

Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS)
Governing Council (GC) Meeting Summary
October 11, 2023: Virtual Pre-Meeting Updates
October 25-26, 2023: In-Person Meeting

PacIOOS Governing Council Virtual Pre-Meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Attendees: Jason Biggs, Scott Burch, Jennifer Conklin, Nicole Guiles, Meagan Hattori, Melissa Iwamoto, Lauren Kaiser, Eric Lau, Justine Nihipali, Chris Olson, Moriana Phillip, Bertha Reyuw, Chris Sabine (chair), Rich Salas, Walden Weilbacher, CAPT Ken Wallace, Jordan Watson, Chip Young

1:00 p.m. Welcome and Participant Introductions

1:15 p.m. M. Iwamoto presents PacIOOS Program Updates

2:45 p.m. Meeting Adjourned

PacIOOS Governing Council In-Person Meeting: October 25-26, 2023

Day 1: Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Information Technology Center Conference Rooms 105A & 105B
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Attendees: Jason Biggs, Scott Burch, Jennifer Conklin, Nicole Guiles, Doug Harper, Meagan Hattori, Melissa Iwamoto, Gerhard Kuska, Eric Lau (proxy for Ray Tanabe), Xavier Matsutaro, Billy Middleton, Justine Nihipali, Moriana Phillip, Jessica Podoski, Matt Ramsey, Bertha Reyuw, Christopher Sabine (chair), CAPT Ken Wallace, Jordan Watson, Walden Weilbacher, Kristen Yarincik, Chip Young. *Present remotely:* Donna Brown, Susan Fox, Carl Gouldman, Rich Salas; See Participant List at the end of the agenda for more details.

**9:00 a.m. Welcome, Chris Sabine, Chair of PacIOOS Governing Council
Review Agenda, Ground Rules and Objectives, Melissa Iwamoto, PacIOOS Director
and Principal Investigator**

Participant Introductions: Participants were asked to introduce themselves and share top-of-mind issues for their jurisdiction/organization; how we can move forward together to reach common goals; relationships to foster; new directions, concerns, opportunities to be aware of, etc.

Overall, there is pride in what PacIOOS is doing, working to provide reliable data that is helpful for both short and long-term operations, safety, national security, restoration, and resource management. The importance of ensuring that the data are relevant to the people and the science is translated in a way people can understand and use was highlighted in many ways. Members emphasized the value of weaving

together diverse knowledge systems for inclusive and effective messaging and broader understanding and impact. Support for climate change planning and adaptation, water quality monitoring, and the interactions of land-based activities with the ocean were identified as areas where PacIOOS could expand their impact to enhance various projects, decision-making, and policy making. There is also a desire to leverage PacIOOS' data, skills, and resources to bring together more partners for funding and to do more for the region collectively.

10:40 a.m. Pacific Islands Ciguatera Network, Eileen Nalley, Ocean and Coastal Health Specialist Faculty, Hawai'i Sea Grant

E. Nalley presented on ciguatera research in the Hawaiian Islands, and the effort to create a ciguatera network encompassing the Pacific Islands to report cases, collate research, and learn from each other.

11:20 a.m. IOOS Association: National Context, Kristen Yarincik, IOOS Association Executive Director

K. Yarincik gave an update on the funding atmosphere for FY2024 and FY2025, and the IOOS efforts to address regional priorities and promote interagency participation.

11:30 a.m. PacIOOS Program Updates, PacIOOS Staff

M. Iwamoto presented on PacIOOS program updates that occurred since the virtual pre-meeting on October 11, including the first planned Backyard Buoys deployment in the RMI. W. Weilbacher read and presented PacIOOS with [APIL Resolution 40-GA-06](#), which is a significant demonstration of signed support for PacIOOS and what we are working to accomplish in the region. M. Iwamoto asked attendees to identify topics to discuss in more depth on Day 2. Common topics suggested were using shared resources to address data gaps in the Pacific, and the need to explore how PacIOOS can not only bring resources to, but connect with communities, especially the youth, and create opportunities that will bring long-term benefits to our partners.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. MARACOOS Successes and Challenges, Gerhard Kuska, MARACOOS Executive Director

G. Kuska presented on the MARACOOS use of autonomous sea gliders to help improve hurricane forecasting across the Mid-Atlantic. While most of the funding for MARACOOS glider operations has come through disaster and hurricane supplemental appropriations, which can be inconsistent, IOOS and the regions in the mid-Atlantic and Caribbean have developed a partnership with the Navy to share glider data. Although there are inherent challenges in this partnership, it is a model of collaboration that could work in the Pacific. CAPT Wallace noted that the [CENOTE legislation](#) helps solidify this collaboration between NOAA and the Navy as well. An important next step may be to learn more about what the modelers need to improve the accuracy of the forecasts in the region.

2:00 p.m. Tour of Ka Papa Lo'i O Kānewai

Director of Ka Papa Lo'i O Kānewai Makahiapo Cashman led a tour of the *lo'i* (taro patch), beginning with the legend of Kāne, and the importance of the *wai* (water) as it flows from Mānoa valley into the lo'i. The lo'i cleanses the wai as it nourishes the *kalo* (taro), improving the quality of the wai that flows downstream into the ocean.

3:30 p.m. Wrap Up and Adjourn Day 1, C. Sabine

4:00 p.m. Pau Hana at Mānoa Gardens

Day 2: Thursday, October 26, 2023
Information Technology Center Conference Rooms 105A & 105B
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Attendees: Jason Biggs, Scott Burch, Jennifer Conklin, Shaun Connor, Nicole Guiles, Doug Harper, Meagan Hattori, Melissa Iwamoto, Gerhard Kuska, Eric Lau (proxy for Ray Tanabe), Xavier Matsutaro, Billy Middleton, Justine Nihipali, Moriana Phillip, Jessica Podoski, Matt Ramsey, Bertha Reyuw, Christopher Sabine (chair), CAPT Ken Wallace, Jordan Watson, Walden Weilbacher, Kristen Yarincik, Chip Young. *Present remotely:* Donna Brown, Susan Fox, Carl Gouldman, Rich Salas; See Participant List at the end of the agenda for more details.

9:00 a.m. Welcome Back, Recap of Day 1

C. Sabine welcomed the members to Day 2 of the meeting, and noted that we are a diverse group in terms of the constituents we represent, but share a common theme of understanding the value of data and information that helps each of us accomplish what we need.

9:10 a.m. Open Discussion

Discussions began with exploring the potential for collaborating with the US Navy to enhance regional security in the Pacific. Oceanographic data gathered by the Navy, especially bathymetry, could be used by PacIOOS to provide forecasting tools and services needed by our partners and stakeholders. The challenge is being granted access to the data. There are also potential opportunities for placement of technology and sensors that align with PacIOOS and PacFleet. Pacific Partnership is another possible mode for partnership to enhance regional security and build trust in the region. Understanding tidal influences in the region is essential. Pacific Basin countries and USCG are part of this effort too. USACE is also receiving requests for quick information; programs like Backyard Buoys could be a resource.

Identifying engagement opportunities and needs in the Pacific is a high priority. A member suggested developing a document highlighting PacIOOS’ current engagement in each region, and time-bound goals for future plans, to help partners tap into funding available for climate adaptation and other funding that they could use to both leverage and support PacIOOS. A topic that came up repeatedly is the need to involve youth in projects and outreach throughout the Pacific, possibly by creating internships, or offering scholarships. There were recommendations to partner with organizations currently doing this so PacIOOS doesn’t have to reinvent anything. Others mentioned core elements (e.g., relationships with existing entities, placement, and cost-sharing) that must be in place for capacity building efforts to be effective and long-lasting. The communities that PacIOOS engages with need to be part of the capacity building process. When developing projects, it is important for PacIOOS to continue to involve the communities from the beginning, in locating where the project will be most helpful, and how the data will be best utilized for their purposes. Frequent communication between PacIOOS and our partners is key.

Climate resilience continues to be a common theme across the Pacific. Place-based regional models are needed to help with infrastructure planning. Ground-truthing of data is needed to validate the models. Data gaps are always an issue. Nearshore bathymetry and weather data are particularly lacking. We need to look for existing sources of data and collaborate, finding opportunities for synergies, rather than attempting to recreate what’s already been done.

11:30 a.m. Short-form Introductions of Governing Council Members, PacIOOS Staff and Scientists

Additional PacIOOS researchers and staff in attendance: Assaf Azouri, Sarah Bingo, Yi-Ling Chen, Benedicte Dousset, Pierre Flament, Tobias Friedrich, Kim Holland, Ning Li, Fatima-Zahra Mihami, Miranda Foley, Lauren Kaiser, Chris Olson, Steve Poulos, Tom TinHan, Camilla Tognacchini, Jim Potemra, Shaun Wriston. See Participant List at the end of the agenda for more details.

11:45 a.m. Lunch with PacIOOS Researchers and Staff

1:00 p.m. Tour of the NOAA National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office Honolulu
John Bravender, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, led a tour of the Honolulu Weather Forecast Office (WFO). Members got to see the use of AWIPS in action, learned about the operations of the WFO, the different types of forecast desks they have operational 24/7, and the types of data inputs they consult to develop their forecasts and warning messages for the public. Discussions included how PacIOOS real-time wave buoy data are consulted for forecasts and how PacIOOS models are used and accessed.

2:30 p.m. PacIOOS Governing Council Business

M. Iwamoto thanked the Chair and outgoing Governing Council Executive Committee for their work and service over the past two years. She then presented a new slate based on volunteers from the council and requirements determined by the Governing Council in 2013. The Governing Council unanimously elected Chris Sabine to continue as Chair, and the new Executive Committee was approved, with a plan for NPSA to host the next meeting in American Samoa in the summer of 2024. There was considerable discussion regarding representation on the Executive Committee. The purpose of the ExCom is not to have each geography represented, but to have a smaller group of GC members with a mix of backgrounds and expertise and who can dedicate additional time to help PacIOOS strategically plan the year ahead and dive into topics in more detail as needed. With this in mind, PacIOOS staff will remain cognizant of the issues raised during the GC meeting as ExCom meeting planning commences in Spring 2024.

2:45 p.m. Final Discussion

The Governing Council brings together a diverse group of members with a set of needs relevant to their communities. How do we take all of the ideas discussed and turn them into actionable items to fill those needs? Ideas grow when we are able to gather in person, and creating a list of actionable items takes time, possibly more than the two days allotted for the meeting.

Discussion covered the need for an assessment of data for the Pacific Basin that is publicly available in order to identify opportunities for integrating data, and partnerships that we can strategically form or strengthen to help address needs in the region. A proposed consortium of marine labs across the Pacific is one potential example that PacIOOS could partner with for mutual support.

APIL resolution 40-GA-06 was passed by its constituents, which include the FAS, the Republic of Nauru, and the Republic of Kiribati. The Republic of Kiribati is not currently part of PacIOOS geographic purview, however the USCG has asked us to expand our models to include portions of its EEZ. The resolution could provide the opportunity to expand our scope. It was mentioned that it is also up to the various jurisdictions to figure out how they can use the APIL resolution, and how best to connect PacIOOS with other partners, and write us into other funding opportunities.

Partners would like to continue to work towards autonomy with the equipment we provide, and this is top of mind for PacIOOS staff as well, including the potential development of various trainings or kits to achieve this goal.

3:45 p.m. Meeting Evaluation

C. Sabine wrapped up meeting discussions while prompting the group about potential improvements for future meetings. Members appreciated the virtual updates presented prior to meeting in-person, as it allowed more time for in-person discussions and networking. Everyone agreed to fill out an electronic evaluation form to accommodate the time constraint.

3:55 p.m. Meeting Wrap-up, C. Sabine

4:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned