

Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)
Governing Council Meeting Summary
November 2-3, 2016

Day 1: Wednesday, November 2, 2016, at Coconut Island, Kāneʻohe Bay, HI

Attendees:

Council Members: Chris Ostrander (Chair), Heather Bell, Jason Biggs, Donna Brown, Ashley Evans, David Idip, Willy Kostka, Moriana Phillip, Vas Podorean, McGrew Rice, Ray Tanabe (for Mike Seki), Pamela Weiant

Invited Guests: Barry Choy, NOAA, Jenifer Rhoades, U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

PacIOOS Staff: Simon Ellis, Melissa Iwamoto, Fiona Langenberger

- 1:15 p.m. Welcome, Melissa Iwamoto, PacIOOS Director**
- 1:20 p.m. Overview of the Wave Energy Test Site (WETS), Pat Cross, Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI)**
- 1:45 p.m. Site Visit of WETS and Kāneʻohe Bay**
- 2:40 p.m. Site Visit of Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT) Water Quality Testing Site, Daniel Schar**
- 3:15 p.m. Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology Shark Lab Tour, Dr. Kim Holland and Dr. Carl Meyer**
- 4:30 p.m. Pā'ina at Coconut Island**

Attendees:

Council Members: Chris Ostrander (Chair), Heather Bell, Jason Biggs, Donna Brown, Ashley Evans, David Idip, Willy Kostka, Arnold Liu (for Davis Yogi), Moriana Phillip, Vas Podorean, McGrew Rice, Richard Roberts, Andrew Rossiter, Ray Tanabe (for Mike Seki), Pamela Weiant

Invited Guests: Jenifer Rhoades, U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)

PacIOOS Staff: Simon Ellis, Melissa Iwamoto, Fiona Langenberger

8:10 a.m. Call to Order and Welcome, Chris Ostrander, Chair of PacIOOS Governing Council

8:15 a.m. Review of Meeting Agenda and Objectives, M. Iwamoto

8:25 a.m. Update: IOOS Program Office, Jenifer Rhoades, IOOS Ocean Technology Transition Program Manager

J. Rhoades serves as IOOS' Ocean Technology Transition Project Manager and the regional liaison for PacIOOS and other regional associations in the Pacific. She commended PacIOOS for a successful and busy last year, including the release of a new website, official Regional Information Coordination Entity (RICE) certification, the deployment of a new wave buoy in Kāneʻohe Bay, and highlighted other achievements. J. Rhoades provided an overview of the IOOS office and programmatic updates. The IOOS office awarded new 5-year awards this past June to the Regional Associations. Additional RICE certifications have been approved and more are currently in review. Access to available data was also improved through the implementation of a regional/federal data catalog, new data quality assurance protocols, and other tools.

J. Rhoades also provided an overview of the Ocean Technology Transition (OTT) program, which strives to advance observing technology through the transition of proven ocean and coastal technology (TRL6-9) to the operational stage. For the purposes of OTT, technology is defined to include: sensors, IT, platforms, and technology modernization. In Hawai'i, OTT supports the development and testing of new shark tags that can collect behavioral and oceanographic data as well as the installation of land-based receivers to augment the satellite array and increase data throughput. The IOOS Office will be issuing a Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) in January 2017 for new OTT projects. Information about the FFO, once it is released, will be in a Z-gram and on the IOOS website.

8:45 a.m. Update: PacIOOS Program, M. Iwamoto and Fiona Langenberger, PacIOOS Communications and Program Coordinator

M. Iwamoto shared a broad overview of the program and provided a summary of activities since the previous Governing Council meeting (October 2015). Topics included wave buoy deployments; wave height records measured by wave buoys; real-time sea surface currents coverage; on-the-ground validation for high sea level and wave run-up forecasts; improvements to the nearshore sensor program and the associated partnership program in the insular Pacific; fin-mounted oxygen tags on sharks; ocean circulation, wave and atmospheric modeling capacity; development of new partner project pages and interactive map viewers.

F. Langenberger summarized outreach and communication efforts of the past year. PacIOOS launched its new website in August, which is hosted within a content management system. The new website is responsive and adapts to different device sizes. The re-organization of content, an easy navigation, interactive tools, and social media compatibility enhance the user experience.

M. Iwamoto recognized new MOA signatories: Republic of the Marshall Islands Ports Authority and the Palau Office of Climate Change. New PacIOOS Governing Council Members were welcomed onboard, including Ms. Moriana Phillip (RMI), Mr. Xavier E. Matsutaro (Palau), Dr. Michael Seki (Regional). Re-elected members include Mr. Vas Podorean (HI) and Mr. McGrew Rice (Regional).

The Executive Committee Governing Council met in Pohnpei in March 2016. Many thanks to Simon Ellis and Willy Kostka for hosting the group. The meeting allowed members and IOOS staff to experience remote island living and helped to increase the understanding of challenges and opportunities in the region.

PacIOOS received level funding from the IOOS Program Office for this year (started June 1, 2016). Partnerships will be key for future growth.

9:45 a.m. Results of PacIOOS Performance Metrics, M. Iwamoto

M. Iwamoto presented the results of the PacIOOS performance metrics for the past year. Operational uptime was slightly below the targeted metric due to mechanical and shipping issues of wave buoys and nearshore sensors. A new spare nearshore sensor is likely to increase uptime for future reporting periods. Operational uptime and spatial coverage of PacIOOS numerical models was above the 90% target. The operational uptime of the PacIOOS website and data services was above the 99% target. The overall number of unique pageviews on the PacIOOS website decreased. The shark tracking pages have generated very high traffic in past years and those numbers decreased throughout the reporting period, presumably due to the lack of new data/tags on sharks. Because the new website minimizes page views to enhance the user experience, the Governing Council suggested staff look into alternative metrics for measuring website performance, such as sessions, number of users, etc. and to make a recommendation to possibly adjust the performance metric at the next Governing Council meeting. PacIOOS improved overall system effectiveness, annually, across all components, and exceeded the target to increase the number of ocean and coastal data sets available via PacIOOS.

10:30 a.m. PacIOOS Water Quality Sensor Partnership Program, Simon Ellis, PacIOOS Regional Coordinator

The Water Quality Sensor Partnership Program (WQSPP) was developed to meet the increasing need for water quality data in the insular Pacific region. Participating partners can use a nearshore water quality sensor for an average of 6-12 months. PacIOOS provides technical support and data management. Two sensors are currently part of the WQSPP. Past projects include monitoring of a mesophotic reef in Palau and monitoring of sediment retention in Lāna‘i, Hawai‘i. Currently, a sensor is supporting grouper research in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, to determine the effects of environmental conditions on spawning. The sensor will remain in place an extra year due to El Niño/La Niña conditions resulting in abnormal water temperatures. Due to a delay in a project in Palau, one sensor will be offered to Friends of Kewalo (O‘ahu, Hawai‘i) for six months starting in December 2016, to monitor effects of a dredging and infrastructure project to improve the harbor.

11:00 a.m. Discussion: Updating the PacIOOS Strategic Plan – Process and Content; M. Iwamoto

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to set direction and establish priorities. The plan will also simplify decision-making, align available resources to maximize success, and serve as a base to better communicate PacIOOS’ path with staff and partners. A draft outline of the strategic plan was developed during the March 2016 Executive Committee meeting in Pohnpei, FSM. The draft outline consists of a Strategic Framework that serves as the public facing component. The Strategic Framework contains the vision, mission, core values, stakeholder needs, strategic vision, strategic topics and strategic goals. The 5-year Strategic Framework will inform an internal Operational Plan, which addresses product delivery as

well governance and management. Whether the focus areas, such as “Living Marine Resources” still fit and will remain the same is up for discussion and needs to be determined.

11:30 a.m. Lunch Break

12:30 p.m. Discussion: Updating the PacIOOS Strategic Plan – Continued, M. Iwamoto

All Governing Council members are in agreement to adopt the draft outline consisting of the Strategic Framework and an Operational Plan, and to approve the draft content, with minor adjustments.

Members conducted a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats), analysis of PacIOOS. Based on SWOT discussion, every participant was asked to list two strategic topics. Strategic Topics were defined as a problem or opportunity that, if addressed, will help PacIOOS make significant progress toward our vision. All topics were collected and organized into two overarching common themes:

- Engagement (including funding); and
- Observations, Models, and Information Services.

The discussion then moved to strategic goals for each strategic topic. Building capacity and capability across the region for the customer base (users) and the partner base (stakeholders) came up frequently. Increasing product consumption and increasing funding were also discussed as possible strategic goals. The customer base includes both traditional and non-traditional customers. Funding needs to be resilient and diversified; partnerships/engagement needs to be leveraged.

For the topic “Observations, Models, and Information Services”, meeting participants discussed the importance of filling gaps, increasing coverage, and increasing capacity. Increasing capacity would be achieved through expansion, the goal of which should be balance across the region. Expansion depends on funding opportunities, partnerships, stakeholder capacity and commitment, and input availability, all of which are closely related to activities under strategic engagement. It was also noted that an effective and efficient system leads to trust for accurate and reliable services and will be beneficial to increased coverage. Consistent and standardized data and information services are also important.

The group acknowledged that there were likely goals, objectives, and possibly even tactics/action items to glean from the discussion notes. PacIOOS staff will now use the input provided to add in more details to the strategic framework agreed upon.

3:15 p.m. Meeting Evaluation: Governing Council Frequency and Purpose

Meeting participants enjoyed the opportunity to actively participate in discussion topics. Having half a day of field trips and a full day of meeting time seemed to be the preferred format. Governing Council members agreed that meeting annually is best, and the beginning of November seems to work well for everyone.

3:25 p.m. Wrap-up and Recap of Meeting, C. Ostrander and M. Iwamoto

3:30 p.m. Meeting Adjourned