



Sofar Ocean Technologies

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the news reported on April 11th about the Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget for NOAA, specifically for the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Regional Associations. This scenario would be mutually devastating for NOAA and for Sofar Ocean, a startup providing critical ocean intelligence and ocean sensors manufactured in the USA. Public-private partnerships, such as those cultivated by IOOS Regional Associations, are focused on growing the blue economy and enhancing public safety. Further, I have heard that NOAA is being instructed to implement these funding cuts and any associated reorganization this year, immediately harming maritime and coastal safety.

As a long-time ocean observations partner of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), I implore you to ensure that IOOS and its regional associations are retained as a program in NOAA with a specific budget line that is adequately funded to meet the demands for information that support safe and efficient maritime commerce, weather and hurricane forecasting, flooding, harmful algal bloom monitoring, and other safety-related concerns.

Our work with IOOS supports everything from recreation, fishing, and tourism to promoting coastal safety through environmental monitoring. The Blue Economy depends on the ability to gather and use high quality ocean data. IOOS is a program with strong bipartisan support, as evidenced by the recent introduction of its reauthorization bill in the House. It is essential that you support only budget requests or administration actions that preserve critical programs for NOAA and for IOOS Regional Associations. These in turn will protect public safety, economic opportunities, and American jobs in the Blue Economy.

Best regards,

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Head of Federal

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