

**Amphibious Array Steering Committee (AASC)
Conference Call Summary, Monday 20 Aug. 2012 (1pm EDT)**

Moderator: G. Abers

On Call: R. Batiza, D. Blackman, G. Anderson, J. Wade (NSF); S. Schwartz, M. Benoit, R. Allen, S. McNutt, T. Melbourne (AASC), J. Morgan (GeoPRISMS).

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Introduction to new Program Manager Donna Blackman. Covers MGG core proposals, OBSIP, Cascadia, GeoPRISMS among other responsibilities.

Status of land deployment (G. Anderson). All going flawlessly.

Status of OBS deployment (S. Schwartz, R. Allen). Three recovery cruises complete, deployment cruises happening soon. Instrument recovery went well. Data recovery is still being evaluated.

From the Lamont recovery cruise, the new Trawl Resistant Mount (TRM) instruments had somewhat lower data recovery rate than deep-sea instruments, of order 2/3, although not yet quantified fully. This was the first ever deployment of this design, much was learned from the recovery and by using JASON to survey instruments before recovery, and it is expected that much higher recovery rates will be forthcoming from future instruments. Deep water instruments seemed to work well, no thorough assessment yet, some noise issues on horizontals were mentioned.

Data from WHOI instruments, recovered first, are expected late September at DMC. Data from LDEO should be end Oct, and SIO instruments are expected at DMC by Dec. 1, although no OBSIP members were on call to confirm. There was some discussion about how to encourage this to be sped along, so that data could start being evaluated prior to the next deployment. One problem is that same technicians who generate the time-corrected data for the DMC also are on the recovery/deployment cruises, so are busy.

Donna Blackman said that the OBSIP Management Office (OMO; new IRIS responsibility) will be contracted to generate instrument orientation information for 1st-yr Cascadia data, within IRIS, quickly. This metadata will be added when complete.

Status of last proposal round (Blackman)

No Cascadia-specific Type 1 or Type 2 proposals were funded.

AGU Mini-Workshop (Abers)

There will likely be a GeoPRISMS miniworkshop combining discussions of the Cascadia OBS deployment and the Holbrook Open Access active-source project that collected reflection data off Washington this July. Probably Sunday night before. Further details TBA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Query from NSF (via Anderson) – are there possible data products that will provide QC and guide future deployments, that should be encouraged very quickly?

NSF is trying to identify a community-based process/data product to learn from first deployments to help fine-tune the plan for next round of deployments. It would be useful if such products added benefit to science. Is there such a data product?

Motivation/timing: have to start work after data are available later this fall, but results by April would be needed to guide the Year 3 (2013) deployments. One specific question is, does the dense quasi-linear array off central Washington make sense, or are there better configurations for the shallow water instruments?

There was much discussion of what would be valuable to have, with top priority given the evaluation of the feasibility of receiver functions with these data. The Grays Harbor array is designed to extend high-density receiver-function (scattered wavefield) imaging offshore, but there is some skepticism about whether or not the appropriate signals can be extracted from these data.

A second priority, but perhaps less critical, would be an integrated seismicity (and perhaps tremor) catalog. Are there earthquakes, or tremors, recorded by the offshore array? If the array is redesigned to record/locate events rather than receiver functions, are there events to record?

There was also discussion of an appropriate mechanism to fund. Although RAPID/EAGER seems like a viable mechanism to get funding out the door, there was some concern about how to do that while keeping the process open to any interested party. In the end, NSF personnel offered to investigate modifying the Dear Colleague letter to encourage this activity.

Next Meeting / plan for future

Doing something attached to the 2013 EarthScope National Meeting seemed like a good idea, focused on the first year's OBS data + land data, and Cascadia plans. Perhaps ideas about the future of the facility could be floated, but choosing future directions seems premature.

Next Conference Call

Nominally in two months, or first half of October 2012.

Structure, support for and reporting of AASC.

This was not discussed, but the Chair wants this issue noted. Since Ocean Leadership no longer supports AASC (and removed the web page describing the 2010 Workshop Report, the blueprint for Cascadia), there is no real reporting or place to get even minimal support for AASC activities. But there is an important role for community input to NSF, CIET, etc. GeoPRISMS paid for this conference call. Perhaps AASC can be restructured as a formal subcommittee of GeoPRISMS and/or EarthScope steering committees? And report regularly to them?