

QUESTION 6: STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROJECT

Under the direction of Scripps Institution of Oceanography's Dr Bill Hodgkiss, several drifting subsurface instrument arrays for underwater acoustics research will be deployed for days at a time in the Operational Area noted and the intention is to mark these arrays with surface buoys and attach AIS instruments to them, so that in addition to the Local Notice to Mariners information published by the Coast Guard, ships can be aware of the buoys in real-time and incidents can be avoided. Drifting arrays with buoys that currently have no AIS are at risk of getting run over by accident which could have catastrophic consequences both for the instrument array and for the ship running it over. Because the Operational Area for this experiment is fairly close to a shipping lane, having an AIS locator on the buoys seems not only beneficial but necessary.

The United States Coast Guard will be providing a Mobile AtoN license for our buoys with AIS instruments for the duration of the experiment. This is a new process and we are hoping that the value of having AIS instruments on research buoys is proven so that the license application process can be streamlined both with the FCC and with the USCG.

QUESTION 12: STATEMENT OF APPLICANT CLASSIFICATION

Applicant is a research group at a University/Research Institution