Observing System Research Studies

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Project Summary

The Observing System Research Studies group performs data and modeling studies to identify climatically significant ocean-atmosphere interaction patterns, identify indices that usefully characterize their amplitudes and study their linkages to US and global weather anomalies, with the goals of improving our awareness and understanding of present climate conditions and the effectiveness of the global observing system for climate. We seek to identify useful climate indices/indicators of the state of the climate system, together with estimates of their uncertainty, that help society understand, forecast and project seasonal and longer term weather and climate anomalies. Often this involves estimating the uncertainty in our present ability to make statements of scientific and societal relevance with the historical ocean and climate data sets. We provide guidance about the specific activities required of the global climate observing system to meet its goals as well as work to help understand developing user needs.

We also work within the NOAA, US, international and intergovernmental ocean and climate organizations, with particular focus on the Global Climate Observing System program, the Joint Commission on Oceanography and Marine Meterorology and the CLIVAR program, to develop and advance agreed international plans for the climate observing system, standards for making the observations and for sharing data among all interested parties, and for internationally coordinated activities to exploit the data collected, for the good of all nations.

This project does not collect any observations, but does make ocean and climate information available via the State of the Ocean website at PMEL, and collaboration with the Observing System Monitoring Center project led by Steve Hankin.