NB: SEND PP PRESENTATION WITH DISTRIBUTION

Add annex with background, description, etc for decision-makers

**Coastal Ocean and Shelf Seas Forecasting Systems Initiative**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

 Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”), dated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, by and among the organizations listed in Annex I hereto, as may be amended from time to time (each a “Participant”).

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment (GODAE) was initiated in 1997 as an effective and efficient infrastructure for global operational oceanography focused on developing practical and robust operational activities for oceanography with great societal benefits;

WHEREAS the GODAE OceanView was initiated 2007 to provide a forum for national forecasting centers to communicate and exchange knowledge and expertise;

WHEREAS the Coastal Ocean and Shelf Seas Task Team (COSS-TT) of GODAE OceanView was formed in 2010 to continue the work of the CSSWG to address scientific issues in support of multidisciplinary analysis and forecasting of coastal transition zones, as well as shelf/open ocean exchanges in relation with the larger-scale efforts;

RECOGNIZING the importance of encouraging international collaboration to address the scientific and technical challenges associated with operational oceanography for the coastal ocean;

 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and of the mutual undertakings and benefits set forth herein, the signatories agree as follows:

Chapter One

Purpose, Activities and Themes

*Purpose*. The purpose of this MoU is to create a mechanism for coordinating and advancing science in furtherance of multidisciplinary downscaling and forecasting activities in coastal oceans around the world (the “Initiative”).

*Activities*. The Initiative shall initially consist of:

1. forums to discuss cross-cutting issues; and

(b) international coordination between coastal ocean forecasting projects.

These activities may be modified or expanded by decision of the General Assembly, as provided in Chapter Two.

*Themes.* The activities shall [initially] focus on issues related to the following targeted themes:

1. **Coastal Ocean Science [*move sub-headings to annex*]**
	1. Coastal ocean processes understanding and modeling
	2. Atmospheric and land forcing/coupling processes

1. **Coastal and Shelf Areas Analysis and Forecasting Systems**
2. Coastal observing systems for monitoring and forecasting
	* 1. Coastal observatories components
		2. Innovative technologies
3. Models and techniques
	* 1. Numerical modeling
		2. Downscaling, nesting approaches
		3. Error assessment
4. Data assimilation
5. Validation strategies
6. Skill assessment
7. **Science in Support of Applications for End-Users [*TBC*]**
8. **Education and Training**

Chapter two

Participants and Executive Bodies

*Participants.* The Participants shall comprise institutions that are directly or closely associated with COSS-TT. Each Participant shall cover its own costs of participating in the activities under the Initiative. The initial list of Participants is set forth in Annex I. Additional Participants may join the Initiative upon approval by the General Assembly.

*General Assembly*. The Participants shall form a General Assembly comprised of one Participant representative for each signatory to this MoU. The General Assembly shall endeavor to meet [at least once] annually and to hold additional meetings as necessary to carry out the following functions:

1. define [and continuously develop] the Initiative;
2. approve new Participants;
3. establish Working Groups;
4. elect the two Chairpersons;
5. approve amendments to this MoU;
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

All General Assembly decisions shall be taken by consensus. At each Assembly the WG shall meet and a scientific meeting shall be held.

*Management Group and Chairpersons*. The General Assembly shall elect a Management Group and two Chairpersons to direct the Initiative’s implementation. The Management Group shall comprise [xx] persons [of xx type/geographical area/etc.]. The two Chairpersons shall be from [xx][etc]. All shall serve for [three-year] terms and may be elected for up to one [consecutive] three-year term.

*Working Groups*. The General Assembly shall establish a Working Group for each theme described in Chapter One, and for such other activities or purposes as it may decide. The Working Groups shall advise the General Assembly on their relevant matters of competence.

[Add IP provisions, including possibility of *ad hoc* sub-groups]

Chapter three

General Matters

*No Partnership*. Nothing in this MoU shall imply any partnership or other formal legal relationship among the Participants. No Participant may incur legal obligations or liabilities for any other Participant without the express written agreement of the latter.

*Effectiveness and* *Term*. This MoU shall become effective upon its signature by at least [two] Participants, and shall remain effective until terminated by consensus. Any Participant may withdraw from participation in the Initiative, for any reason, upon [30 days’] advance written notice to the Chairpersons.

*Amendments*. Any amendment to this MoU shall be made in writing and signed by all Participants.

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(Full name of signatory)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Name of authorised signatory)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Date)ANNEX I Participants

ANNEX II Executive Bodies

ANNEX II [Technical Annex][Activities][Other]