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IOOS

Integrated Ocean Observing System

**U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System
Advisory Committee**

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere
NOAA Administrator
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Chris E. Ostrander
Director and Chairman, PacIOOS
Assistant Dean
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
POST Building Room 105B
Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Dr. Sullivan and Director Ostrander,

As the Chairman of the U.S. IOOS® Federal Advisory Committee, and on behalf of my fellow committee members, it is my pleasure to extend to you warm congratulations on the recent certification of the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) as the first regional information coordinating entity (aka regional association) within the IOOS System. This is a momentous step forward in the growth, development, and maturity of IOOS and a testament to the vision, leadership, and investment of NOAA in the development of IOOS as a truly national, integrated, indispensable service for public good. Certification is a ringing stamp-of-approval from the Administration that the ocean, Great Lakes, and coastal data collected, managed, and distributed by IOOS regional partners meets the highest standards of quality, reliability, and accuracy.

IOOS is designed around the successful establishment of partnerships between the Federal Government and non-federal regional organizations. With contributions from both federal and non-federal organizations, the regional partners of IOOS work to promote the quick and organized collection and distribution of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes data and data products to meet critical needs of our society.

Certification of regional IOOS extramural partners, as called for in the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (ICOOS Act), is a rigorous review and assessment process. IOOS certification was designed by partners across NOAA offices to evaluate the governance, management, data quality, system security, public engagement, and financial controls employed by the IOOS regional partners. Certification provides NOAA and the interagency partners a means to verify extramural partner maturity and formalizes the complete integration of that partner into IOOS.

We congratulate both NOAA and PacIOOS on this first step forward on the formal integration of regional partners into IOOS, and look forward to successful certification of additional IOOS regional partners. The eventual completion of the IOOS certification process presents unique opportunities for NOAA and IOOS to improve interagency engagement with regional partners, communities, and individual members of the public. We stand ready to work with NOAA, members of the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee and interagency IOOS community, and the regional IOOS partners to advance and sustain efficient and effective data services, valuable and lasting public engagement, and operational excellence for the nation's Integrated Ocean Observing System.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Conrad Lautenbacher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "L".

Conrad Lautenbacher
Chair, U.S. IOOS Advisory Committee

Cc: Interagency Ocean Observation Committee