

Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System  
**2021 Governing Council (Virtual) Meeting**

	<b>HI</b>	<b>Am Samoa</b>	<b>RMI</b>	<b>Pohnpei</b>	<b>Guam/CNMI</b>	<b>Palau</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	Nov 30 13:30-16:30	Nov 30 12:30-15:30	Dec 1 11:30-14:30	Dec 1 10:30-13:30	Dec 1 9:30-12:30	Dec 1 8:30-11:30
<b>Day 2</b>	Dec 2 13:30-16:30	Dec 2 12:30-15:30	Dec 3 11:30-14:30	Dec 3 10:30-13:30	Dec 3 9:30-12:30	Dec 3 8:30-11:30

**Day 1**

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*Governing Council Members:* Joe Aitaro (for Xavier Matsutaro), Dr. Jason Biggs, Scott Burch, Jen Conklin, Captain Ed Enos, Mathew Goldsborough, Doug Harper, Billy Middleton, Justine Nihipali, Moriana Phillip, Jessica Podoski, Bertha Reyuw, Captain Mike Roth, Rich Salas, Ray Tanabe, Dr. Brian Taylor. *Absent:* Walden Weilbacher and Matt Ramsey; *PacIOOS Staff:* Simon Ellis and Melissa Iwamoto. *Distinguished Guest:* Dr. Christopher Sabine.

**Check-in for Revised Meeting Format, Melissa Iwamoto, PacIOOS Director**

M. Iwamoto welcomed Governing Council members to the online meeting and provided a quick overview of the meeting software, ground rules, and meeting roles.

**Welcome Brian Taylor, Chair of PacIOOS Governing Council and M. Iwamoto**

Chair B. Taylor also welcomed members to the virtual meeting and reviewed the abbreviated meeting agenda. Meeting purpose: 1) check-in and connect; 2) discuss key program updates and plans for the current fiscal year; and 3) conduct council business and review important program documents.

**Participant Introductions:** All meeting participants were asked to introduce themselves and share top of mind issues for the region or jurisdiction/organization that PacIOOS should know about. Common topics included climate preparedness and resilience, the importance of real-time ocean data, monitoring, and forecasts, aquaculture innovations, ecosystem health and biodiversity, capacity building, and enhanced collaboration amongst meeting participants.

**What have we been up to? What are we planning? Melissa Iwamoto**

M. Iwamoto presented on key updates of the PacIOOS program since the last Governing Council meeting in November 2020. The topics were presented by thematic area and included (among others): efforts toward new wave buoys in Palau and RMI, progress toward permits for new HFR stations to cover the channel between Guam and Rota (CNMI), upgrading to unstructured wave forecast grids, a new future scenarios tool in development for West Maui using data from past decades, and a new project in Palau funded by the Green Climate Fund to develop a modeling suite of forecasts—atmospheric, ocean circulation, waves, and wave run-up.

Simon Ellis summarized the program updates on water quality, including the redeployment of the Pelekane Bay water quality buoy, completion of the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council’s Water Quality Sensor Partners Program (WQSPP) project in Ma’alaea Harbor, WQSPP data interpretation offerings, watershed monitoring in Pohnpei, the hire of Koden Lebehn as the

MCT/PacIOOS capacity building liaison for the region, and a new WQSPP with Kauai SeaFarm at Nomilo fish pond on the island of Kaua'i.

M. Iwamoto completed the program updates on ecosystems and living marine resources and data management. Highlights include the data management team working with the animal tag company to get the profiles into our ERDDAP data server, continuing the partnership with NOAA to support the MAPCO2 buoy in American Samoa, serving new high resolution tsunami hazard maps for Guam, a new projects page for data layers developed by NOAA PIFSC and other partners in American Samoa, and a new effort to develop the Pacific Islands Region Acoustic Telemetry (PIRAT) Node. For engagement, management and governance, updates included a new Meet the PacIOOS Team webpage, expansion of PacIOOS liaisons in the islands to help with outreach and logistics, the enactment of the Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act, and new signatory partners Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP) and The Pacific Community (SPC). The budget update focused on the five-year proposal being funded for Year 1, continuing budget growth due to extramural funding, and the need for more staff to deal with growing administrative burden so that PacIOOS can continue to address needs.

Meeting participants engaged in discussions throughout the program updates. There was discussion surrounding PacIOOS' high performance in the competitive five-year proposal, although it appears each region is receiving level funding from previous years. Further discussion continued around how PacIOOS might quantify the importance of ocean observations per stakeholder or per square kilometer, which would show Alaska and the Pacific to be underserved. Also, economic dependence on data and forecasts could be used.

Improved satellite resolution for pelagic and near shore measurements across the region would improve the value of data to stakeholders. Members discussed how PacIOOS connects really well with its stakeholders across many sectors and that having champions from these stakeholders could increase funding. Tying into themes of resiliency, the green/blue economy and the importance of Hawai'i and Guam as regional hubs are important. The islands are vulnerable, often with only one harbor or port servicing the entire population, so having harbor entry forecasts could assist with efficient and safe shipping. Unfortunately, such forecasts are very expensive to develop as they require a lot of data to be collected. A surge forecast for Kahului harbor is included in the new PacIOOS 5-year proposal. However, lower cost solutions may be available by using existing offshore buoys and in harbor sensors to predict in harbor conditions without having a real-time model.

Members agreed PacIOOS should have at least the same level of management investment as the similarly funded regions, especially if the program wants to grow, supporting the proposal for a Deputy Director and a Communications Coordinator. While graduate students and interns are helpful, they do not ease the administrative burden, as they typically require more supervision and guidance, and move on quickly.

## Day 2

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*Governing Council Members:* Dr. Jason Biggs, Scott Burch, Jen Conklin, Captain Ed Enos, Mathew Goldsborough, Doug Harper, Billy Middleton, Justine Nihipali, Moriana Phillip, Jessica Podoski, Bertha Reyuw, Captain Mike Roth, Rich Salas, Ray Tanabe, Dr. Brian Taylor. Absent: Walden Weilbacher, Joe Aitaro (for Xavier Matsutaro), Moriana Phillip and Matt Ramsey; *PacIOOS Staff:* Simon Ellis and Melissa Iwamoto. *Distinguished Guest:* Dr. Christopher Sabine and Pua Tuaua (American Samoa Parks Service).

### Welcome back and recap of Day 1, B. Taylor

#### **Indigenous Knowledge in Ocean Observing (Scott Burch and Pua Tuaua)**

S. Burch gave an overview of issues surrounding Indigenous knowledge and ocean observing in American Samoa based on discussions the team from National Park of American Samoa (NPSA) has been having with knowledgeable ocean users for many years. NPSA is interested to learn how to make PacIOOS data more relevant to local communities and how qualitative data and traditional Indigenous knowledge can be woven together. P. Tuaua is the cultural liaison for NPSA. He said that 70% of people interviewed do not have smart phones and most rely on traditional knowledge, but their knowledge has changed over time. People are not solely dependent on past experience but are now looking to other sources to get ocean condition information. Many people unfortunately tie off on the PacIOOS buoy--the word "buoy" in Samoan is "polle," which means fishing area. A next step is for NPSA to provide a presentation to help the community members read and understand the data. Changing the name of the buoy may help with buoy maintenance too.

Discussion revolved around changing words or making descriptions simpler for community members to understand, as well as ensuring information is presented properly in the local language. An example was shared about naming a buoy after a popular local personality, which solved relevancy issues.

M. Iwamoto provided a short overview on a project funded by NSF to enhance ocean data access for Indigenous coastal communities across three regions (Pacific Islands, Alaska Arctic, and Pacific Northwest). The Marshall Islands and American Samoa are involved with the project, and there is hope to expand in Phase II, if funded. Members expressed interest in the program and want the impact and involvement to be as broad as possible.

#### **PacIOOS 5-year Strategic Framework (Melissa Iwamoto)**

M. Iwamoto provided background context and an overview of a draft new guiding principle focused on diversity for the PacIOOS 5-Year Strategic Framework, and invited discussion. The proposed addition is as follows: *Diverse. We promote an inclusive and supportive environment within our ocean observing community to share experiences toward a cohesive vision.*

Some members felt that diversity was already addressed in several of the guiding principles, including the one focused on being culturally rooted. While the key words are different, the descriptions have a lot of overlap, which causes some confusion. There was also discussion on how the diversity of the PacIOOS community should ideally reflect the diversity of the people

PacIOOS serves. Staff will think through this some more based on the input provided and present the next iteration to the Excom at their next meeting.

### **10-year Outlook (Simon Ellis)**

S. Ellis gave an overview of the 10-year Outlook stressing that it was an outcome of proposal discussions with stakeholders. It is designed to be attainable rather than too aspirational. This is an upgraded and re-envisioned version of what was previously called the 10-year Build Out Plan, and it is a requirement of federal certification. The 10-year Outlook is planned to be a living document that will be revisited every five years and will act as a road map for new project ideas and funding applications. The final revised edition will be posted on the PacIOOS website.

There was discussion around using citizen science and/or community gathered data for broad scale collection of information. These collaborations are also good for outreach and engagement. Comments were also provided about the inadequacy of budgets to accomplish goals. There was some discussion about better aligning the Strategic Framework and the 10-Year Outlook on how thematic areas are presented. M. Iwamoto noted that once a new communications person was hired, they would look into this more, as well as adjudicate the specific comments provided by the members for edits and additions. Further discussion revolved around soliciting and engaging the private sector and other organizations to synergize and support PacIOOS activities. Potential disruption to supply chains might make this suggestion even more relevant.

### **PacIOOS Governing Council Business (Brian Taylor and Melissa Iwamoto)**

M. Iwamoto gave a brief overview of Brian's tenure with PacIOOS, thanking him for his many years helping to create, sustain, and improve the program. M. Iwamoto then presented on past representation on the PacIOOS Governing Council Executive Committee (ExCom). A new slate of representatives who had agreed to serve was also presented. B. Taylor asked for endorsement of the slate, which was seconded and approved. Members also recognized willingness to serve. New members for the next 2-year term of the ExCom are the following: Christopher Sabine (Chair), Scott Burch, Jen Conklin, Mat Goldsborough, Xavier Matsutaro, and alternate Rich Salas.

### **MOA partner discussion (Melissa Iwamoto)**

M. Iwamoto opened the discussion noting the importance of MOA partners while wanting to continue to focus on truly collaborative partners that PacIOOS can engage, assist, and partner with, rather than just numbers of new partners. Suggestions for new MOA partners included: Guam Department of Agriculture, Hawai'i Shore and Beach Preservation Society, NELHA and Gateway Center, various CNMI entities, Todd Low from Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture, Global Ocean Acidification Network, and Ocean Safety/Lifeguard Departments. It was noted that Council members can act as ambassadors for PacIOOS and assist with creating new connections and partnerships.

### **Close Brian Taylor and Melissa Iwamoto**

Chair B. Taylor thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting. M. Iwamoto also thanked members for their valuable input. Council members wished Brian well in his retirement.