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AUG 12 2015

Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)
Attn: Mr. Chris E. Ostrander
1680 East-West Road, POST 822
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Mr. Ostrander,

The work PacIOOS proposes under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) program will continue to strengthen the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard to promote a safe, healthy, productive ocean, and resilient coastal zone.

The U.S. Coast Guard District Fourteen Search and Rescue Region (SRR) is the largest of the U.S. SRRs. The geographic vast distances within the SRR are further compounded by resource limitations shared by both the U.S. and regional search and rescue (SAR) partners. In order to mitigate these constraints and limitations we rely on our ability to provide optimal SAR planning by incorporating historical, real-time, and forecasted environmental data. Continued improvements to gather and integrate environmental data are essential to effectively conduct our mission of saving lives and property at sea.

PacIOOS currently supports the mission of the U.S. Coast Guard by providing valuable real-time and forecasted ocean information for Hawai'i, the U.S. territories, and the U.S.-affiliated nations in the Pacific Islands region. Specifically, the real-time data on surface currents and the forecasts of ocean circulation assist U.S. Coast Guard SAR operations, helping to delineate search areas for more efficient and successful missions. Continuing and enhancing the efforts and capacity of PacIOOS to deliver timely, relevant, and accurate information on the open and coastal ocean will benefit us and other ocean stakeholders operating within this large region.

I appreciate the commitment of PacIOOS and their Governing Council to address the needs of a diversity of ocean stakeholders, including the U.S. Coast Guard, by collecting and disseminating ocean data and information in a timely fashion and in formats that are easy to access and understand.

Good luck on your proposal and continued efforts. Please contact me at (808) 535-3201 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vincent B. Atkins".

VINCENT B. ATKINS
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District