

Sound Predictions Model Validation



Request for proposals

The Prince William Sound Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) in Cordova, Alaska along with the Alaska Ocean Observing System supported the Sound Predictions experiment in 2009. This experiment included measurements of oceanographic conditions, modeling of circulation, and release of several varieties of drifters. OSRI would like more information on how the measurements and modeling components can contribute to improving oil spill trajectory modeling. This requires additional comparison between spill trajectory models and drifter trajectories.

Program objectives

The objective is to analyze how data and model runs from the Sound Predictions exercise can contribute to oil spill trajectory modeling. Analysis of the model performance should include the ability to make accurate forecasts with and without data assimilation. Of particular interest is in evaluating the models capabilities to determine surface water circulation as measured using high-frequency radar and drifting buoys, and the prediction of mixed layer depth. This analysis will test the null hypothesis that the oil spill response models ability to predict buoy positions cannot be improved by inclusion of information from the observing system.

OSRI is prepared to contribute up to \$25K in FY11 for completion of an analysis and report of model performance, and a final report on findings during the summer 2009 experiment.

Proposals must link the activities to OSRI's mission and goals. A description of OSRI and our mission and goals at <http://www.pws-osri.org/>. Grant application materials can be found at http://www.pws-osri.org/grants/app_proc.shtml. **The deadline for submitting applications is February 21, 2011.** Funding is anticipated to begin on July 1, 2011. Applicants are encouraged to contact: Dr. Scott Pegau, OSRI Research Program Manager (wspgau@pwssc.org) if you have questions regarding this opportunity.

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