

Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)
Governing Council Meeting Summary
October 7-8, 2015

Day 1: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at NOAA conference room, Pier 38, Honolulu

Council Members: Chris Ostrander (Chair), Dr. Heather Bell, Vas Podorean, Captain McGrew Rice, Donna Brown, Dr. Jason Biggs, Don Hess, Frank Rabauliman, Willy Kostka, Dr. Patrick Tellei, Edward Young, Sandra Rossetter (for Davis Yogi), Dr. Chuck Kelley, Captain Ashley Evans, Frazer McGilvray, Richard Roberts

Invited Guests: George Jungbluth, U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

PacIOOS Staff: Simon Ellis, Melissa Iwamoto, Fiona Langenberger

1:05 p.m. Call to Order and Welcome, Chris Ostrander, Chair of Governing Council

1:10 p.m. Review of Meeting Agenda and Objectives, Melissa Iwamoto, PacIOOS Deputy Director, Followed by Member Introductions

1:15 p.m. Update: IOOS Program Office, George Jungbluth, IOOS Division Chief of Regions, Budget and Policy

G. Jungbluth thanked the PacIOOS Governing Council for their service and commitment to the PacIOOS program. PacIOOS serves as an example for determining requirements and needs through community input and partner engagement. G. Jungbluth commended PacIOOS for being the first regional association to receive Regional Information Coordination Entity (RICE) certification.

G. Jungbluth provided an update of IOOS efforts and outlined NOAA's strategic priorities. It is a priority for IOOS to continue supporting NOAA, federal, and regional ocean observing capabilities; enhance data management and communications; implement the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System (ICOOS) Act requirements; and build governance and management of the enterprise. IOOS is a public/private partnership to support ocean observing. A diversity of partners strengthens the IOOS enterprise and helps IOOS grow.

1:40 p.m. Update: PacIOOS Program, M. Iwamoto and Fiona Langenberger, PacIOOS Communications and Program Coordinator

M. Iwamoto provided a summary of activities since the previous meeting and welcomed new members, including Jason Biggs (Guam), Peter Eves (American Samoa), and Willy Kostka (FSM). M. Iwamoto recognized new MOA signatories: Conservation International Hawai'i, Forever Oceans, Mico Beach Yacht Club, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, National Park of American Samoa. The Executive Committee met in Majuro in March, helping to increase the understanding of the challenges and opportunities of low-lying atolls.

F. Langenberger summarized outreach and communication efforts of the past year. PacIOOS participated in partner events; increased media, social media and web presence; continued monthly newsletters; and met with numerous partners and stakeholders.

2:30 p.m. Results: PacIOOS Performance Measures, M. Iwamoto

M. Iwamoto presented the results of the PacIOOS performance measures for June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2015. While most performance metrics were met, operational uptime of PacIOOS assets could be improved. Council members discussed options to increase uptime of assets. For example, a spare wave buoy would enable quicker redeployments. In addition, building local capacity throughout the Pacific will help improve asset uptime.

3:00 p.m. Micronesia Challenge: Shared Commitment to Conserve, Willy Kostka, Executive Director of Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)

W. Kostka provided an overview of the MCT, whose vision is, *“enduring partnerships that conserve our land and sea to improve quality of life for communities across Micronesia.”* In order to achieve this vision, *“We build partnerships, raise and manage funds, make grants, influence policy, and provide conservation and financing expertise.”*

The Micronesia Challenge is a shared commitment to effectively conserve at least 30% of nearshore marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020, with the support of many local partners and a variety of funding sources. MCT supports the Micronesia Challenge through sustainable financing, capacity-building, and raising awareness. PacIOOS looks forward to developing ideas with MCT on how to support initiatives in Micronesia and offer solutions for technology and data needs.

3:45 p.m. Wrap-up Day 1, C. Ostrander

The focus of the first day was to provide an update of PacIOOS activities. Day 2 will focus on certain aspects of the program.

Day 2: Thursday, October 8, 2015 at NOAA conference room, Pier 38, Honolulu

Council Members: H. Bell, V. Podorean, M. Rice, D. Brown, J. Biggs, D. Hess, F. Rabauliman, P. Tellei, E. Young, C. Kelley, A. Evans, C. Ostrander, F. McGilvray, R. Roberts, Dr. Andrew Rossiter

Invited Guests: G. Jungbluth, U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

PacIOOS Staff: S. Ellis, M. Iwamoto, F. Langenberger

7:30 a.m. Tour of Honolulu Fish Auction at Pier 38

9:30 a.m. Recap of Day 1 and Welcome Back, C. Ostrander

9:40 a.m. Update: PacIOOS Branding and Website, F. Langenberger

F. Langenberger shared the need for, and process to, improve PacIOOS' branding. She shared the new logo and collateral with the members. In addition, PacIOOS has significantly grown since the current website was launched in 2011. New tools and data have created a need to adjust the content organization and webpage navigation to allow for a user-friendly experience. The goal is to increase user engagement. F. Langenberger provided a summary of input gathered, followed by a tour through a draft version of the redesigned website.

A discussion ensued on the potential need and use of apps. PacIOOS did not develop apps during this phase of the redesign; however, the redesigned website will adjust to mobile size. User-group specific apps are a consideration for the future, but the website redesign was the priority, as it is the foundation for content and serves a wide range of users.

Moving forward, functionalities and content will be finalized before a beta version is shared for testing with partners, including Council members and staff. The launch of the website and the new branding is planned for early 2016. Upon the launch, Google Analytics will be used to track user behavior and make adjustments where necessary.

10:45 a.m. The Growing Impact of Sea Level Rise, Dr. Doug Luther, PacIOOS Researcher and Professor at the Department of Oceanography, UH

Dr. Luther explained that rather than causing slow flooding of low-lying areas, sea level rise will result in an increased frequency of flooding events, occurring at the peaks of high tides. Unprotected coastlines will be inundated during high surf conditions, and more damaging surge events in harbors will occur during specific swell conditions. Dr. Luther and his team have developed the PacIOOS Six-Day High Sea Level Forecasts, the PacIOOS Wave Run-Up Forecasts, and the PacIOOS Harbor Surge Forecast.

The group discussed the options of several of the input components that could help Dr. Luther's team improve the forecast products. In addition, Dr. Luther stressed the value of having observers on the ground to help build, adjust and validate the products. Ultimately, combining local knowledge with scientific models and measurements is the key to success. Members noted that although the wave model resolution is low in the Marshall Islands, the wave run-up forecast is extremely helpful and plays a key role to alert the community and prepare for potential flooding. PacIOOS requested the Council to continue to provide feedback on priorities for these forecasts.

11:30 a.m. Discussion: Industry Partners in the Pacific

PacIOOS has had successful engagement, participation, and industry input within the Governing Council and through in-kind support, such as from Young Brothers for the wave buoys.

The Council discussed ways to strengthen industry partnerships, including how to reach the right points of contact. Cruise ships, marine cargo companies, and overseas insurance are potential partners. World Ocean Council and Hawai'i harbors users group are good platforms to introduce PacIOOS. It is important to show industry partners the services and value PacIOOS provides to enhance their operations, and how the tools are different from other available services.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Discussion: Updating the PacIOOS Strategic Plan

The current Strategic Plan covers 2013-2018, but it is time to start the planning process for the next iteration. The current Plan serves as a good document to explain what PacIOOS does and why; however, there are areas for improvement, such as more specific objectives

and clearer crosswalks between focus areas. Goals and objectives should be derived from: a) requirements and needs, and b) PacIOOS capabilities.

The Council discussed some of PacIOOS' focus areas, including modeling, water quality, and ecosystem services. PacIOOS used to be the single source for high-resolution surf and atmospheric models in the region, but recently federal agencies (e.g., NOAA) are providing similar services. Moving forward, PacIOOS needs to avoid duplicating efforts. PacIOOS receives requests for increased water quality monitoring; however, expectations on what to measure vary. Nutrient monitoring is often desired, but such efforts are expensive and not feasible within the current budget. Biology, ecosystem services, and multispecies management receive great attention on the federal level. This section needs to be improved in the Plan, based upon additional stakeholder engagement. It was also noted that a plan for recapitalization is needed. Life-cycle management of equipment needs to be balanced with program objectives and priorities.

The council approved the planned process to update the Strategic Plan. The Executive Committee will focus on Strategic Plan development when they meet in March, and a draft plan will be available for discussion at the next Governing Council meeting.

2:30 p.m. Vote for New PacIOOS Governing Council Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meets annually in the Spring, and members serve 2-year terms. M. Iwamoto thanked the outgoing executive committee members for their service and dedication to PacIOOS. The following members were unanimously approved by the full Council to serve as the new Executive Committee: Chris Ostrander (Chair), Heather Bell (Hawai'i), Willy Kostka (FAS), Jason Biggs (Territories and Government), Vas Podorean (Industry). The next meeting will be held in Pohnpei, in Spring 2016.

2:40 p.m. Discussion and Meeting Evaluation

Council members were encouraged to provide feedback on the meeting. Presentations on project updates, regional partners, and expert topics were well received. Participants enjoyed the visit to the Fish Auction to get a closer look into a local business/stakeholder. Participants enjoyed getting a regional perspective and having the opportunity to network.

The beginning of October is not ideal for federal employees, as it is the start of their fiscal year. Members suggested pushing the meeting to the beginning of November, noting that the Presidential elections will take place November 2016. The Council decided to re-visit meeting frequency as we progress. The next meeting will take place in November 2016, and at that time, the Council will determine when the following meeting shall be held.

2:55 p.m. Wrap up and Recap of Meeting, C. Ostrander

C. Ostrander enjoyed the meeting and stressed the importance of getting together as a group. Council members represent very different user groups and stakeholders, and it is great to see how everyone is vested in the vision of PacIOOS. He thanked everyone for the commitment to PacIOOS and for taking the time to participate in the meeting.

3:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned