



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

Integrated Ocean Observing System® (IOOS)

1100 Wayne Ave. Suite 1225, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Telephone: (301) 427-2421 • Fax: (301) 427-2073

April 7, 2011

Jennifer Read  
Executive Director, GLOS  
229 Nickels Arcade  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Dr. Read:

Thank you for submitting your proposal, "*Implementation of the Great Lakes Observing System, 2011-15*," to the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) Program. Your proposal has been recommended for funding at a level of **\$1,400,000** for Fiscal Year 2011.

The recommended funding amount is less than the base-level funding amount requested in the proposal. As you consider which products or services will be affected by the reduced funding, we request that you consult with the U.S. IOOS Program office prior to removing any type of assets from deployment, including any proposed reduction in your DMAC capabilities.

Overall, the panel reviewed your proposal favorably. Key points from the reviewer comments and discussion are summarized below.

Strengths:

- The proposal positions GLOS to fill a needed role in data integration and niche observing in the Great Lakes. Partnering with Sea Grant will be an excellent vehicle for outreach efforts.
- The proposal has a good milestone schedule and quality assurance discussion.

Areas of concern:

- Panelists thought the proposal's research was too geographically localized and did not present a clear vision of how this will translate into a regional scale observing framework with sub-regions at the individual whole lake scale.
- The panel was concerned about the reliance on GLERL and CILER to perform much of the work, and that the proposal does not clearly identify efforts to integrate other agency data.
- The proposal identifies partnerships but lacks details on how these partnerships benefit the effort. The key drivers and user community that this proposal is responding to were



- only partially described and the linkage between activities and those drivers and users was missing.
- Connections with other regional efforts were not clearly defined, e.g., how GLOS is connected to Fisheries Commission efforts, and there was no mention of the National Water Quality Monitoring Network despite the location of one of its pilot projects in the Great Lakes.
- The proposal did not clearly identify management goals and a work plan. The appendix is massive and contained details that should have been in the main proposal.

In order to continue processing your proposal, please send me the “required responses” and “required documents” detailed below. These documents are to be sent by email to [regina.evans@noaa.gov](mailto:regina.evans@noaa.gov) and need to arrive by **Friday, May 6, 2011**.

Required responses:

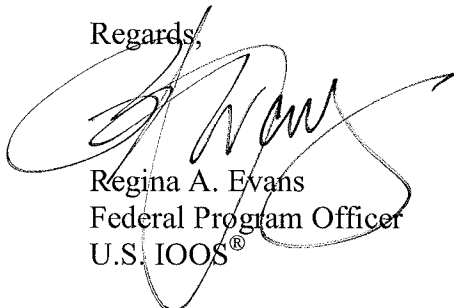
- Clearly identify how GLOS is working with existing monitoring efforts in the Great Lakes and how past stakeholder engagement efforts informed the proposals activities. Please provide a brief summary that addresses these two issues.
- Clarify project costs so that they are well-articulated and associated with timelines and milestones.
- At this new funding level, please indicate any funds you are requesting to be held back from the award by IOOS for distribution to other partners. These are funds you want IOOS to pass directly to partners identified in your proposal as a NOAA program or other federal agency. Briefly list the agency/office, the dollar amount, and the task(s) to be completed.

Required documents:

- Cover letter responding to each required response above and stating what objectives will and/or will not be met under the revised work plan
- Revised SF424 reflecting the recommended funding level
- Revised SF424A (including revised SF424As for subawards, if applicable). Put years 1-4 on one sheet and year 5 on a separate sheet with your totals
- Revised budget justification that includes a breakdown of costs by budget category as they correspond to the SF424A
- Signed negotiated indirect cost rate agreement
- Revised milestone list

Once the revisions have been approved by the federal program officer, the materials will be forwarded to the grants officer for final approval and release of funds. Meantime, you may contact me regarding your FY11 funding at (301) 427-2422.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Regina A. Evans', is written over the typed name and title.

Regina A. Evans  
Federal Program Officer  
U.S. IOOS®

cc: Leigh Zimmerman  
Program Manager, National Oceanographic Partnership Program  
Council for Ocean Leadership