



## National Oceanographic Partnership Program



# The Latest NOPP Achievements

The Interagency Working Group on Ocean Partnerships (IWG-OP) was established in June 2006. Its predecessor was the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) Interagency Working Group (IWG), established in 1997. The IWG-OP serves as a collaborative forum for agencies to meet and explore mutually beneficial relationships pertaining to ocean and coastal resources management and execution of science and technology efforts.

The researchers participating in IWG-OP/NOPP funding opportunities have often built “dream teams” of researchers from multiple disciplines and multiple sectors. A rich history of ocean partnerships exists from activities occurring prior to inception of the IWG-OP, including the funding of 110 partnership-focused research projects with a total estimated investment of approximately \$207 million. The IWG-OP has expanded on the partnership efforts between federal agencies and members of industry by continuing the coordination of funding in diverse areas of ocean research, including:

- 11 research projects funded in FY 2007 in areas of Coastal Effects of an Ice Diminished Arctic and Marine Mammals—funding entities included four federal agencies (ONR, MMS, NSF and NOAA), as well as two private industry members (Shell Oil and the Joint Industry Programme, a collaboration of 14 exploration and production companies), with a total investment of \$15.8 million;
- 19 research projects funded in FY 2009 in areas of Sensors for Biological, Bio-Optical, Optical and Chemical Properties of the Ocean; Improving Wind Wave Predictions: Global to Regional Scales; and Improving Tropical

Cyclone Intensity Forecasting—funding entities included six federal agencies (USACE, NOAA, MMS, NSF, NASA, and ONR), with an approximate investment of \$23 million;

- A current FY 2010 funding opportunity on Improving Attachments of Electronic Data Loggers to Cetaceans with anticipated involvement by four federal agencies (ONR, NSF, MMS, and NOAA) and one industry partner (ExxonMobil).

The IWG-OP has also successfully explored and formed partnerships outside of the federal interagency arena. Such partnerships include:

- industry involvement, with co-funding of multi-year marine mammal research beginning in FY 2007;
- continued outreach to industry focused on furthering industry-government cooperation in ocean related research, particularly where closer alignment in the planning, sponsorship, and execution phases of research could be leveraged;
- IWG-OP participation in Capitol Hill Ocean Week 2008, where the IWG-OP partnered with the National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation to host a NOPP-focused session. This event highlighted ten years of ocean partnerships and the winning research team of the 2008 Excellence in Partnering Award; and
- production of a special issue of Oceanography magazine (Oceanography, June 2009). This issue highlights ocean research conducted through ocean partnerships, as well as several downstream impacts on society from these partnerships.

The National Oceanographic Partnership Program Office supports the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Partnerships. For more information, please contact the NOPP Office at: [noppo@oceanleadership.org](mailto:noppo@oceanleadership.org).