

**Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)
Member of the PacIOOS Governing Council
Responsibilities and Expectations**

Purpose of the PacIOOS Governing Council: To represent the collective interests of the stakeholder signatories to the PacIOOS MOA; provide general oversight; offer policy guidance; adopt strategic and implementing documents; advise on major decisions for PacIOOS; facilitate sustained engagement with, and support from, all MOA signatories; and assist with the general promotion of PacIOOS to support the program's mission.

Mission: To empower ocean users and stakeholders throughout the Pacific Islands by providing accurate and reliable coastal and ocean information, tools, and services that are easy to access and use.

Eligibility: The membership of the Governing Council (GC) is comprised of executive leadership (or their designees) of international, federal, territorial, state, and local agencies, academic and research institutions, private entities, industry, and non-governmental organizations that are party to the PacIOOS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). When there is an open seat in a jurisdictional category, each MOA signatory organization from that jurisdiction is eligible to nominate a representative from their organization as a candidate for the GC. Partners from within that same jurisdiction vote for the next representative(s) for the PacIOOS Governing Council.

Desired qualifications: Preferred nominations include members with decision-making power in their agency/organization, and/or someone that has a broad view of their organization's strategic direction, needs, and potential for collaboration. In addition, because each seat represents a jurisdiction (e.g., Hawai'i or the Federated States of Micronesia), it is preferred to have someone that can also speak to the broader needs of other stakeholders and opportunities in their jurisdiction. Innovators, strategic thinkers, and collaborative leaders all serve their jurisdiction well within this role.

Major responsibilities*:

- Uphold PacIOOS' vision, mission, and guiding principles, as detailed in the Strategic Framework.
- Represent public needs and interests and identify potential PacIOOS partners and stakeholders.
- Assist with the long-range planning of PacIOOS.
- Evaluate the observing system effectiveness by monitoring the development and implementation of the strategic framework and engagement strategies.
- Help ensure that adequate resources are available to the program (advocacy, fund raising, identifying funding opportunities, etc.).
- Represent PacIOOS to the public, partners, and sources of financial support, as appropriate.

**Members of the GC share these responsibilities while acting in the interest of PacIOOS. Each member is expected to make recommendations based on his or her experience and vantage point in the stakeholder community.*

Length of term: Three (3) years. GC members may serve more than one term consecutively. No term limits. A member may be removed, at the discretion of the Chairperson, should they miss two or more consecutive meetings of the GC.

Meetings and time commitment:

- The GC meets once annually in person for 2 days in Honolulu, HI during the fall. Due to time changes and travel distances, these meetings normally require 4 days (2 days of meeting, plus a travel day on each end) for those traveling from outside Hawai‘i.
- Members may be asked to occasionally represent PacIOOS at special functions or meetings.
- Communications with PacIOOS staff throughout the year via Email and telephone to review documents, answer specific questions, and update staff on relevant topics.

Expectations of council members:

- Attend and participate in annual meetings, and special events as able.
- Contribute to strategic visioning and planning
- Respond to Email and telephone inquiries and requests in a timely fashion.
- Review governance and engagement documents, as needed, to provide input and insights.
- Share stakeholder needs and concerns that can be addressed by PacIOOS’ mission, objectives, and components.
- Help communicate and promote PacIOOS’ mission and efforts to the community.
- Become familiar with PacIOOS’ overall financial and resource needs.
- Identify opportunities for synergy, collaboration, and expanded resources to help further PacIOOS’ mission.
- Be willing to serve on the Executive Committee (see below for details).

Governing Council members will not be responsible to:

- Hire, evaluate, or terminate PacIOOS staff.
- Approve the detailed annual budget or individual bills for payment.
- Oversee PacIOOS’ day-to-day operations.
- Issue instructions that represent changes in fiscal, personnel, or program policies.

Executive Committee

The GC also approves an Executive Committee (ExCom), which is comprised of 5 members of the Council. The ExCom is empowered to exercise the roles of the Governing Council between meetings of the latter.

Length of term: Two (2) years. ExCom members may serve more than one term consecutively. No term limits.

Meetings: In addition to the fall GC meeting in Honolulu, the ExCom also meets in person for 2 days in the spring elsewhere in the region. Due to time changes and travel distances, these meetings require about 4 days (2 days of meeting, plus 2 travel days). At these meetings, the ExCom discusses the detailed internal evaluation results; reviews and approves planned efforts for the upcoming fiscal year; and conducts more in-depth strategic planning with staff.