



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®)  
1315 East West Highway, Rm. 2620  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

August 18, 2015

Mr. Chris Ostrander  
Director and Principal Investigator  
Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)

Re: Decision to Approve PacIOOS Certification Application

Dear Mr. Ostrander,

Congratulations, this letter is formal notification that NOAA has approved your application to be certified as a Regional Information Coordination Entity (RICE). This decision was made after careful and considerate review of all information that you provided about your organizational structure and operations.

Review of your application showed that PacIOOS meets all of the requirements to be certified as a RICE, as identified in the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System; Regulations to Certify and Integrate RICEs (15 CFR 997). PacIOOS will be formally integrated into the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System upon completion of the Memorandum of Agreement between NOAA and PacIOOS.

In reviewing your application, we have determined that the following individuals meet the criteria to be considered employees of a certified RICE, as defined in the rule:

- Chris Ostrander, Melissa Iwamoto - Individuals responsible for overall RICE management
- Pierre Flament, Kim Holland, Margaret McManus, Mark Merrifield - Individuals responsible for observations systems management across the region
- Jim Potemra, John Mauer - Individuals responsible for the coordination and management of observation data across the region

For the purposes of certification, NOAA approves these individuals as employees of PacIOOS, a certified RICE. In the case of Kim Holland, this approval is contingent upon his agreement, prior to the completion of the MOA, to provide public access to data through PacIOOS. This contingency is required by the Rule, which states that the RICE should strive to make available as soon as logistically feasible each data stream collected in part or in whole with funds distributed to a RICE through the U.S. IOOS Program Office.



The PacIOOS application references several actions to be completed in the future. In approving the PacIOOS as a certified RICE, NOAA recognizes that PacIOOS has agreed to complete the following actions:

1. Begin archiving the data collected from their near-shore buoys and water quality sensors with NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information by the end of March 2017.
2. Send all profiling glider data to the U.S. IOOS Glider Data Assembly Center (DAC) for archiving when it receives notification from the U.S. IOOS Program Office that the DAC is ready to accept archival data.
3. Send all animal telemetry data to the U.S. IOOS Animal Telemetry Network Data Assembly Center for archiving when it receives notification from the U.S. IOOS Program Office that the DAC is ready to accept archival data.
4. For variables with approved QARTOD manuals, QARTOD QC tests will be in place no later than December 2015.
5. For variables with QARTOD manuals in development, QARTOD QC tests will be in place within 6 months of publication of the manual.
6. Remove all Liquid Robotics wave glider data from PacIOOS data servers and data portals until the data are quality-controlled by Liquid Robotics.

If for any reason PacIOOS cannot meet these deadlines, they must contact the U.S. IOOS Program Office to discuss the submission of an intent to substantively change its Strategic Operational Plan, in accordance with 15 CFR 997.13 (c).

This approval letter does not formally establish PacIOOS as a certified RICE. When the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is signed by both U.S. IOOS and PacIOOS, PacIOOS will then be formally certified as a RICE.

Please confirm to me and Dave Easter, via email or letter, that you agree to the conditions listed above. Upon receipt of this consent, we will initiate the MOA process, sending the draft MOA to you for review.

On confirmation that you agree with the MOA, the U.S. IOOS Program Office will submit the agreement on PacIOOS' behalf to the National Ocean Service (NOS). It will be reviewed by NOAA and Department of Commerce General Counsels' (DOC GC) in a process that you should anticipate taking up 120 days. Upon NOS' approval, after NOAA and DOC GC clearance, PacIOOS will be asked to sign the MOA followed by the U.S. IOOS Program Office. This is important because PacIOOS will not have civil liability protection until the MOA is signed by both Parties.

Sincerely,



Zdenka S. Willis

Director, U.S. IOOS Program Office