

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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United States Coast Guard

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28 October 2010

Dear Dr. Glenn,

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Office of Search and Rescue supports your proposal to seek funding through the FY2011 Integrated Ocean Observing System Implementation. As you know, we are committed to working with the scientific community to develop ways to improve modeling and predictive tools in U.S. waters, especially those that can improve our abilities to predict search and rescue trajectories. In particular, we are interested in seeing the continued delivery of observational HF radar data and STPS predictions based upon these data into the USCG's Search And Rescue Optimal Planning System (SAROPS). SAROPS has now been operational since January of 2007. SAROPS is supported by the Environmental Data Server (EDS) run operationally at the USCG's Operations System Center in Martinsburg, WV.

The initial feedback from USCG search planning personnel on SAROPS has been overwhelmingly positive; however there is room for improvement in the areas of: 1) availability of additional surface current products and other parameters in the EDS; 2) use of SAROPS in bays, harbors and rivers and into the near-shore environment; and 3) higher confidence in all the surface current products. The continued operational level support of the HF radar network is a critical input into SAROPS for the mid-Atlantic shelf region. The potential assimilation of HF radar data in numerical models and into rip-current predictions will further extend the usefulness of this data set to USCG SAR operations. My point of contact is Arthur Allen, Oceanographer.

The USCG Search and Rescue program looks forward to using the achievements gained from this work conducted under this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Moser".

Kenneth "Max" Moser
Commander

U.S. Coast Guard Office of Search and Rescue