

### 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.

<i>Agency/Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Contact</i>
<b>USACE</b>	
Headquarters	Dr. Mark Sudol Regulatory Branch, Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 441 G Street, NW Washington, DC 20314
New England District	Karen Adams, Regulatory Branch Chief USACE New England District 696 Virginia Rd Concord, MA 01742
Seattle District	Casey Ehorn, Project Manager USACE Seattle District PO Box 3755 Seattle, WA 98124-3755
Portland District	James McMillan, Sr. Regulatory Project Manager US Army Corps of Engineers CENWP-0D-GP PO Box 2946 Portland, OR 97208-2946
Portland District	Karen Kochenbach USACE Northwestern Division PO Box 2870 Portland, OR 97208-2870
Portland District	Michael Turaski Chief, Regulatory Branch, Permits Section USACE Portland District PO Box 2946 Portland, OR 97208-2946
Portland District	Dominic Yballe, Project Manager USACE Portland District PO Box 2946 Portland, OR 97208-2946
<b>USEPA</b>	
Region 1	Roger Janson, Director Water Quality Management Unit EPA Region 1 1 Congress St, Suite 1100 Boston, MA 02114-2023 cc: Don Grant, SPCC Coordinator Tim Williamson
Region 10	Jonathan Freedman Aquatic Resources Program EPA Region 10 1200 Sixth Ave, Suite 900 Seattle, WA 98101
<b>USCG</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> District	Steven Pothier Waterways Management, Private Aids to Navigation First Coastguard District 408 Atlantic Ave. Boston, MA 02110

<i>Agency/Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Sector Southeastern New England	US Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England Attention: Waterways Division 20 Risho Avenue East Providence, RI 02914
Sector Seattle	D.R. Peloquin Commander, US Coast Guard Chief, Waterways Management Branch 915 Second Ave. Seattle, WA 98174-1067
13 <sup>th</sup> District	Tim Westcott, PATON Manager 13 <sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District 915 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave, Room 3510 Seattle, WA 98174-1067
Portland	Kate Jackson Waterways Management USCG Sector Portland 6767 N. Basin Ave. Portland, OR 97217
<b>USFWS</b>	
Headquarters	John Fay Division of Endangered Species 420 ARLSQ 4401 N. Fairfax Drive Arlington, VA 22203
NE Regional Office	Marjorie Snyder USFWS Northeast Region 300 Westgate Center Dr Hadley, MA 01035-9589 e-mail: <a href="mailto:Marjorie.snyder@fws.gov">Marjorie.snyder@fws.gov</a>
Pacific Regional Office	Terry Rabot, Assistant Regional Director Ecological Services USFWS, Pacific Region 911 NE 11 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Portland, OR 97232
<b>NOAA</b>	
Headquarters	Steve Leathery, National NEPA Coordinator NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 14555 Silver Spring, MD 20910
Headquarters	James Lecky, Director Office of Protected Resources 1315 East West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20901
Headquarters	Angela Somma, Chief Endangered Species Division NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Protected Resources 1315 East West Hwy Silver Spring, MD 20901
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<i>Agency/Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Contact</i>
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OR Field Office	Michael Tehan, Director Oregon State Habitat Office 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Suite 1100 Portland, OR 97232
Northwest Region	Kim Kratz, Director Oregon State Habitat Conservation Division 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Suite 1100 Portland, OR 97232
SW WA Branch	Dan Guy, Branch Chief NOAA Fisheries 510 Desmond Dr., SE, Suite 103 Lacey, WA 98503
NE Regional Office	Patricia Kurkul, Regional Administrator NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office One Blackburn Drive Gloucester, MA 01930-2298
National Marine Sanctuaries	Vicki Wedell NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Program 1305 East West Highway (N/ORM6) SSMC4, #11500 Silver Spring, MD 20910 cc: Steve Gittings, Science Coordinator
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary	Dr. Craig MacDonald, Superintendent Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary 175 Edward Foster Road Scituate, MA 02066
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary	Carol Bernthal, Superintendent Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary 115 Railroad Ave, E Port Angeles, WA 98362 cc: Ed Bowlby
<b>State Coastal Zone Management Program Offices</b>	
Washington	Craig Zora, Aquatic Area Manager Washington Department of Natural Resources 601 Bond Rd. Castle Rock, WA 98611-0190
Washington	Lori Ochoa Washington State Dept of Ecology 300 Desmond Drive PO Box 47600 Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Oregon	Dale Blanton Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development 635 Capitol St., NE, Suite 150 Salem, OR 97301
Oregon	Jay Charland Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development 635 Capitol St., NE, Suite 150 Salem, OR 97301
Massachusetts	Robert L. Boeri, Acting Project Review Coordinator Office of Coastal Zone Management Executive Office of Environmental Affairs 251 Causeway Street, Suite 800 Boston, MA 02114

<i>Agency/Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Rhode Island	Jeff Willis Coastal Resources Management Council Stedman Office Building 4808 Tower Hill Rd. Wakefield, RI 02879-1900
Connecticut	Tom Ouellette Office of Long Island Sound Programs Department of Environmental Protection 79 Elm Street, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Hartford, CT 06106-5127
New York	Steven C. Resler, Deputy Bureau Chief Division of Coastal Resources Department of State 41 State Street Albany, NY 12231-0001
<b>STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICES</b>	
Oregon	Julie Osborne, Review and Compliance Specialist Oregon Parks and Recreation Department State Historic Preservation Office 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C Salem, OR 97301
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Washington	Greg Griffith, Deputy SHPO Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation 1063 South Capitol Way, Suite 106 Olympia, WA 98501
Washington	Rob Whitlam, State Archaeologist Washington State Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation 1063 South Capitol Way, Suite 106 Olympia, WA 98501
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Hoh Tribe	Alexis Barry Cultural Resources Hoh Tribe PO Box 2196 Forks, WA 98331 cc: Joe Gilbertson, Fisheries Resources
Makah Nation	Janine Bowe chop, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Makah Nation PO Box 115 Neah Bay, WA 98357 cc: Russ Svec, Fisheries Resources
Quileute Nation	Melvin Moon, Director Quileute Natural Resources Department Quileute Nation PO Box 279 La Push, WA 98350-0279

<i>Agency/Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Quinault Nation	Justine James Cultural Resources Quinault Indian Nation PO Box 189 Taholah, WA 98587-0189 cc: Ed Johnstone, Fisheries Resources, Policy Spokesperson Joe Schumacker, Fisheries Resources
<b>STATE SEA GRANT OFFICES</b>	
New York	New York Sea Grant c/o NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation 47-40 21st Street Long Island City, NY 11101
Massachusetts	Diane Murphy, Fisheries and Aquaculture Specialist Woods Hole Sea Grant and Cape Cod Coop. Extension P.O. Box 367 Barnstable, MA 02630
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Massachusetts	Madeleine Hall-Arber, Marine Social Scientist Manager, Marine Social Sciences MIT Sea Grant College Program, E38-300 Massachusetts Institute of Technology 77 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02139-9999
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Washington	Steve Harbell Washington Sea Grant PO Box 88 South Bend, WA 98586
Oregon	Stephen Brandt, Director Oregon Sea Grant Oregon State University 322 Kerr Administration Building Corvallis, OR 97331-2131
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Pacific Fishery Management Council	Donald McIsaac, Executive Director Pacific Fishery Management Council 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
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Mid Atlantic Marine Fisheries Management Council	Richard Seagraves, Deputy Executive Director Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council 800 N. State St., Suite 201 Dover, DE 19901-3910
Mid Atlantic Marine Fisheries Management Council	Kathy Collins Public Affairs Specialist Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council 800 N. State St., Suite 201 Dover, DE 19901-3910

<i>Agency/Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Contact</i>
New England Fishery Management Council	Paul Howard, Executive Director New England Fishery Management Council 50 Water Street, Mill 2 Newburyport, MA 01950
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Washington	Garrett Dalan, Environmental Health Specialist Grays Harbor Marine Resources Committee Grays Harbor County 100 West Broadway, Suite 31 Montesano, WA 98563-3614
Washington	Ray Toste Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Association P.O. Box 2678 Westport, WA 98595
Washington	Michael Baldwin PO Box 541 Westport, WA 98595
Washington	Mark Cedergreen PFMC Council Member & Westport Charter Assoc. PO Box 654 Westport, WA 98595
Washington	Eric Devlin The Nature Conservancy 120 East Union Ave, Suite 216 Olympia, WA 98502
Washington	Thea Lloyd PO Box 750 Cosmopolis, WA 98537
Washington	Gary Vining F/V <i>Pacific Dove</i> 2069 Forrest St. South Westport, WA 98595
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Washington	Zona Miller 202 W. Bonge Ave Westport, WA 98595
Washington	Robin Leraas Port of Grays Harbor PO Box 660 Aberdeen, WA 98520
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Oregon	Terry Dillman Newport News Times 831 NE Avery Street Newport, OR 97365
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Oregon	Terry Thompson Lincoln County Board of Commissioners 225 West Olive Street, Room 110 Newport, Oregon 97365
Oregon	Nancy Fitzpatrick Oregon Albacore Commission & Oregon Salmon Commission PO Box 983 Lincoln City, OR 97367-0983
Oregon	Bob Eder Fishermen Interested in Natural Energy (FINE) 4064 NW Cherokee Ln Newport, OR 97365-1553
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Oregon	Lisa Cobb Port Orford Ocean Resource Team (POORT) P.O. Box 679 Port Orford, OR 97465
Oregon	Onno Husing, Director Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association PO Box 1033 Newport, OR 97365
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<i>Agency/Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Contact</i>
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Rhode Island	Ocean State Fishermen's Association 10 Howard Street Barrington, RI, 02806-1406
Rhode Island	Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association P.O. Box 421 Wakefield, RI 02880
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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/occe/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](mailto: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

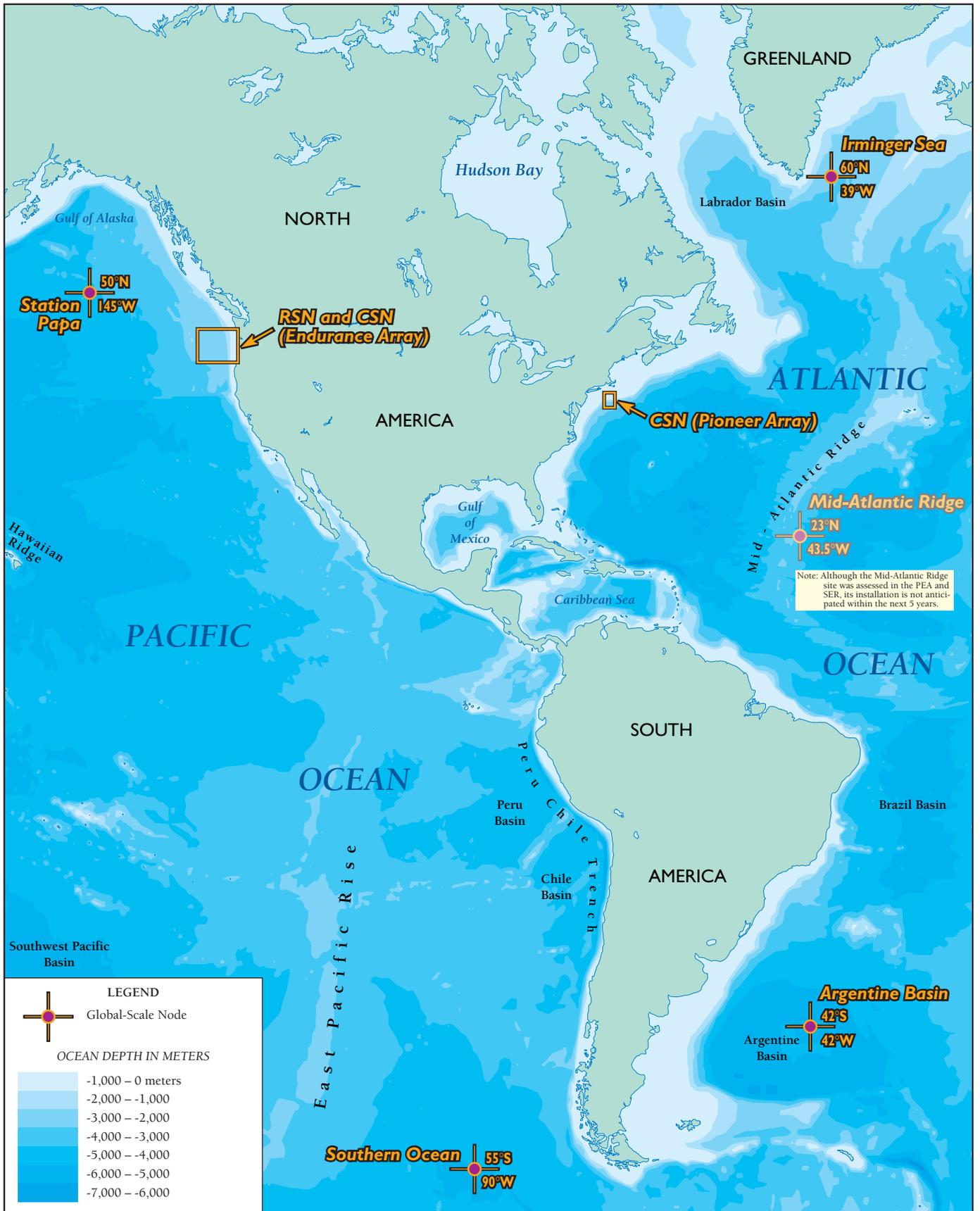
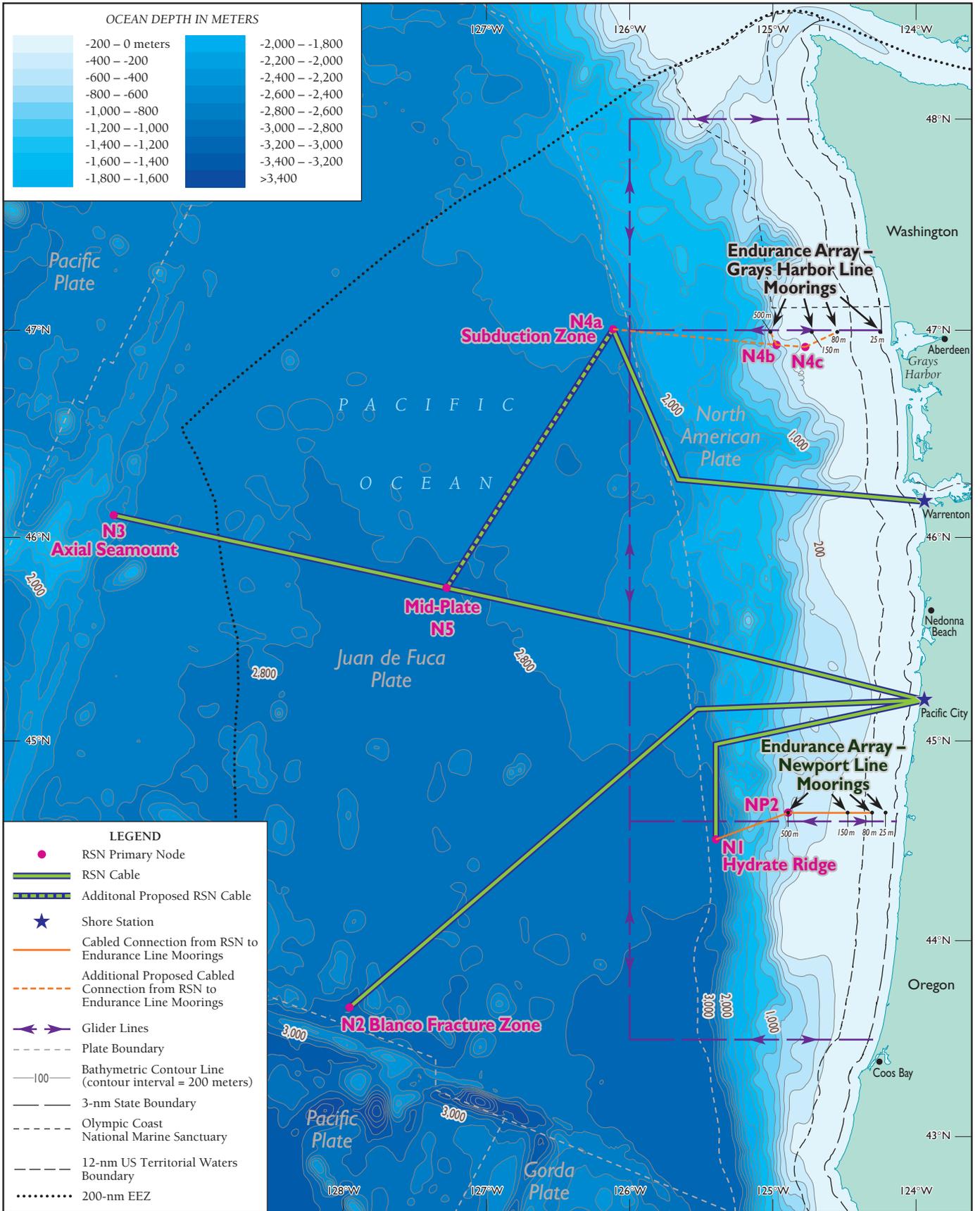


Figure 1  
 Geographic Locations of the Proposed OOI Infrastructure  
 to be Installed by 2015





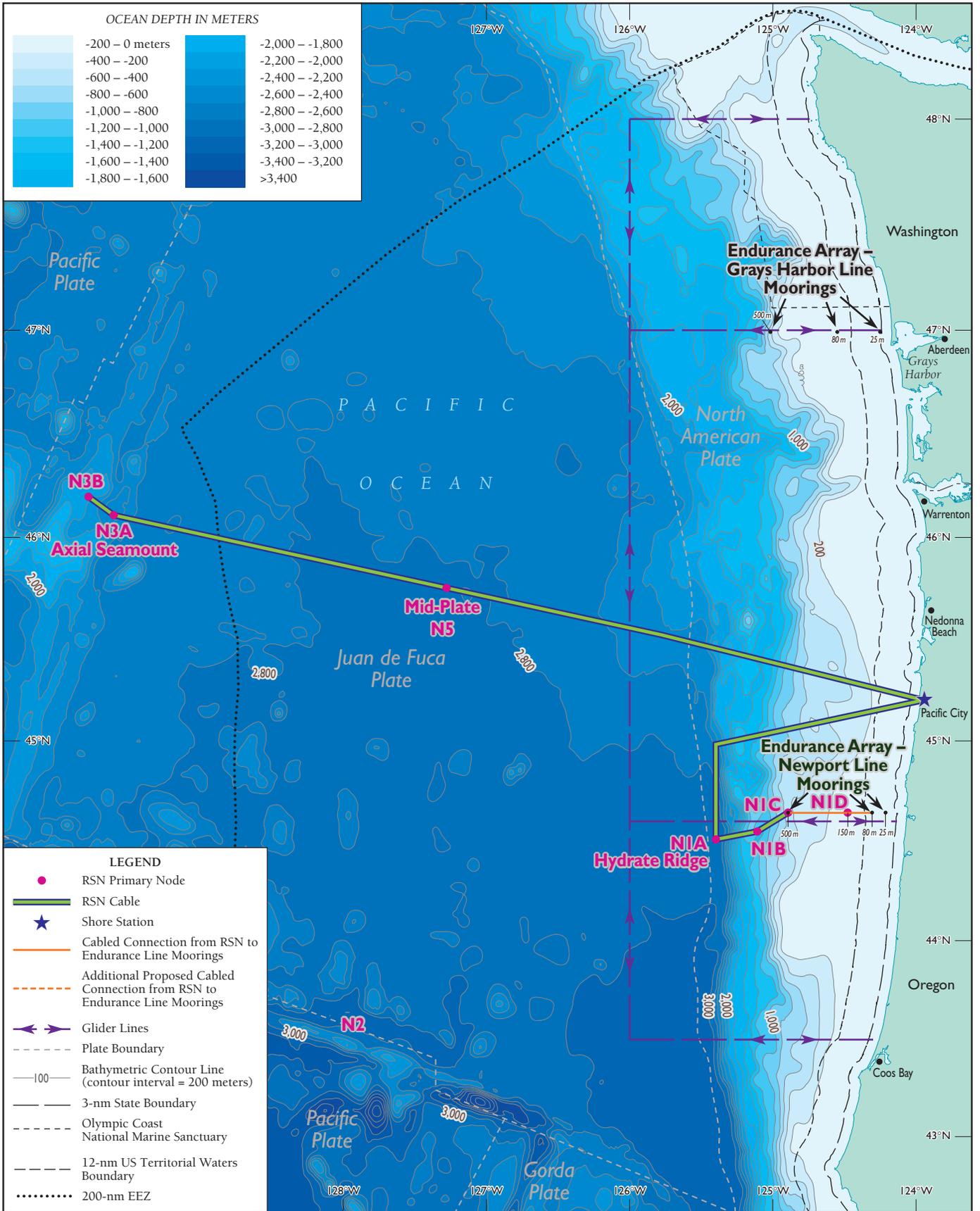
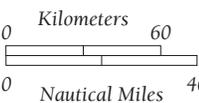


Figure 2b

Location of Pacific Northwest RSN, CSN (Endurance Array), and Associated Glider Mission Boxes to be Installed and Operating by 2015



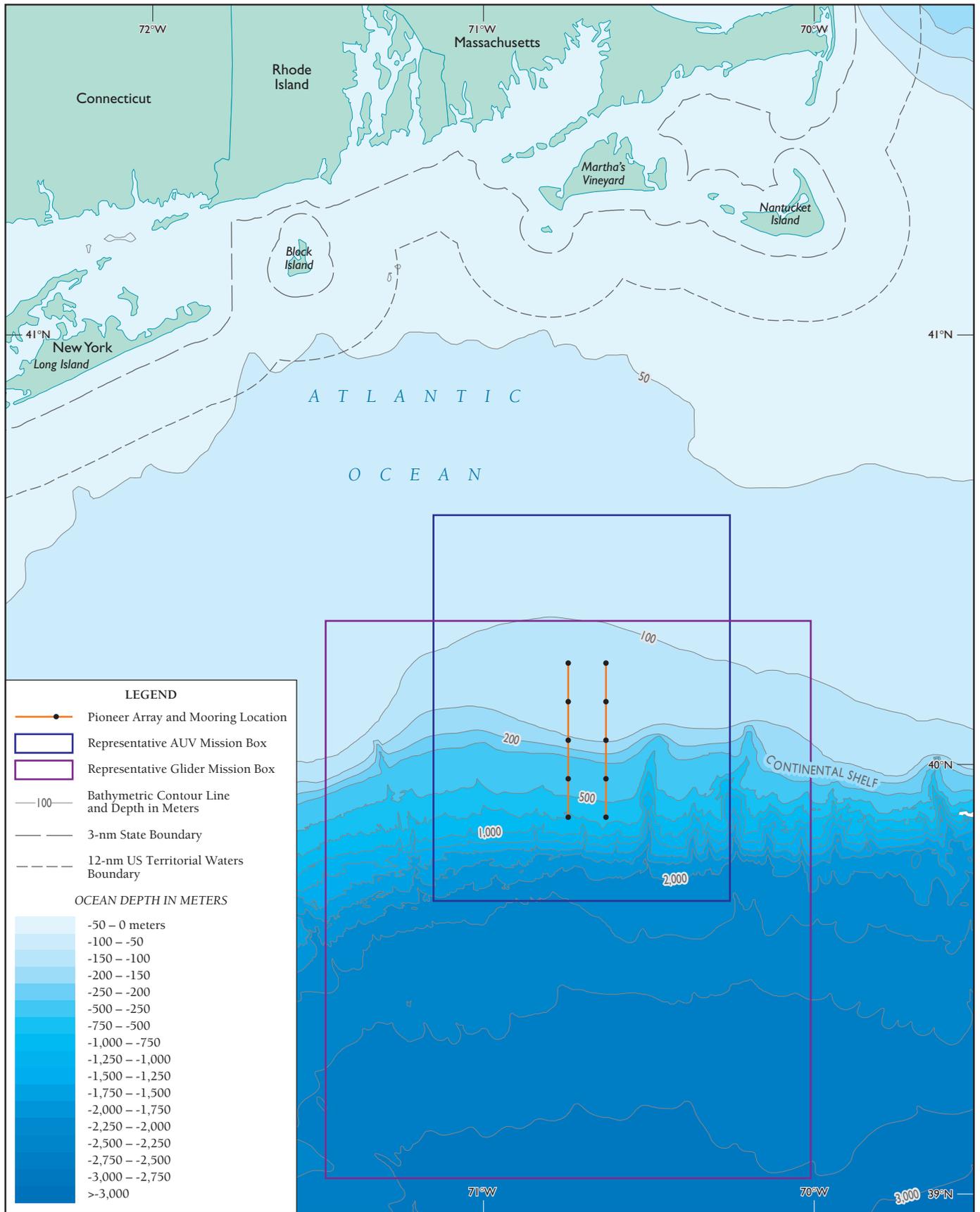
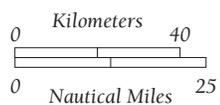


Figure 3a

Location of the Atlantic Coast CSN (Pioneer Array) and Associated AUV and Glider Mission Boxes Previously Assessed in the 2008 PEA and 2009 SER



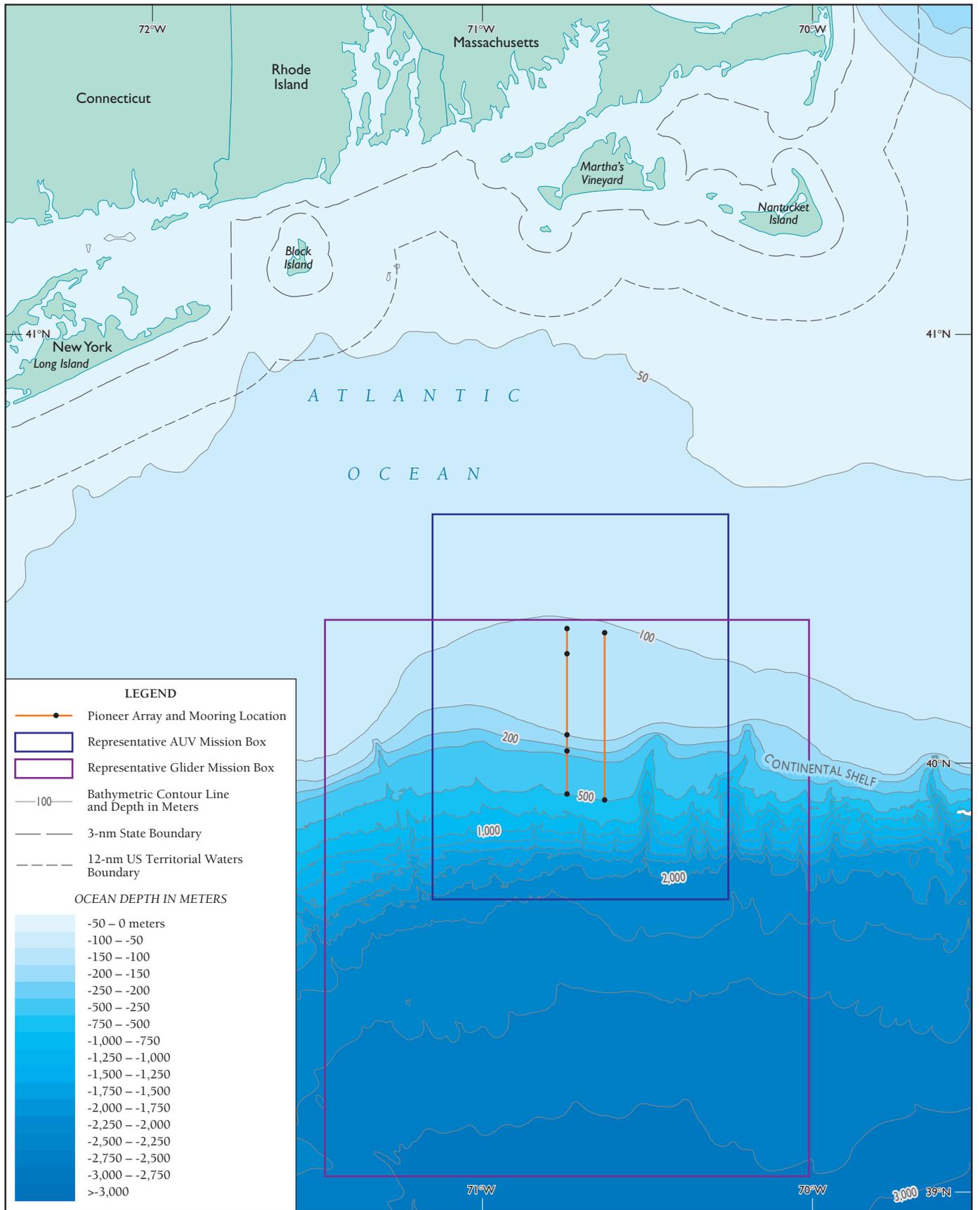
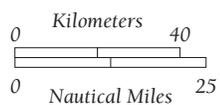


Figure 3b

Location of the Atlantic Coast CSN (Pioneer Array) and Associated AUV and Glider Mission Boxes to be Installed and Operating by 2015





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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,

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#### 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, [rlspaulding@tecinc.com](mailto: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, 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

- 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

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Put on NSF letterhead

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/occe/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](mailto: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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STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

1063 S. Capitol Way, Suite 106 • Olympia, Washington 98501  
Mailing address: PO Box 48343 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8343  
(360) 586-3065 • Fax Number (360) 586-3067 • Website: [www.dahp.wa.gov](http://www.dahp.wa.gov)

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-siting 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 36CFR800.4(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 36CFR800.4. 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  
email: [rob.whitlam@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:rob.whitlam@dahp.wa.gov)

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U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
United States Coast Guard  
Thirteenth District

915 Second Ave.  
Seattle, WA. 98174-1067  
Staff Symbol: //dpw//  
Phone: (206) 220-7270  
Fax: (206) 220-7265

16518

APR 21 2010

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:

- 13<sup>th</sup> 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.R. PeLoquin".

D.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

ORIGINAL

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

**From:** paul [phanneman@wcn.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2010 9:58 AM  
**To:** Spaulding, Rick  
**Cc:** phanneman@wcn.net  
**Subject:** Site Specific EA for the OOI

**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](mailto:phanneman@wcn.net)  
email: [seaq@oregoncoast.com](mailto:seaq@oregoncoast.com)**

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**From:** Janet Freedman [jfreedman@crmc.ri.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 12:22 PM  
**To:** Spaulding, Rick  
**Cc:** 'Jeff Willis'; 'Grover Fugate'  
**Subject:** Site Specific EA for OOI  
**Attachments:** OOI letter\_CRMC.pdf

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)



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Oliver H. Stedman Government Center  
4808 Tower Hill Road, Suite 3  
Wakefield, R.I. 02879-1900

(401) 783-3370  
FAX: (401) 783-3767

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



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)



OCEAN OBSERVATORIES INITIATIVE (OOI) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

Scoping Comment Sheet

Location: WESTPORT, WA

Date: JULY 8, 2010

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 nepacomments@nsf.gov, or via U.S. Postal Service to the address below. For more information go to http://www.oceanobservatories.org.

- SEE ATTACHED -

\*\*\*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 [X] if you would like to be on the mailing list.

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

5. Would you like to receive a hard copy [X] 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

# **W**ESTPORT CHARTERBOAT ASSOCIATION

P. O. BOX 654 • WESTPORT, WASHINGTON 98595

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

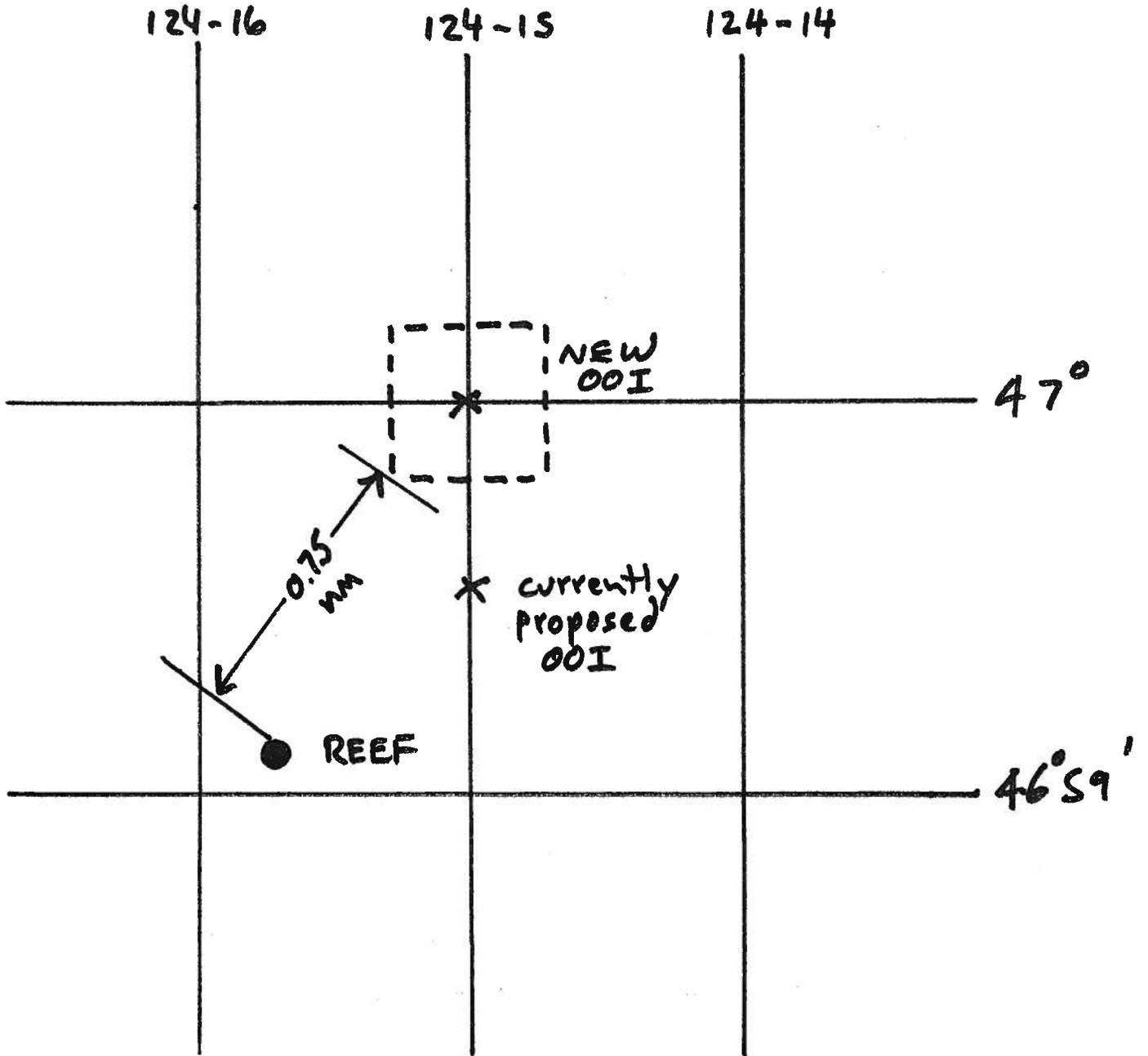
### REEF LOCATION

46-59.50 N  
124-32.50 W

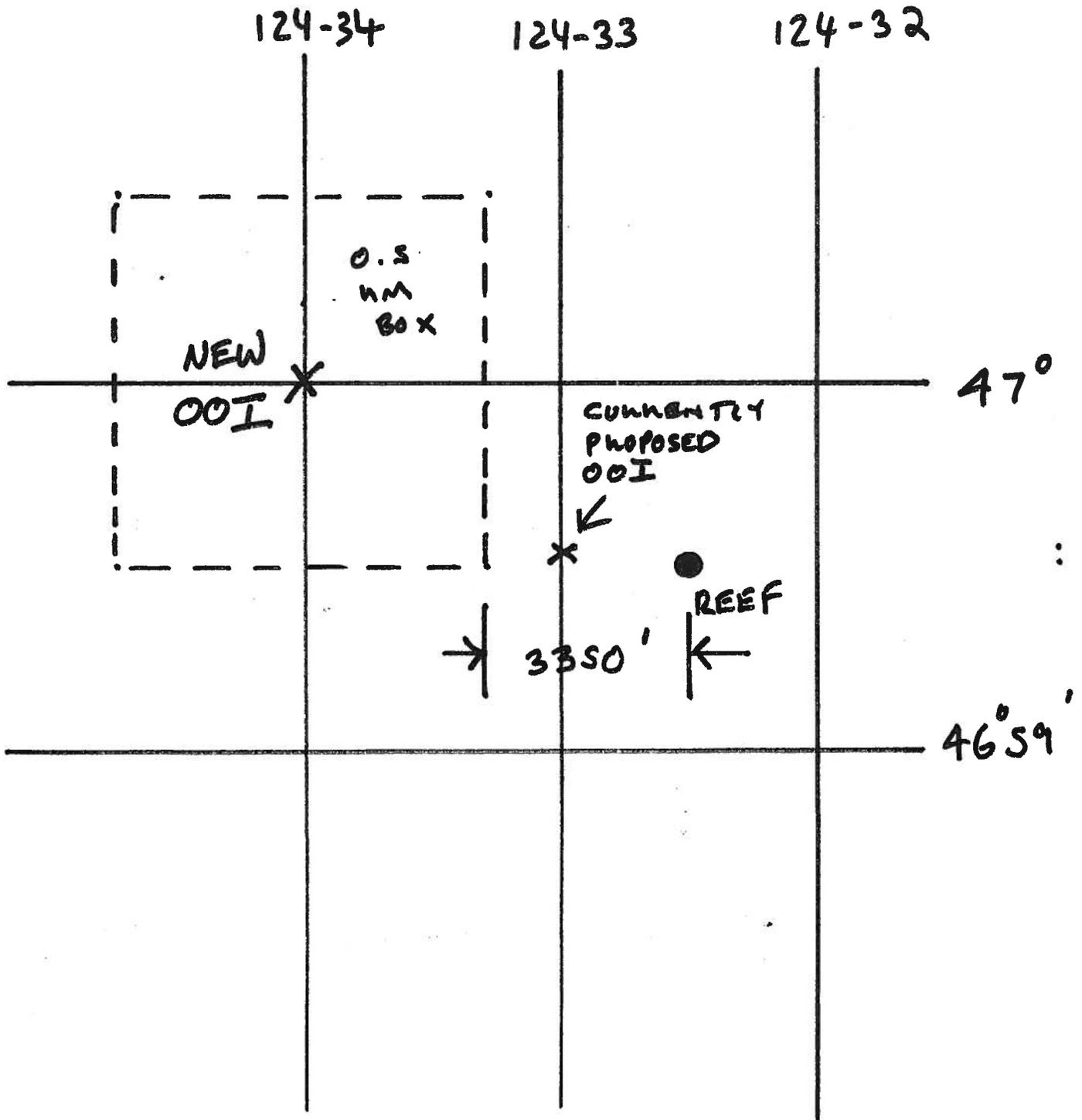
**RECOMMENDATION:** Move the Latitude line north to 47 degrees (creates ½ mile N-S separation and keeps both inshore and shelf sites on the same lat line

- 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



# SHELF





## Coalition of Coastal Fisheries

Coastal Office: PO Box 1448, Westport, WA 98595 – 360 268 0076, Fax 360 268 0000

Administrative Office: 5132 Donnelly Dr. SE, Olympia, WA 98501 – 360 456 1334, Fax 360 923 0762

...Serving the needs of the coastal fishing industry and coastal fishing communities

### Officers

Bill Walsh, President  
Dale Beasley, Vice President  
Lewis Hill, Secretary  
Doug Fricke, Treasurer

July 20, 2010

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

### Directors

Allan Hollingsworth  
Bob Alverson  
Mark Cedergreen  
Bob Lake  
Marion Larkin  
Kent Martin  
Scott McMullen  
Dick Sheldon  
Butch Smith  
Ray Toste

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.

### Member Organizations

Bandon Submarine Cable Council  
Columbia River Dungeness Crab Fisherman's Association  
Fisherman's Marketing Association  
Fishing Vessel Owner Association  
Grays Harbor Gillnetter's Association  
Ilwaco Charter Association  
Salmon For All  
Washington Dungeness Crab Fisherman's Association  
Washington Trollers Association  
Western Fishboat Owners Association  
Westport Charterboat Association  
Willapa Bay Gillnetter's Association  
Willapa-Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association

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 be finalized by the end of November, 2010.

Sincerely,

Bill Walsh, President

### Executive Director

Ed Owens, CEO  
REACT Consulting Group

### Safety Advisor

Forrest "Woody" Mayer

cc Grays Harbor County Commissioners  
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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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

The Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the OOI pursuant to the requirements of NEPA (42 United States Code § 4321 et seq.) and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations §§ 1500-1508) can be found on the NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (OCE) Environmental Compliance website: [http://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/pubs/OOI\\_Final\\_PEA\\_Jun08.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/pubs/OOI_Final_PEA_Jun08.pdf). This document contains a detailed description of the proposed OOI network design and infrastructure. The NSF concluded the OOI PEA with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), found on: [http://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/envcomp/OOI-PEA\\_FinalFONSI\\_020309\\_sm\\_file.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/geo/oce/envcomp/OOI-PEA_FinalFONSI_020309_sm_file.pdf).

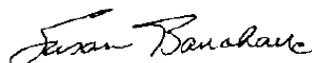
We note that the OOI research facility and operations are not considered in the NWTRC Draft EIS (for instance under Chapter 4, Cumulative Effects: 4.1.3.7 Scientific Research). The northern extent of our fixed research facility lies south of the NWTR W-237A Warning Area and outside of the Olympic Coast 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](mailto:sbanahan@oceanleadership.org). We look forward to the ongoing coordination of this ocean observing facility with Navy operations.

Best regards,



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cc: Tim Cowles, Director, Ocean Observing, OL  
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