

PRESS RELEASE

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The California State University's Center for Integrative Coastal Observation, Research and Education (CI-CORE)

With help from Congressman Sam Farr and the House Oceans Caucus, and support from Senator Barbara Boxer, researchers at six California State Universities and a non-profit institute from Florida, have been recommended for funding to continue their integrated observations along the California coast. Headquartered at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, the CI-CORE program is distributed at CSU campuses from Humboldt to San Luis Obispo. Funding requested in the Omnibus Bill before the Senate will allow the inclusion of a Southern California CSU campus, and will ultimately involve the entire 1,600 miles of the California coast.

CI-CORE was developed to specifically address critical problems in the coastal zone as articulated by Congress and the nongovernmental advisory body, Oceans.US. These problems include the loss of fishery habitat, the occurrence of harmful algal blooms, the monitoring of nutrients and marine pathogens, the detection of kelp forest coverage, etc... The goal of this program is to develop a real-time network of observation stations to enable the monitoring and prediction of coastal phenomena, much the way weather stations enable the prediction of storms and droughts.

The CI-CORE program is based on the synthesis of three observational platforms and technologies 1) High resolution, multi-wavelength, remote sensing from aircraft providing continuous geographical coverage between observing stations; 2) In-water sensors deployed from piers, enabling high temporal resolution of ocean color, temperature and salinity; and, 3) High spatial resolution images of coastal bathymetry enabling the characterization of nearshore benthic habitats. Data fusion technologies will provide layered maps of coastal bathymetric and surface water color with embedded hydrography and analysis of plankton species and abundance.

The CI-CORE program currently involves researchers from Humboldt State University, San Francisco State University/Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, San Jose State University/Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California State University at Hayward, the California State University at Monterey Bay, the California State Polytechnic Institute at San Luis Obispo and the Florida Environmental Research Institute. The CI-CORE program also works with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and other regulatory agencies to insure the data provided meet both regional and national needs.

Dr. Kenneth Coale, Director of the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories said, "We are very thankful for the efforts of our representatives on behalf of ocean health. With shrinking budgets and a polarized House and Senate, no fiscal action in D.C. is an easy one. Yet, their bold and visionary advocacy for marine issues was key to developing strong bipartisan support for the CI-CORE program and ultimately critical to maintaining environmental quality along the coast of California."

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