



ION: INTEGRATED OBSERVATORY NETWORK OCEAN OBSERVATORIES INITIATIVE

Release 1 User Guide







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An Introduction to ION

The Integrated Observatory Network (ION) is a national infrastructure that makes ocean data from many observing systems available to everyone, from scientists and researchers to teachers, students, and the interested public. You can access the data available in ION through the web interface: ion-beta.oceanobservatories.org. There you will find tools to help you locate, learn about, evaluate, and download ocean data. You will also find tools to keep you informed of changes to data you are interested in and tools that enable you to share your data with other ION users.

SOME HANDY THINGS TO KNOW

As you explore ION, you may find it helpful to be familiar with a few basic concepts.

Registered Resource

When a set of scientific data or other artifact is registered in ION, it is represented by a *Registered Resource*. In Release 1, most Registered Resources represent scientific data from one or more data sources, along with metadata that describe the source(s), the data, or both. In this document, we refer to a Registered Resource that represents a data set as a *data resource*.

Data Source

Data in ION may come directly from observing systems, such as instruments in or on the water, or may come by way of a laboratory or research facility where the data may be processed in some way. In ION, the *data source* simply refers to where the data are from, i.e., the source of the data. The source is usually described in the metadata.

Metadata

The *metadata* for a Registered Resource contain information about the data or source it represents. For example, the metadata for a particular Registered Resource for a data set may include a list of the variables included and a description of the structure of the data. This type of metadata will help you understand what you are looking at when you examine the data themselves.

Metadata also may contain information about the data source itself. So, for example, you may find information about what instruments were used to gather the data, the place where they were gathered, and what institutions or individuals are responsible for them. This type of metadata will help you establish the provenance of the data.

Data and Data Formats

While data in ION may come from many different kinds of observing systems, may be raw or processed, and may have different kinds of metadata associated with them, all ION data and metadata are represented in *netCDF format*. You will need to know about netCDF when you want to register your own data sources with ION. For more information about netCDF and some useful tools, see

www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/











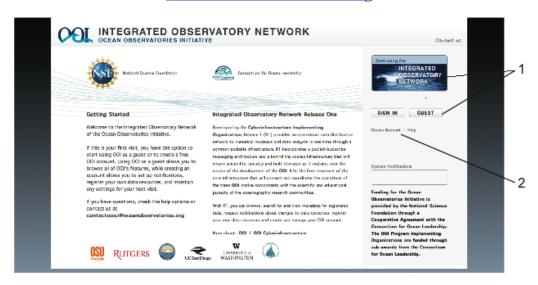




Getting Started with ION

Navigate to ION in your web browser:

ion-beta.oceanobservatories.org



ION's home page (<u>ion-beta.oceanobservatories.org</u>) provides a brief overview of ION and of the current release, as well as links to the OOI's funding, management and implementation partners. From here, you can sign into the ION workspace as a guest or with your previously created account, or create a new ION account.

USE ION AS A GUEST

1. From the ION home page, click on either of the **Guest** or the **Start Using ION** buttons on the right side of the home page to sign in as a guest. Signing in as a guest allows you to browse ION resources and download data. To set up notifications, register data or save your settings, you will need to create an ION account.

CREATE AN ION ACCOUNT

2. Registering for an ION account allows you to access ION's full suite of features, including setting up notifications about resources. To register, click on Create Account on the right side of the home page or on the upper right corner of any ION workspace page. This will direct you to an externally operated account management service that will connect your ION account to the password service of an account you already use. (Use of this external service ensures that you have better security and lets you o use an existing account and password.) When this process is complete, you will be returned to the ION workspace where you will be asked to provide a little more information to finish setting up your new account.









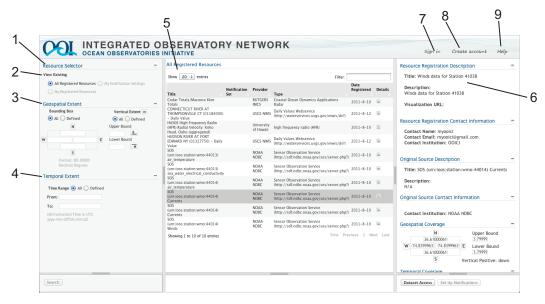






The Basics

The following diagram describes features of ION's main screen.



- 1. The left column contains tools for *finding a registered resource* by specific location or time frame.
- 2. View all the resources that are registered in ION.
- 3. Enter the lat/lon coordinates of the geographic area in which you are interested, or choose a specific vertical extent (offset from sea surface).
- 4. Enter the time range in which you are interested.
- 5. The center column allows you to *browse ION's registered resources*.
- 6. The right column will allow you to *access more information* about each registered resource and set other options for downloading data and creating notifications.
- 7. Sign in to your previously created account. (Sign out if you are signed in.)
- 8. Create a new ION account. This will direct you to an externally operated account management system that ensures the security of your personal information. If you are signed in, you can access your account settings here.
- Access ION help (this document).

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND ION

The left column is where you will generally start working in the ION workspace. It includes the **Resource Selector**, where you decide which registered resources will be brought into the center and right columns. You can choose to view existing data, including all ION resources. If you're a registered user, you can choose to see just those registered resources you've previously registered, access notifications you've set up previously or choose to publish new data.















To search for particular data in ION by location, you can use the **Geospatial Extent Selector** that allows you to locate data within a geographic area by entering the coordinates for that region or choosing vertical extent above or below sea level. The **Temporal Extent Selector** allows you to specify a time range for the data you would like ION to display in the center column. You can use these tools separately or in any combination that meets your needs.

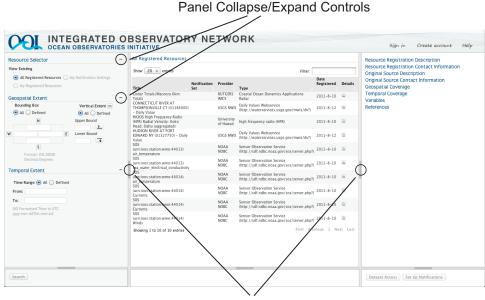
The center column lists all of ION's registered resources in alphabetical order by title, or, if you have double-clicked on one of them, details about that resource. In this area you will also view your notification settings and list any resources you have registered with ION.

The right column is where you will find preview information about a selected resource, as well as options to download data, set up notifications and edit metadata and notification settings, depending upon what you've selected in the left column.

Tune the Workspace for Your Screen Size and Work Style

OPENING AND CLOSING THE RIGHT AND LEFT COLUMNS

The left and right columns may be closed to make more room to view information in the other columns. To close a column, click on the open/close handle. Click on it again to reopen the column.



Open/Close Handles

EXPANDING AND COLLAPSING PANELS

Each horizontal panel in the right and left columns may be collapsed to make more room to view other panels in the column and then reopened again when desired, using the + and – controls in the title area of the panel.















Ten Things You Can Do With ION Release 1

- 1. Explore Ocean Data
- 2. Find Data You Want
- 3. Download Data
- 4. Register for an ION Account
- 5. Sign In to Your ION Account
- 6. Get Notified
- 7. Change Your Notification Settings
- 8. Get Help
- 9. Register a Data Source
- 10. Monitor or Modify Your Registered Resources













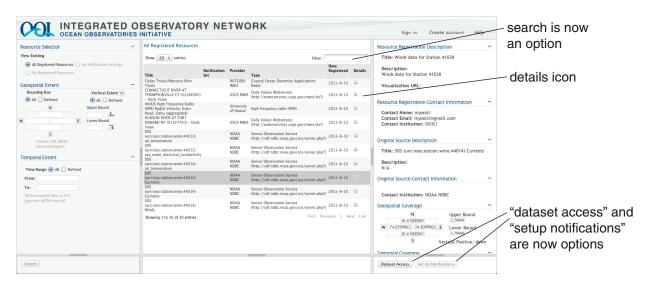


1. EXPLORE OCEAN DATA

Browse ION's resources; here you'll find everything from historical sea-surface temperature time-series, to real-time seismic data, to OOI global buoy data.

- 1. Start with the default settings in panels in the left column:
 - Resource Selector radio buttons set to All Registered Resources
 - Geospatial Extent radio buttons set to All (for Bounding Box as well as Vertical Extent)
 - Temporal Extent radio buttons set to All
- 2. With these settings, the center column lists all of the registered resources currently available to you in ION.





3. Single click on any registered resource in the list to select it and view additional information about it in the right column.





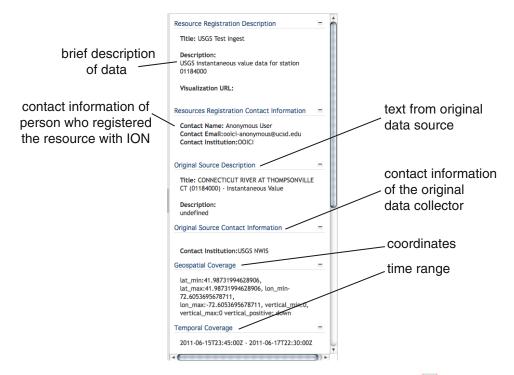




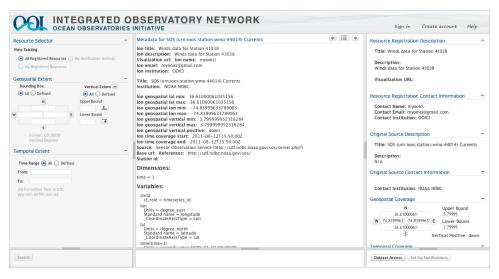








4. To see more information about this registered resource, click once on 🗏 (the details icon) for the listing. The center column view changes to show all of the resource's metadata.



- You can examine the variables in a data resource by clicking on the **Dataset Access** button at the bottom of the right column. (This takes you to a page outside the ION interface with a traditional data access form.)
- 6. Finally, click on (list icon) on the upper right of the center column to return to the full resource list. Shortcut: If you want to see the same detailed information about the next resource on the list, instead of going back to the list to select it, simply click on 💌 (next icon). To see the details of the previous resource click on 👤 (previous icon).















2. FIND DATA YOU WANT

Search for a registered resource in a specific geographic area, vertical extent or collected during a particular time frame. Then choose your specific registered resource or resources from the resulting list.

1. In the Resource Selector panel:

Under the View Existing heading, select All Registered Resources.

2. To search for registered resources within a specific geographic area, click on the "Defined" radio button under Bounding Box, and then enter your coordinates in decimal degrees in the Geospatial Extent panel under Bounding Box. You can click on the N/S/E/W buttons to toggle the direction or use negative numbers if you prefer (so 10N is the same is -10S, for instance).



- 3. To search for registered resources within a specific vertical extent, in the **Geospatial Extent** panel, click on the "Defined" radio button under "Vertical Extent," and then enter your range. You can toggle the units button (to the right of the "Vertical Extent" section title) to use either meters (**m**) or feet (**ft**). You can also toggle the above and below sea level buttons to select the direction or use negative numbers if you prefer (so 10 set) is the same as -10 set., for instance).
- 4. To search for registered resources within a specific time frame, click on the "Defined" radio button under Temporal Extent, and then enter the dates of your desired range in the Temporal Extent box. A calendar and slider bars will appear when you click on the entry field to support entering the date and time ranges.

You can search using any combination of steps 8, 9, and 10 above. If you enter multiple conditions, only registered resources that meet all of them will be returned.

5. Your search return entries appear in the center column in alphabetical order by title. Here you can sort by title, provider, type or date registered by clicking on the relevant term in the column header.







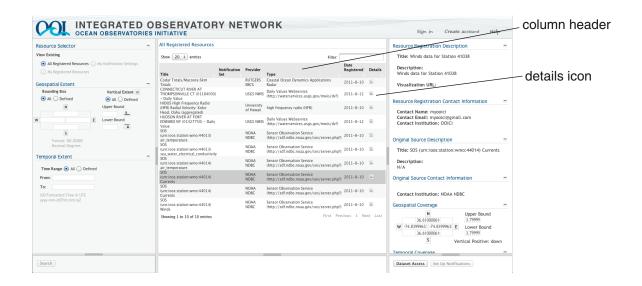


























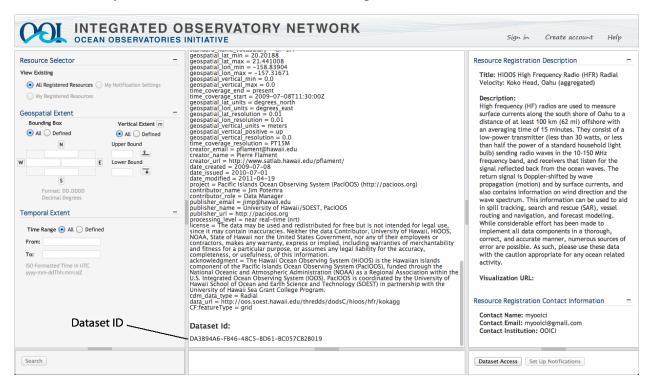
3. DOWNLOAD DATA

Our goal for ION is to be able to deliver exactly the data and information you need, when and where you want it. However, if you need to download the data, you can do so either by using the OOI-CI ION ToolsUI or through OPeNDAP Access. Regardless of which you use, beware that a data set can be very large and downloading it in its entirety can take a *very* long time.

Finding the Dataset ID

To download ION data you will need the **Dataset ID** of the data set you want.

- 1. Go to the metadata details view in ION for the data set you want (see "1. Explore Ocean Data").
- 2. Scroll to the very bottom of the metadata in the center panel:

















Access Using OOI-CI ION ToolsUI

Set Up OOI-CI ION toolsUI

1. Download the OOI-CI version of toolsUI from

http://ooici.net/releases/toolsUI-4.2-ion.jar

2. Download the R1 ooici-conn.properties file

http://ooici.net/releases/ooici-conn.properties

and put it in your user's home directory:

- On Mac: /Users/<username>
- On Windows
 - XP: <root>\Documents and Settings\<username>
 - o Vista & 7: <root>\Users\<username>
- For other OS's, refer to: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_directory

Use OOI-CI ION toolsUI

1. Launch the toolsUI GUI application from the command line with:

java -Xmx512m -jar toolsUI-4.2-ion.jar

2. In the 'Viewer' tab, enter the prefix "ion://" followed by the **Dataset ID** of the data set of interest and then hit Enter/Return:

- 3. You can now interrogate the dataset, view data (right-click on a variable and select "Ncdump Data"), and view metadata (click the "NcDump" button)
- 4. You can use the other tabs in the application to view the dataset in different ways.

For further information about the functionality provided by ToolsUI, visit the Unidata website:

http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf-java/documentation.htm

OPeNDAP Access

All of the public datasets in the ION R1 system are available through OPeNDAP. Access to a particular dataset can be obtained by placing the appropriate **Dataset ID** into the following string concatenation:

http://thredds.oceanobservatories.org/thredds/dodsC/ooiciData/ + <dataset_id> + .ncml

This OPeNDAP URL can be used with any software that supports the OPeNDAP protocol, including:

• ncks















- ncdump
- netcdf (C & Java libraries)
- IDV
- toolsUI

The following sites provide information and links to additional software packages for working with NetCDF Data, some of which support OPeNDAP access:

http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/netcdf/software.html

http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/gridded/using_dods.html#software

The "Clients" sections of:

http://opendap.org/download/allsoftware

http://opendap.org/othersoftware















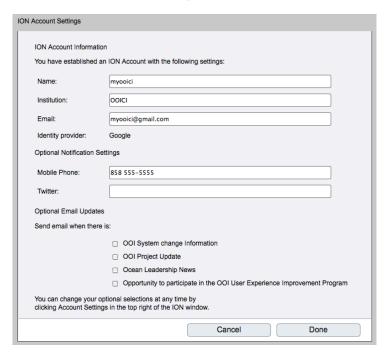
4. REGISTER FOR AN ION ACCOUNT

You'd like to register for an ION account.

1. In the upper right corner of any ION screen, click on Create Account. The ION Registration box pops up in the center column.



- 2. Note that by clicking on Get Credentials, you will be leaving the ION workspace for an outside credentialing provider. Follow the instructions there, and return to ION.
- 3. An ION Account Settings panel is now visible as a pop-up window on the ION screen. Enter your information and click **Done**. Note that your must provide Name, Institution and Email information. The Email address you use here does not have to be associated with the same account or provider that you used for your password.



4. When you return to ION after setting up an account and want to modify your account, click on **Account Settings** in the upper right corner of any ION screen.















5. SIGN IN TO YOUR ION ACCOUNT

You'd like to sign in to an ION account you have set up previously.

- 1. In the upper right corner of any ION screen, click on **Sign in**. What happens next depends on whether you asked for your choices to be remembered by the account service management system the last time you signed in.
- 2. You may be asked to select your Identity provider. Select the provider you used when you set up your account.
- 3. If your provider permits multiple identities, you may be asked to select which you would like to use. Select the identity you used when you set up your account.
- 4. You should now be returned to the main ION screen.















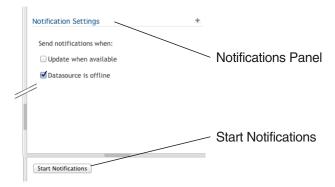
6. GET NOTIFIED

You've found a registered resource that interests you and you want to be notified if anything changes about the resource.

- 1. Sign in to your account (you must have created an account earlier to perform this function).
- 2. Find the registered resource about which you want notifications so that it is either selected in list view, or its details are showing in the center column. (For help in finding a data resource, see "2. Find Data You Want.")



3. Click on **Set Up Notifications** in the lower left corner of the right column. The right column view now shows a notification settings panel.



- 4. In Release 1 of ION, you can choose to be notified when data or metadata have changed, or when the data source or sources go offline preventing delivery of new data.
- 5. Check the box or boxes for the notifications you would like to receive. To save your settings, click on the **Start Notifications** button at the bottom of the right column. When the events you have selected occur, notifications will be sent to the email address you provided in your account settings. (To change this address, see "4. Register for an ION Account")











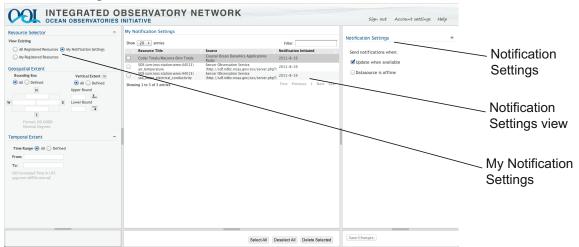




7. CHANGE YOUR NOTIFICATION SETTINGS

You've set up notifications about a registered resource or resources, and you want to view or modify them.

- 1. Sign in to your account.
- 2. In the **Resource Selector** panel in the left column, select **My Notification Settings**. The center column now shows notifications you have set up previously.
- 3. You can search for notifications associated with specific registered resources by using the Geospatial Extent and Temporal Extent panels in the left column, just as you searched for the registered resources themselves (see "2. Find Data You Want").
- 4. To view or modify a notification, select it. The setting details for that resource are now shown in the right column.



- 5. If you want to make changes to specific settings for that notification, make them in the right column and click **Save Changes** at the bottom of the right column.
- 6. If you want to delete a notification setting, select it by checking the checkbox to the left in the center column and then click **Delete Selected** at the bottom of the center column. (Note that you may use **Select All** and **Deselect All** here as well to select or deselect the entire list of notifications.)















8. GET HELP OR TALK WITH THE ION TEAM

If you find that you need help with the ION system, you can email us at

helpdesk@oceanobservatories.org

If you need another copy of this guide (or know someone who does), you can download it using the **Help** link on any ION screen.

If you'd like to make suggestions or tell us how we are doing, please send your comments to:

contactooici@oceanobservatories.org











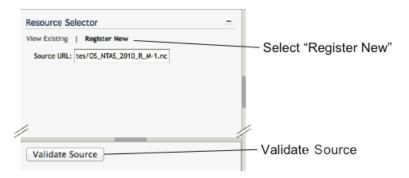




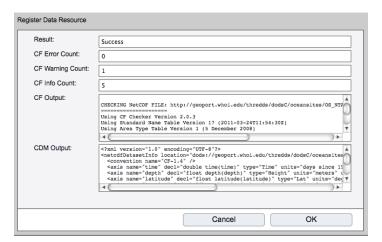
9. REGISTER A DATA SOURCE

If you are an OOI Data Provider, you can register an existing netCDF-compliant data source to make it available in ION. You can also register a URL associated with the data source, and edit, review or enter metadata and other information about your resource.

1. In the **Resource Selector** section of the left column, click on **Register New**. This displays the Source URL field.



2. Enter the source URL of the data source you want to register in the Source URL field. When you click **Validate Source** at the bottom of the left column, ION will check that your data source is netCDF compliant and displays the result in a pop-up window.



3. Your validated netCDF-compliant data source's metadata now appears in the center column, and summary metadata associated with your source appears in the right column.





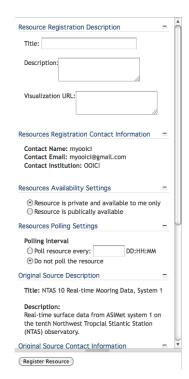












4. Enter, review or edit the information in the right column, including the title the ION should display for the registered resource, description, your contact information, how the resource will be made available (private or public), polling options and provenance information. When finished, click on Register Resource.











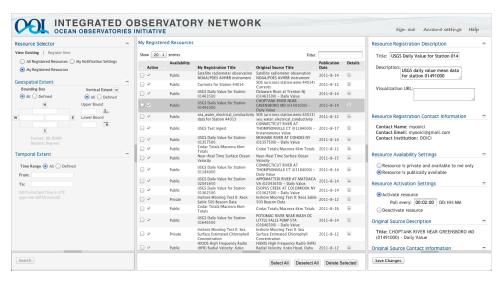




10. MONITOR OR MODIFY YOUR REGISTERED RESOURCES

You've registered a resource, and you want to view or modify it.

- 1. In the left column in the resource selector, choose **My Registered Resources.** The center column now lists resources you have previously registered. (Note that the Geospatial and Temporal Extent settings apply to all resource views, so set them to All to be sure that all the resources that you registered will be displayed in the center column.)
- 2. You can search for specific resources you have registered by using the Geospatial Extent and Temporal Extent panels in the left column, just as you searched for specific data resources (see "2. Find Data You Want").
- 3. To view or modify a registered resource, select it. The information associated with that resource is now shown in the right column.



- 4. If you want to make changes to specific settings for a registered resource, make them in the right column and click **Save Changes** in the lower right corner.
- 5. If you want to remove a registered resource from ION, select it by checking the checkbox on the left in the center column and then click **Delete Selected** at the bottom of the center Column. (Note that you can **Select All** and **Deselect All** here as well to select and deselect the entire set of resources).















ION Quick Guide

Browse ION registered resources	In the left column, select View Existing in the Resource Selector. Set options for all selectors in the left column to "all." All ION resources appear in list view in the center column. Use the scroll bar on the right of the center column, your mouse or your keyboard up/down keys to browse the list.
Contact ION help desk	Email helpdesk@oceanobservatories.org
Data resources, browse	See "Browse ION registered resources" above.
Data resources, find by location	To search for data within a specific geographic location, enter coordinates into the N, W, E, W boxes in the Geospatial Extent section of the left column. To limit the search by vertical extent, enter the upper and lower bounds under Vertical Extent . If you have multiple search conditions set, only registered resources that meet all of them will be returned.
Data resources, find by time	To search for data within a specific time frame, enter the time range of interest in the Temporal Extent panel in the left column. The results return in the center column. If you have multiple search conditions set, only registered resources that meet all of them will be returned.
Data resource, metadata view	Clicking on the Details icon to the right of a resource in the center column shows the metadata of that resource in the center column.
Data resource, notifications	Select a registered resource in the center column by either clicking on it once or by clicking on the Details icon to the right of the resource. In the lower right corner of the right column, click on Set Up Notifications . Select desired notification settings that appear in the right column and click Start Notifications . You must be signed in to add or remove notifications.















Data, polling options	Polling (the frequency that ION polls a data source for changes) can be set by the registrant when registering a new resource or when modifying the settings of a resource previously registered. For setting polling when registering a new resource, see "Data, register a data source" below. For setting polling for an already registered resource, choose My Registered Resources in the left column, select the resource in the center column, and then set polling options in the right column. Click Save Changes to activate the new settings.
Data resource, register	In the Resource Selector in the right column, select Register New. Choose Source URL and enter the URL of the source data and click Validate Dataset. ION will check that the data source is netCDF compliant. The validated netCDF-compliant data source's metadata now appears in the center column, and summary metadata associated with the resource appears in the right column. Fill out the information in the right column, and click Register Resource in the lower right corner to create a new registered resource. You must be signed in to register a source.
Data resources, view all resources in ION	See "Browse ION data" above.
Geospatial selector	Use this selector tool in the left column to limit the resources shown in the center column to a specific geographic area or vertical extent, or a combination of the two.
Help	Access help topics in the upper right corner of the ION workspace, or contact ION help. See "Contact ION help desk" above.
ION account, modify existing	After creating an ION account, access Account Settings in the upper right corner of the workspace.
ION account, register	Click on Create Account in upper right corner of the workspace or the ION Home Page to obtain an ION account. An externally operated account management system manages ION account verification, ensuring security of personal information.















Metadata, enter	When registering a new data source or editing a previously registered resource, metadata fields are available in the right column when that resource is selected. These include publisher information, creator information, polling options, geographic boundaries, temporal extent and title and description. Sign in required.
Metadata, view	See "Data, metadata view" above.
Notifications, modify	Choose My Notification Settings in the Resource Selector at the top of the left column. Registered resources previously set up with notifications appear in the center column. Click on a particular resource to modify notification settings in the right column. Sign in required.
Notifications, monitor	See "Notifications, modify" above.
Notifications, set up	With the registered resource of interest selected in the center column, click on the Set Up Notifications button in the lower right of the right column. Notification options appear in the right column; select desired options and click " save changes " in lower right. Sign in required.
Register new data	See "Data, register a data source" above.
Register, data source	See "Data, register a data source" above.
Register, ION account	See "ION account, register" above.
Set up download	See "Data, download" above.
Sign In	Sign In and Sign Out of ION in the upper right corner of the workspace.
Temporal extent	Use this selector tool in the left column to limit the registered resources shown in the center column to a specific time frame.

















Vertical extent

Use this selector tool in the left column to limit the registered resources shown in the center column to a specific, vertical range.















Appendix A System Requirements

The Integrated Observatory Network (ION) runs on the following browsers:

- IE 8, IE 9 on Windows 7
- Firefox 3.6.19, Firefox 5 on Windows 7, Mac OS X 6 & 7, and Linux (Ubuntu)
- Chrome 12, Chrome 13, on Windows 7, Mac OS X 6 & 7
- Chrome 12 on Linux (Ubuntu)
- Safari 5.x on Mac OS X 6 & 7











