

In an effort to improve our understanding on the workings of the coastal ocean for a variety of environmental applications and to improve upon forecasts of storm surge for residents along the West Coast of Florida, the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science (USF/CMS) established a real-time Coastal Ocean Monitoring Prediction System (COMPS) for the West Florida Shelf region. COMPS is a regional coastal ocean observing system operating along the Gulf of Mexico's west Florida coast and was implemented in 1997 as a State of Florida legislative initiative. Data and model products are disseminated in real-time to federal, state, and local emergency management officials by various means including the Internet (URL <http://comps.marine.usf.edu>).

The COMPS overall program goal is to provide real-time data for emergency management use and to improve description and understanding of the relevant physical processes that control coastal flooding, and gulf circulation driven effects on red tides, oil spills and Coast guard search and rescue operations. USF/CMS COMPS is an active member of the SECOORA (Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association) whose goal is to develop a regional coastal ocean observing system for the southeast (NC, SC, GA, FL) United States – all part of the ever evolving NOAA IOOS (Integrated Ocean Observing System).

COMPS (URL <http://comps.marine.usf.edu>) program assets consist of arrays of offshore buoys and coastal tidal stations for surface meteorology and in-water measurement of temperature, salinity, and currents, and sea level; along with five High Frequency (HF) radar sites for offshore surface-current velocity field measurements. The operational USF/CMS HF Radar Network, currently consists of four Direction Finding (DF) CODAR long-range SeaSonde HF radars and two Phased Array (PA) WERA systems with the Venice and Ft DeSoto station sites containing a co-located CODAR and WERA system.

USF/CMS has recently been awarded a National Academy of Sciences Engineering and Sciences grant to study the Gulf of Mexico Loop current. This new research effort will include the installation of 3 additional CODAR High Frequency Radar systems in the lower Florida Keys and the Dry Tortugas (see below announcement). Therefore, a modification to the current license WD2XVR is hereby requested to add these additional 3 sites in Florida; one each at: Fort Jefferson/Dry Tortugas National Park, Naval Air Station Key West, Curry Hammock State Park, Marathon. These 3 new sites will operate at the same transmit frequencies, station class, emission designator, power, and frequency tolerance settings as those currently in use under our existing license WD2XVR.

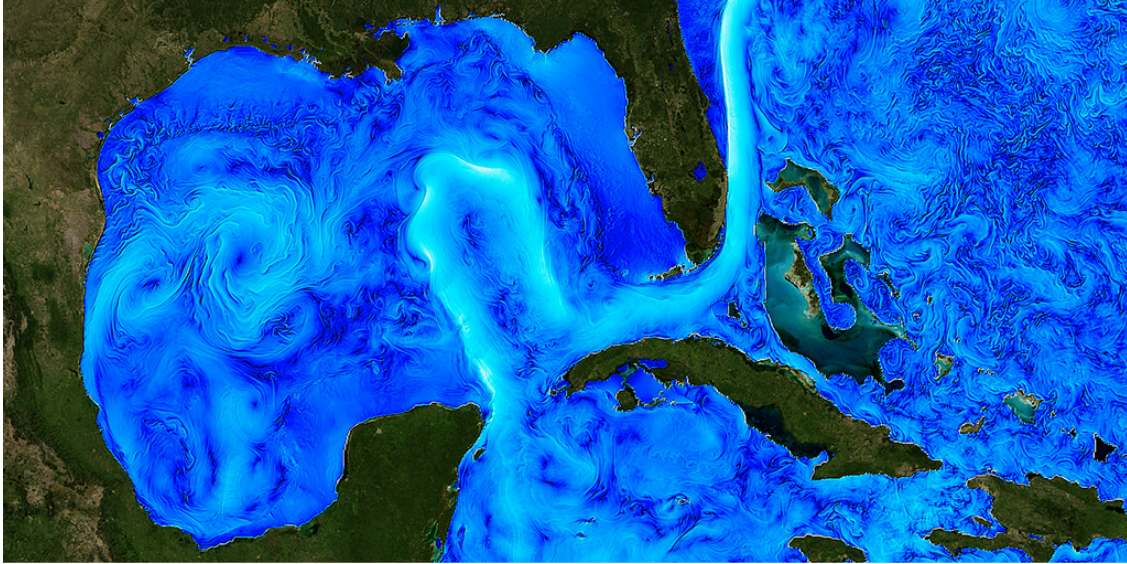
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December 19, 2018



\$10.3 million awarded to advance understanding of Gulf of Mexico Loop Current

The Gulf Research Program is pleased to announce the award of \$10.3 million in grants for eight new projects to conduct studies and collect data and observations that will inform the planning and launching of a long-term research campaign to improve understanding and prediction of the Gulf of Mexico Loop Current System (LCS).

A [report](#) released earlier this year by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine identified existing knowledge gaps and called for a long-term research campaign to help improve understanding and prediction of the LCS. These eight projects were selected through the first funding competition related to that long-term research campaign; planning for the next funding competition is now underway and expected to open in 2019.

On January 11, project team members for the first round of funding awards will convene to plan for and facilitate coordination of efforts across the different projects. A portion of that meeting, from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. ET, will be broadcast as a webinar open to anyone interested in learning more about this first group of projects, along with the longer term vision and timeline for the research campaign. Registration is available at: bit.ly/ugos1update.

[View the list of awardees](#)

Image: Christopher Henze, NASA/Ames

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The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine are private, non-profit organizations that provide independent, expert advice to the nation. Over its 30-year duration, the Gulf Research Program will work to enhance oil system safety and the protection of human health and the environment in the Gulf of Mexico and other U.S. outer continental shelf areas



Example of CODAR Transmit Antenna