

Engage Federal science agencies as a component of the CoPe hubs

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Summary

NSF can leverage CoPe activities by engaging and coordinating with the Federal agencies that conduct fundamental science as part of their mission.

Benefits to CoPe include:

- Participation of agency scientists in planning, hypothesis formulation, data collection, modeling, and analysis;
- Access to Federal science resources, including facilities, equipment, and technicians;
- Deployment and maintenance of long-term measurement programs;
- Help with access to real-time and historical datasets collected by Federal agencies; and
- Piggy-back on existing data storage and delivery networks.

Benefits to Federal agencies include:

- Increased science resources directed toward agency mission; and
- Reduced duplication in science efforts.

Specific recommendations

Many Federal agencies (USGS, NOAA, NWS, USDA, EPA, DOE, USACE, NRL, other DOD) maintain scientific capabilities directed toward their agency mission. Other agencies (FEMA, USCG, DHS) have direct interests in the scientific products of CoPe. Some agencies, notably the USGS, NOAA, USACE, NRL and NWS employ world-class scientists who perform fundamental research on many of the topics CoPe will address. These scientists can bring a wealth of talent and knowledge to the CoPe project and should continue to be included in design of the RFP and in future planning of relevant CoPe studies. Agencies can provide facilities (labs, offices, vessels), instrumentation, and technical expertise to CoPe projects that aid the agency missions. CoPe hubs could be physically located at/near Federal facilities, which are many of which are located in coastal research communities. Field experiments could be located where agencies have long-term records or ongoing measurements, and/or on Federal lands (e.g., national parks and seashores, or military reservations). Federal scientists could actively participate in CoPe studies, and use established agency mechanisms to disseminate results.

Impact

Collaboration with Federal agencies will increase the resources available to achieve CoPe objectives. More scientific talent will be engaged, and more physical resources will be made available where CoPe and agency science needs align. More efficient

use of taxpayer funds, and better outcomes for both NSF and agency missions will result.

Evidence

Many successful examples of collaboration between NSF programs and Federal science agencies exist.