



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 in the Defense Authorization Act (PL 104-201). 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.

Partnering gives agencies the opportunity to address critical national priorities that cannot be accomplished by a single agency or sector; often which contribute to cutting edge science and technology. A rich history of ocean partnerships exists with the IWG-OP, including the funding of 183 partnership-focused research projects with a total estimated investment of \$549 million, as of summer 2012. 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:

- 18 research projects were funded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 in topics related to *Marine Mammal Detection and Monitoring and Coordinated Regional Efforts That Further the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)*. Funding for these awards was provided by the Office of Naval Research (ONR), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), American Petroleum Institute (API), and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF). The partnership with U.S. IOOS is the largest in NOPP history, totaling more than \$230 million.
- 13 research projects were funded in FY 2010 in areas of *Improving Attachments of Electronic Data Loggers to Cetaceans, Developing Environmental Protocols and Monitoring to Support Ocean Renewable Energy and Stewardship, and Exploration and Research of Mid-Atlantic Deepwater Hard Bottom Habitats and Shipwrecks with Emphasis on Canyons and Coral Communities*.
- Several publications have resulted from NOPP-funded research projects.
 - Dr. Ken Foote from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and his colleagues recently published an article titled “Sonar-induced pressure fields on a post-mortem common dolphin” in the *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* from their NOPP-funded project on marine mammals. More information can be found [here](#).
 - Drs. Takemasa Miyoshi and Masaru Kunii recently published two articles from their NOPP-funded tropical cyclone research, one titled “The Local Ensemble Transform Kalman Filter with the Weather Research and Forecasting Model: Experiments with Real Observations” in the *Journal of Pure and Applied Physics*, and another titled “Estimating the Impact of Real Observations in Regional Numerical Weather Prediction Using an Ensemble Kalman Filter” in *Monthly Weather Review*. More information on these publications can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
 - Drs. Len Thomas and Taigo Marques recently published a stunning 16th article from their NOPP-funded research on density estimation of cetaceans from passive acoustic sensors titled “Passive Acoustic Monitoring for Estimating Animal Density” in *Acoustics Today*. More information can be found [here](#).

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.



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

- Industry involvement, with co-funding of multi-year marine mammal research in both 2007 and 2011;
- 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 at MTS/IEEE Oceans '12, where IWG-OP hosted a session that included presentations from four funded projects under the FY 2010 topic, *Developing Environmental Protocols and Monitoring to Support Ocean Renewable Energy and Stewardship*. IWG-OP also hosted a breakfast which highlighted the winning research team of the 2011 Excellence in Partnering Award, of Charles Fisher (Pennsylvania State University) and James Brooks (TDI Brooks International), as well as other notable scientific partners on their project "Exploration and Research of Northern Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Natural and Artificial Hard Bottom Habitats with Emphasis on Coral Communities: Reefs, Rigs, and Wrecks."

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