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Operational oceanographic data, such as provided by NOAA IOOS and its partnership with 11 Regional Associations, is an important public service that enables informed decision making related to public safety, coastal storms and hazards, and coastal economies. It also underpins the New Blue Economy and the development and growth of information services that add value to these observations and deliver additional benefit to end users across economic sectors. The data and services provided through IOOS via the Regional Associations is user and stakeholder driven, at scales important to communities across the United States.

The first Ocean Enterprise study demonstrated the value of oceanographic data to the New Blue Economy and the American economy as a whole. The second study found significant growth (~14%) in this sector of the economy in just a few years.

On behalf of the Regional Associations, I strongly support the request for new data collection in support of The Ocean Enterprise study. IOOS data is a public good, and it is important to continue to track the value of this public good as it supports the ocean information-based economy. The understanding gained from these studies should guide investments in support of this oceanographic data collection and provision to adequately meet societal need, demand for economic growth, and end-user benefit.