

**AOOS Governance Options Subcommittee**  
*November 3, 2004*  
**Meeting Notes**

**Teleconference:**

**Present: Molly McCammon, John Goll, Tylan Schrock, Nancy Bird. Absent: Phil Mundy. Also present: Becky Smyth, NOAA program manager**

**1. Update by Becky Smyth of governance plans for other Pacific Basin groups**

- SCOOS (So Calif). Held recent meeting. Have signed onto a loose, non-binding MOA. All academic partners with equal votes. Scripps is fiscal agent. Now making user outreach efforts.
- CENCOOS (Central CA). Have held a number of meetings. Have developed a detailed draft MOA which is now circulating for review. Follows an open model (open to join, open to leave), but not a 501c3 non-profit. Federal agencies are ex-officio, non-voting members. Fee membership based on gross revenues of organization. MBARI (Monterey Bay Research Institute) is fiscal agent. Hope to finalize in spring 2005.
- NANOOS (Pacific NW). Have held user meetings. Looking at an MOA. Partners have signed onto “intent to participate” resolution. Recently hired coordinator.
- Pacific Islands. Just starting the process.

**2. Status of legal advice**

- Becky is trying to get ocean.us to obtain legal advice (especially on participation of federal agencies) for all regional associations to use.

**3. AOOS vision/mission/goals/guiding principles**

- Committee reviewed draft and made changes (see attached).

**4. CENCOOS model**

- We spent a lot of time discussing the draft CENCOOS MOA. It is much more formal and detailed than the current AOOS MOA, but is viewed as a good longer-term model – possibly as interim until a 501c3, but maybe permanent. Committee members recommended using it as a starting point, but simplifying it and making it “Alaska appropriate.”
- Tylan recommended that we proceed along the above lines, but continuing to consider what factors would make a 501c3 compelling and ask ourselves – “Why as a business vehicle would a 501c3 be a better approach?”

## **5. Follow-up**

- Molly will summarize meeting results and revise draft vision/mission/principles document for presentation to full Governance Committee on Nov. 23.
- Committee members will look at CENCOOS draft MOA and get comments to Molly by COB Monday Nov. 8. She will re-do the draft and include in Governance Committee packet for further discussion.