State University, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Overview of OOI

To provide the U.S. ocean sciences research community with the basic sensors and infrastructure required to make sustained, long-term, and adaptive measurements in the oceans, the NSF’s Ocean Sciences Division is developing the OOI from community-wide, national, and international scientific planning efforts. The OOI builds upon recent technological advances, experience with existing ocean observatories, and lessons learned from several successful pilot and test bed projects. The proposed OOI will be an interactive, globally distributed and integrated network of cutting-edge ocean observing capabilities. This network will enable the next generation of complex ocean studies at the coastal, regional, and global scale. The OOI is a key NSF contribution to the broader effort to establish the proposed operationally focused national system known as the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). As these efforts mature, the research-focused observatories envisioned by the OOI will be networked to become an integral part of the IOOS and in turn will be a key and enabling U.S. contribution to the international Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).
The OOI infrastructure will include cables, buoys, underwater vehicles, moorings, junction boxes, power generation (solar, wind, fuel cell, and/or diesel), and two-way communications systems. This large-scale infrastructure will support sensors located at the sea surface, in the water column, and at or beneath the seafloor. The OOI will also support related elements, such as data dissemination and archiving, modeling of oceanographic processes, and education and outreach activities essential to the long-term success of ocean science.

The OOI represents a significant departure from traditional approaches in oceanography and a shift from expeditionary to observatory-based research. It would include the first U.S. multi-node cabled observatory; fixed and relocatable coastal arrays coupled with mobile assets; and advanced buoys for interdisciplinary measurements, especially for data-limited areas of the Southern Ocean and other high-latitude locations.

Global, Regional, and Coastal Scale Nodes
The OOI design is based upon three main components at global, regional, and coastal scales. At the global and coastal scales, mooring observatories would provide locally generated power to seafloor and platform instruments and sensors for data collection, and use a satellite link for data transmission and communication to shore and the Internet. Up to six Global Scale Nodes (GSN) or buoy sites are proposed for ocean sensing in the Eastern Pacific and Atlantic oceans. The Regional Scale Nodes (RSN) off the coasts of Washington and Oregon will consist of seafloor observatories with various chemical, biological, and geological sensors linked to shore by submarine cables that provide power and Internet connectivity. Coastal Scale Nodes (CSN) will be represented by the Endurance Array off the coast of Washington and Oregon and the relocatable Pioneer Array off the coast of Massachusetts. In addition, there will be an integration of mobile assets such as autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and gliders with the GSN and CSN observatories.

Environmental Compliance and Interagency Coordination

We note that the OOI research facility and operations are not considered in the NWTRC Draft EIS (for instance under Chapter 4, Cumulative Effects: 4.1.3.7 Scientific Research). The northern extent of our fixed research facility lies south of the NWTR W-237A Warning Area and outside of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. However, we note the close proximity of our observation platforms on the shelf and slope west of Grays Harbor (Endurance Array) to W-237A. Also, the observation platforms west of Newport (Endurance Array) lie close to, or within W-570. Science platforms on the cabled Regional Scale Nodes of the OOI also lie below various offshore Warning Areas. Essentially all of the OOI Endurance Array and much of the Regional Scale cabled observing network lie within the general Pacific Northwest Operating Area (PACNW OPAREA).
At this time, supplementary environmental analyses are being initiated to consider possible additions to the OOI proposed design as described in the OOI Final PEA. Please refer to the OOI Final PEA (Chapter 2, section 2.2 Proposed Action) for descriptions of the proposed infrastructure. The possible additions to the OOI design being considered are:

1. The addition of two moorings, paired surface and subsurface, at 500 meters depth on the Grays Harbor Line (description of the Grays Harbor Line in the OOI Final PEA, section 2.2.1.1 on page 20; also see Figure 2-1 for location of the Grays Harbor Line and Figure 2-2 for a diagram of the paired moorings).

2. Undersea cable connection from the Subduction Zone (N4) of the Region Scale Nodes to the subsurface moorings at the 500 and 80 meter sites on the Grays Harbor Line (see Figure 2-8 on page 30 for the location of N4).

3. Addition of a Global site in the Argentine Basin of the Southern Atlantic Ocean, approximate location at 42°S, 42°W (see Figure 2-13 on page 39 for a diagram of proposed mooring infrastructure).

We will continue to consult with the Navy COMSUBPAC and COMSUBGRU NINE on the operation of these research facilities, per NAVSEA Instruction 4740.1A, during the USCG PATON and JARPA permitting processes. We will also continue our coordination with NAVFAC Headquarters, Naval Submarine Cable Protection Office. Should you have any questions or desire additional information, please feel free to contact me by phone at 202-787-1604 or via email at sbanahan@oceanleadership.org. We look forward to the ongoing coordination of this ocean observing facility with Navy operations.

Best regards,

Susan Banahan
Associate Director, Ocean Observing
Consortium for Ocean Leadership

cc: Tim Cowles, Director, Ocean Observing, OL
    Stuart Williams, Director of Engineering, OL
    Libby Signell, Project Manager, WHOI
    Robert Collier, Project Manager, OSU
    Peter Barletto, Project Manager, UW
    Matthew Arrott, Project Manager, UCSD
    Shelby Walker, Project Officer, NSF
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