

Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership
May 17, 2007 10-11AM Eastern Time Conference Call
NERACOOS-GoMODP Discussion Document

To initiate Thursday's discussion concerning whether the Data Partnership should join formally with GoMOOS or the yet-to-be-established Regional Association, a short list of pro's and con's of such a move is:

Pros:

- Access to reliable funding support for activities (hopefully)
- Direct influence on the direction of regional IOOS (its 'vision', policies, etc)

Cons:

- Lose our identity as a separate entity
- Lose independence (e.g., our priorities may be changed by direction from above)
- As individual organizations, our influence may get diluted within the bigger group

For the case of not formally joining, the pro's and con's basically would just switch – with the appropriate rewording.

An equally important question would be, if we were to join, are there criteria, points, issues we would want to see met or addressed? For example:

- Should we simply become a committee within the organization?
- Or be an affiliate that maintains its name and has representation on the Board?
- Should our follow-on be a forum for all organizations vs having a limited, representative membership (as might be true for a committee)

Agenda:

Short introduction, with background on latest IOOS developments

Discussion of pro's and con's

- creating a longer list
- getting a sense of which are the most important
- getting a sense of how the Partners feel at this time

Future steps

- Need for more information about specific aspects?
- How/when to go about making the decision/recommendation?
- When to meet next?