

Progress Report
Developing the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)
Grant # NA11NOS0120039
Performance Period: June 1, 2011 through November 30, 2011

Submitted by
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1) Project Summary

The primary goal of the work proposed under this award is to continue the development of an operational ocean monitoring and forecasting system that provides integrated, customized, and timely products that enable an ocean-literate and well-informed public and policy makers in the Pacific Islands. PacIOOS has focused initial development on water quality sensing, ocean-state and forecasting, the provision of marine ecosystem information, prediction of coastal hazards, and the development of integrated data visualization capabilities to inform marine spatial planning, operations, commerce, and recreation. Through the effort proposed under this award, PacIOOS will enhance development of observing and product suites in each of the aforementioned focus areas and will continue to engage users, stakeholders, and system partners in the use, extension, education, and outreach of technical capacity, data visualization, and ocean information.

2) Progress and Accomplishments

Even though funds arrived November 1st, 2011 all milestones are on track for on-time completion. All ongoing operations proposed under our FY11-FY12 descope continue as planned (glider missions, HF radar operation, real-time wave data, coastal cameras, high water level forecasts, water quality data and products, water level products, operational models (wave, wind, circulation), vessel traffic, and biological tagging/tracking). All data and products are available on the PacIOOS website (www.pacioos.org) which has registered over 8,000 visits and 25,000 pages viewed during the present reporting period.

3) Scope of Work

Activities proposed as ongoing efforts will continue through the next performance period.

The three activities proposed as new to this award are 1: HF radar at Kaena Point, 2: water quality system in American Samoa, and 3: development of a circulation model for the Pacific Basin. Planning and execution of all three have begun, with on-time completion of each to be detailed in subsequent progress reports. There are no issues, at this time, that threaten progress towards proposed milestones.

4) Personnel and Organizational Structure

The PacIOOS Director, Chris E. Ostrander, has indicated he will step down at the end of calendar year 2012. In consultation with the PacIOOS Governing Council, we have initiated a process to hire a Deputy Director, to begin in January 2012, who will overlap with Mr. Ostrander through the term of his 2012 service. That individual will then take over as PacIOOS Director, subject to Council approval.

5) Budget Analysis

Due to the five-month delay in the arrival of funds, we have not drawn down funds as much as would be expected six months in to the award execution period. Major equipment purchases will be made during the next reporting period. That, coupled with ongoing and upcoming salary commitments will utilize the remaining balance of the award as proposed.

The University of Hawaii Office of Research Services has submitted a financial report covering the period of June 1, 2011 through November 30, 2011.