

Statement of the Honorable Mike Ezell
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
119th Congress
Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries: Legislative Hearing
Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. ET

[Upon recognition from Chair]

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) main goal is to enrich life through science. NOAA has a wide overview of issues including weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, fisheries management, coastal restoration, and supporting marine commerce.

One way NOAA achieves their goal is through their Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS -eye yoos). IOOS was established by Congress in 2009. The program was supported in a strong bipartisan way and reauthorized in 2020 under President Trump's leadership,

IOOS is made up of 11 regional associations and works closely with 17 federal agencies.

The IOOS program operates all throughout the U.S. coastal regions, from Alaska to the Caribbean, which means there isn't a single part of the country this program doesn't affect.

IOOS purpose is a vital public-private program that supports a vast network of buoys, gliders, high-frequency radars, and other sensors that monitor U.S. waters and provides data, tools, and forecasts to safeguard the entire U.S. coastline.

IOOS sustains critical, publicly accessible data and data products that enable coastal and Great Lakes communities to monitor, understand, predict, and plan for hazards that impact coastal infrastructure and people, including storms, flooding, hurricanes, rip currents, and harmful algal blooms.

My bill, H.R. 2294, reauthorizes the IOOS program to safeguard the United States coasts for the betterment of community, commerce, and safety.

Now, I am proud to introduce a friend from the Gulf Coast, a professor at USM, Stephan Howden. Through the IOOS program, Dr. Howden has been able to provide accurate research through his glider program which provides more accurate warnings, saving billions of dollars, and potentially lives for the Gulf Coast.

Dr. Howden, thank you for taking the time to testify on this very important matter before the Subcommittee.

Madam chair, I yield back.