901512 An Integrated MBARI Time-Series Program

Please note that Phase 1 requests exceed available resources:

Direct expenses
Total requests exceed available funds by more than $1 million and so a reduction of direct expenses during Phase 2 is necessary to balance our overall budget. Please review your budget requests carefully to determine if any savings are possible, and if so revise your budget accordingly. In some cases, Management Team feedback provides specific suggestions/guidance/instructions on reductions for Phase 2, but we expect everyone to help reduce the demand for our limited resources.

Software engineering
Requests for SE time exceed the number of allocable hours by approximately 2 FTEs. Please ensure that requests for SE time have been carefully scoped and, if possible, reduce those requests. Where applicable, prioritize software engineering tasks, and indicate in your response which tasks may be deferred or removed to enable balancing labor resources.

Final notes
*Please be sure to update **expense** and **ship** budget changes, as necessary, in the web budget system prior to the Phase 2 deadline (Tuesday, September 9). All **labor** changes should be sent to Mandy Allen directly via email; do not adjust labor requests using the web budget system. Mandy will be making and tracking all changes to labor requests to ensure allocations are appropriately booked, particularly with respect to the Engineering Division reorganization (https://mww.mbari.org/engr/Documents/Engineering%20OrgChart%20Rev%20Final.pdf).*

Rating: 1

MT contact: Scholin

Management Team Feedback

General Comments:
We appreciate the work done to date—it appears this effort is going in a positive direction and is the best ITS proposal that has been generated to date. The overall plan seems reasonable and appropriate. We encourage the team to apply the data synthesis/retrospective analyses to some current resource conservation and/or fisheries issues (e.g., anchovy and salmon fisheries, Humboldt squid abundance patterns, massive salp blooms, etc., etc.). Does the ITS provide value in understanding important trends? Is there power in the ITS retrospective analyses that can be demonstrated beyond more scientifically oriented status and trend correlations?

The notion of focusing on a minimum set of measurements as a means to address ‘ecosystem trajectory’ (as opposed to the more subjective “ecosystem health”) appears to

offer a winning hand as a way to focus initial work and demonstrate the power of the ITS approach. Consider engaging representatives from the MBNMS in this discussion—they are very interested in this idea, but concerned with the current definition of ecosystem health.

The notion of developing a "complete picture of the ecosystem dynamics of the Monterey Bay area" (p. 8) sounds appealing, but is not likely to happen in the near term in a truly comprehensive way. Our Board will be much more supportive of an initial effort that is very focused versus one that aims for 'comprehensive understanding' of a very complex and ever changing system.

Looking at Figure 4 on p. 11 of this proposal, we feel it is highly unlikely that all of the work envisioned can be done in parallel in the time frame specified given resource limitations. We think the team should look to prioritize and champion work around critical paths that the overall system ultimately depends on (e.g., data classification, fusion, visualization), where there is overlap with other projects (e.g., targeted sampling, automated video data processing; ocean imaging), and where externally funded activities will necessarily drive resource allocations in the near to mid-term. That is, we encourage you to think about a systems approach in the greater sense of the institute—not just ITS per se. Where are the R&D intersections across programs outside of ITS—what does that tell us about prioritization as we work toward realizing the larger system?? Go team!

For Phase 2 please address the following:
It would be helpful if you could identify R&D intersections across programs outside of ITS to inform us about prioritization as we work toward integrating the larger system; the management team will be looking to identify such overlaps—please pass on any ideas you have along these lines.