



# FY2010: Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System Development

NOAA continued a merit-based funding process in 2010 to enhance regional coastal ocean observing systems (RCOOS) and achieve three long-term outcomes: establishing coordinated regional observing and data management infrastructures, developing applications and products for regional stakeholders, and crafting regional and national data management and communications protocols. In addition, regional associations received planning grant awards designed to assist them in stakeholder engagement, education and outreach, and long-range planning activities.

## PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

The Pacific Islands (PacIOOS) region is defined as the Commonwealth and Territories of the United States in the Pacific and the Freely Associated States in the Pacific.

### Funding:

The 2010 RCOOS award to this region is \$1,700,000. The 2010 Regional Association (RA) Planning Grant award to this region is \$399,973.

FY 2009 - \$1,869,134 RCOOS, \$398,802 RA

FY 2008 - \$1,700,000 RCOOS, \$397,909 RA

FY 2007 - \$1,700,000 RCOOS

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### Regional Priorities and Objectives:

The Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) is a partnership of data providers and users working together to enhance ocean observations and develop, disseminate, evaluate and apply ocean data and information products designed to address the needs of stakeholders who call the Pacific Islands home. This integrated observing and information system provides information to address:

- **Coastal Hazards Resilience:** Providing predictions of high water level and inundation events in coastal areas, developing maps of coastline change and identifying areas of vulnerability, and providing beach condition forecasts to users and lifeguards in an effort to promote public safety and community resilience.
- **Maritime Safety and Security:** Serving timely, reliable, real-time information on harbor conditions, coastal and open ocean currents, waves, and weather to improve search-and-rescue operations, spill response, optimize shipping routes, and develop better severe weather and event predictions.
- **Coastal Water Quality:** Supplying real-time observations of biological, chemical, and physical water parameters to improve our understanding of ocean acidification, more effectively protect healthy coastal marine ecosystems, and enhance the understanding of and response to marine events that impact human health.
- **Ocean Planning and Management:** Integrating information for effective coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP), measuring and modeling parameters necessary for the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, and collecting and serving necessary information for renewable energy development.

*(over)*

- **Education and Outreach:** Working to promote the understanding and stewardship of the Hawaiian and insular Pacific's coastal waters and build capacity for the continued expansion of ocean observations and informational products.

*Present System*

Initial PacIOOS observing efforts have focused on the development of an end-to-end observational system confined to the island of Oahu, Hawaii. This focused pilot-project is exploring the operability of various observational systems in an island setting to help determine the ideal design for a full PacIOOS observational network.

Data system development, modeling, education and outreach, and stakeholder engagement through a collaborative governance framework are focused not only on the Hawaiian Islands, but each of the PacIOOS jurisdictions through the Pacific. Targeted deployment of instrumentation to address local stakeholder needs has begun in the western and southern Pacific jurisdictions with deployments to expand under future funding cooperative agreements.

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