

Pacific Coastal Observing System
PaCOS
Meeting of the Board of Governors
May 17–May 18 2004
La Jolla, California

BACKGROUND FOR SOME AGENDA ITEMS

(April 27 Draft)

Review of PaCOS Scientific plan and cost estimate. The objective of this review is to identify changes needed in this document before release of the document by the Board of Governors. By May 1 all participants will have a copy of the plan to review. Written comments would be, very helpful including minor, editorial, as well as major technical or policy issues. Please send by e-mail to John Hunter (john.hunter@noaa.gov). Please also copy elizabeth.clarke@noaa.gov.

Our discussion shall focus on the identification of major gaps and errors needing attention before plan is released. The text of the document will be reviewed first, followed by a review of the cost estimate. The text is based on the two previous PaCOS meetings. No cost estimates were made during these meetings. To fill this gap the coordinators made an estimate of the cost of the program as proposed during the Seattle meeting to serve as a starting point for the discussions at this meeting.

PaCOS Charter. We shall distribute a draft copy of a short agreement expressing the commitment of the organizations participating, at the Board of Governors level, to work together to implement PaCOS, share data, and support the PaCOS mission as outlined in the scientific plan and specifying bylaws needed for operations of PaCOS. The document will be reviewed on the 17th by the Board and the revised edition will be distributed for organizational signature on the 18th.

Collaboration of PaCOS with other west coast observing initiatives. Along the west coast a number of regional observing systems are being planned or have begun in recent years. These include, PISCO, NEOCO, CIMT, CI-CORE, ICON, SCOPE, SIMoN, ASON, MARS, CCEPI, TOPP, SCCOOS, CenCOOS, and NANOOS and some with no particular acronym. Many, but not all of these projects are supported by NOAA's Coastal Services Center, Coastal Observing Systems COTS awards. None of these systems has as yet achieved the status of a Regional Observing System, or Regional Association as envisioned in the IOOS. These systems have distinctly different foci, and typically a more limited geographic scope than PaCOS. What contributions to the observational requirements of PaCOS might be filled by these new observing systems given their local monitoring responsibilities? How might PaCOS contribute to their goals? Should some be represented on the Board? Representatives from NanNOOS, CenCOOS and SCCOOS will lead this discussion.

Collaboration between NOAA Marine Sanctuaries and PaCOS. How might NOAA Marine Sanctuaries and PaCOS be integrated to optimize benefits? A presentation will be made by a NMS representative.

Options for Coordination with Canada and Mexico. Sustained collaboration between PaCOS and comparable Canadian and Mexican California Current observing programs. PICES representative shall present options for establishing an international frame work designed to expanding the geographic scope of PaCOS by sustained collaborations with similar observing programs in Canada and Mexico.

Critical areas needing work prior to implementation: The Board members are requested to identify and set priorities for critical areas needing attention prior to the implementation of PaCOS.