The National Research Council (NRC) ranked oceanography programs in 1995 and gave a single ranking of 9th in the country to the combination of two UMD programs: AOSC and MEES. In 2008 the *Chronicle of Higher Education* released a reputational ranking of atmospheric science departments which placed AOSC 4th in the country. The most recent comprehensive ranking is provided by the latest NRC report released in October of this year based on extensive data collected in 2005, and in that survey they combined into a single category departments of meteorology, atmospheric science, and oceanography. Much of the comparisons below are based on examination of the data from the 50 AOS-NRC departments. We also discuss how AOSC compares to the 54 other graduate programs within UMCP.

The NRC provided two summary measures based on a regression of important quantitative measures (R-Rank) and reputational surveys (S-Rank). For each they provided 95% and 5% limits. In **Fig. 5** we present the average of the rank associated with the limits for ranked 20th or above. Based on these overall measures AOSC seems now to be placed comfortably in the middle of the top ten programs in meteorology, atmospheric science and oceanography. One might also ask which programs are demonstratively higher ranked such that their 5%-95% ranges do not overlap, which have ranges that do overlap, and which are demonstrably lower ranked. For the S-Rank none are higher ranked, 25 overlap and 24 are ranked lower. Calling out just one of the categories that was combined in the NRC R Ranking, 'Research Activity', AOSC is tied for 10th place. In **Table 7** we compare some key statistics for AOSC with six highly ranked programs including three frequently referred to in UMCP literature as 'aspirational peers'. The comparison shows that AOSC is highly ranked among programs in this group and produces PhDs at a higher rate than any but CSU although its faculty size is smaller.

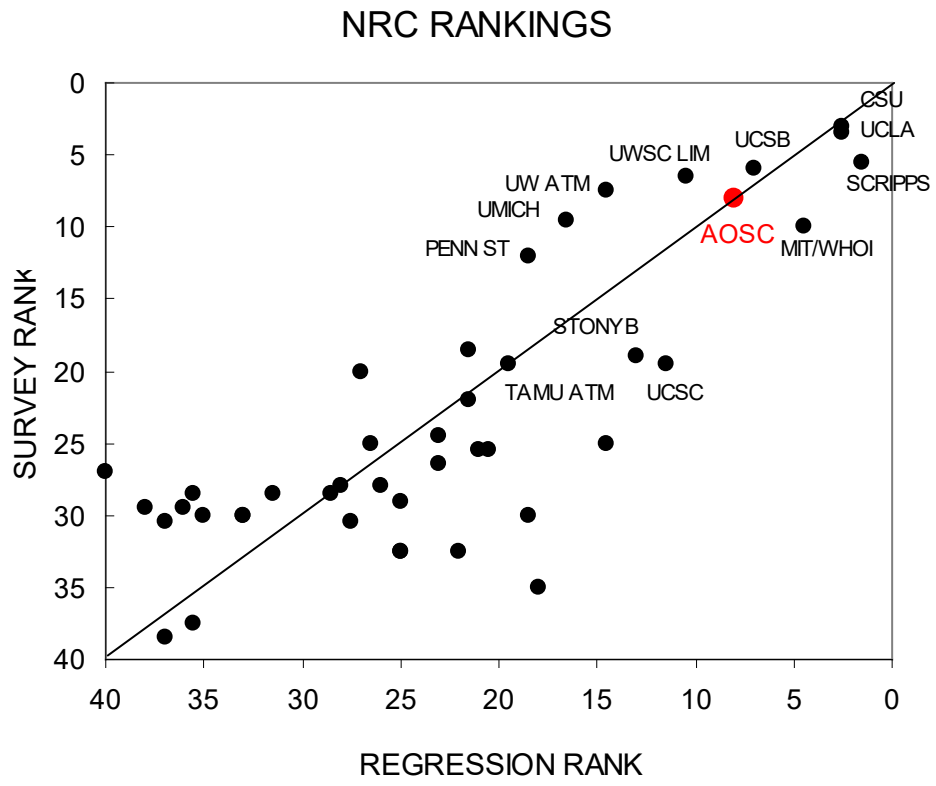

Figure 5 Scatter diagram of average of 95% and 5% limits of Regression Rank and Survey Rank from the 2010 NRC ranking of 50 graduate programs in atmospheric and oceanic science (top 13 shown). AOSC is marked in red.