November 1, 2010


OVERVIEW
The National Science Foundation (NSF) gives notice of a public meeting to receive input for the micro-siting of the Grays Harbor Line of the Endurance Array for the proposed OOI project. Project scientists supported by NSF made an initial determination of candidate sites where the moorings could be placed to meet the science/operational requirements of the Endurance Array. Enclosure (1) lists the science/operational siting requirements and Enclosure (2) is a figure of the proposed micro-siting areas that will be presented at the meeting. The placement, or ‘micro-siting’, of the proposed moorings is being coordinated with the public and marine user stakeholders. NSF is continuing to coordinate a series of public meetings to receive input for the final siting of the Endurance Array. The details for the next meeting are as follows:

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2010
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Location: Westport Maritime Museum
2201 Westhaven Drive
Westport, WA 98595-1074

Micro-siting Goal: Determine mooring locations within the siting boxes for the proposed Grays Harbor Line inshore, shelf, and offshore mooring locations that meet OOI science/operational requirements and avoid conflicts with regional fishing interests.

Meeting Objectives:
1. Review the candidate mooring locations, their associated siting boxes, and the science and operational siting requirements.
2. Review fishing community requirements.
3. Discussion of options for mooring locations within the siting boxes.

BACKGROUND ON OOI
Oceanographic research has long relied on research vessel cruises (expeditions) as the predominate means to make direct measurements of the ocean environment. Remote sensing (use of satellites and other wireless technologies) has greatly advanced abilities to measure ocean surface characteristics over extended periods of time. A major advancement for oceanographic research methods is the ability to make sustained, long-term, and adaptive measurements from the surface to the ocean bottom. ‘Ocean Observatories’ are now being developed to further this goal. Building upon recent technology advances and lessons learned from prototype ocean observatories, the proposed OOI is an interactive, globally distributed and integrated infrastructure that will be the backbone for the next generation of ocean sensors and resulting complex ocean studies that are presently unachievable. The proposed OOI would include
the installation, operation, and maintenance of infrastructure along the coasts of Oregon, Washington, and Massachusetts and global buoys in the Eastern Pacific and Atlantic oceans. In addition, there would be an integration of mobile assets such as autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVS) and/or gliders. This large-scale infrastructure would support sensors located at the sea surface, in the water column, and at or beneath the seafloor. The OOI would also support related elements, such as data dissemination and archiving, modeling of oceanographic processes, and education and outreach activities essential to the long-term success of ocean science.

BACKGROUND ON ENDURANCE ARRAY

The proposed Endurance Array would be comprised of 2 lines of moorings, one located off the coast of central Oregon (Newport Line), and a second at a contrasting site off central Washington (Grays Harbor Line). The Grays Harbor Line would consist of a total of 6 moorings, in 3 locations (i.e. paired surface and subsurface moorings), and 6 gliders. The proposed Grays Harbor Line would consist of 3 paired surface and subsurface moorings, running east to west, deployed at approximately 14 fathoms (fm) (25 meters [m]), 44 fm (80 m), and 273 fm (500 m). Moorings would provide locally generated power to seafloor and platform instruments and sensors, and use satellite and other wireless technologies to link to shore and the Internet. Gliders would run missions in the vicinity of the moored array.

NSF prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SSEA), which identified three (3) general areas as starting points for locating the proposed placement of the moorings. The environmental impacts associated with moorings being placed anywhere within these general areas have been addressed in the Draft SSEA. Additional information obtained through the micro-siting process and the public meetings will be incorporated into the environmental analysis in NSF’s Final SSEA. This micro-siting process, however, allows the public to continue the dialogue with NSF with regard to the final location of the moorings. NSF recognizes the detailed nature of this information and is coordinating the public meeting on November 17 to provide an opportunity for additional information exchange. I look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Jean McGovern
OOI Program Director
National Science Foundation

Enclosures
(1) Table 1. Science/operational siting requirements for the Grays Harbor Line
(2) Overview of Proposed Endurance Array (Grays Harbor Line) Siting Areas
## ENCLOSURE (1)

### Table 1. Science/Operational Siting Requirements for the Endurance Array (Grays Harbor Line) Moorings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRAYS HARBOR LINE</th>
<th>Inshore (14 fm)</th>
<th>Mooring Shelf (44 fm)</th>
<th>Offshore (273 fm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• soft bottom (clay, silty or sandy).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• at least 0.5 nm (0.9 km) outside of published barge tow lanes.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• outside of designated shipping lanes.</td>
<td>• outside of designated shipping lanes.</td>
<td>• outside of designated shipping lanes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• in 14-16 fm (25-30 m) water depth.</td>
<td>• in 38-49 fm (70-90 m) water depth.</td>
<td>• in 219-339 fm (400-620 m) water depth.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• within 4 nm (7.4 km) from 46.99° N, 124.25° W.</td>
<td>• within 5.4 nm (10 km) of 46.99° N, 124.55° W.</td>
<td>• within 5.4 nm (10 km) of 46.88° N, 124.97° W.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• &gt;2 nm (3.7 km) from Grays Harbor entrance (jetties) and navigational markers to the harbor entrance.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• deployed on bottom with slope &lt;10 degrees.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview of Proposed Endurance Array (Grays Harbor Line) Siting Areas

Source: NOAA Navigational Chart 18500: Columbia River to Destruction Island (May 2008).