



Pacific Meteorological Council

Pacific Islands Marine and Ocean Services Panel

Draft Terms of Reference

(Version: 5 August 2019)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Pacific Island Marine and Ocean Services Panel (PIMOS Panel) was established by the Third Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3) to serve in the capacity of an advisory committee to the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) on marine and ocean services matters in the Pacific region (<https://www.pacificmet.net/pmc/meetings/pmc-3>).

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of the PIMOS Panel is to provide technical advice to the PMC on matters related to marine and ocean services, with an emphasis on oceanography and marine meteorology, to strengthen coastal multi-hazard early warning systems (Coastal MHEWS), national preparedness and maritime safety support mechanisms at the national and regional level, as prescribed in the Pacific Islands Meteorological Strategy and other international and regional frameworks such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway.
- 2.2. The PIMOS Panel may advise relevant agencies and entities, as required by PMC, at the national and regional level that are providers or users of marine and ocean services (e.g. NDMO, Ports, fisheries, geological services, etc.).

3. Role and Responsibility of the PIMOS Panel

- 3.1. The PIMOS Panel will provide technical advice to the PMC on the following topics:
 - a) Establish linkages and coordinate with international and regional organizations such as WMO, UNESCO-IOC, JCOMM, International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO), Forum Fishery Agency (FFA), PIFS, SPREP, USP, and SPC, with related work on marine and oceans services as well as research agencies, universities and product providers;
 - b) Provide technical advice to the PMC on matters related to marine and ocean services, with an emphasis on marine meteorology, coastal inundation and hazards, maritime safety, monitoring of and advising on the impacts of climate change on oceans, information related to coastal zone management and marine spatial planning, and tsunamis at the community, national and regional levels;



- c) Strengthen the coordination, continuity and integration of current and future programmes, projects and initiatives that support marine and ocean services at the community, national and regional levels;
 - d) Strengthen the functions and capabilities of Pacific Islands National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) for robust and sustained data and information accessibility, collection, management, analysis, production and dissemination of products and services;
 - e) Enhance avenues and modes of communication and feedback between provider(s) of marine and ocean services and users of these services to enhance the education and outreach to communities and individuals;
 - f) Support for national and regional tsunami monitoring, early warning systems, and standard operating procedures, and develop relevant awareness programs, including support for and coordination with the IOC/PTWS SW Pacific Working Group on Tsunamis Warning and Mitigation;
 - g) Explore options to improve coastal inundation forecasting and dissemination of information to vulnerable communities;
 - h) Explore options to improve marine weather forecasting and dissemination of this information to improve maritime safety and support search and rescue, especially for small to medium crafts;
 - i) Support NMHSs to provide observations and forecasts related ocean acidification, increasing sea surface temperatures and other climate change impacts on the marine environment;
 - j) Assess and evaluate current ocean observing and marine forecasting efforts in the region;
 - k) Explore how countries can contribute to, and expand, ocean observing and forecasting efforts, including support for and making recommendations to global observing efforts such as the Argo program and Tropical Pacific Observing System;
 - l) Assess regional marine and ocean services needs across relevant sectors, and in particular in the areas of capacities to deliver predictions and projections, data services, research and development, coordination, and training;
 - m) Recommend data management and reporting systems to ensure continual improvement of products, in-line with the WMO Quality Management Framework for Marine Services;
 - n) Identify regional coordination systems, such as the Pacific Islands Global Ocean Observing System, to advise, coordinate, and assist global ocean observing efforts and that enable better use of real time data and products generated by these systems;
- 3.2 The PIMOS organizational arrangements shall include:
- a) Meeting as required, at least 3 times per year, and taking advantage of opportunities that arise to meet in person and connecting remotely when no related meetings or funds are available;
 - b) Regular reporting to the PMC members on the progress of the PIMOS Panel;



- c) Drafting an Implementation (Action) Plan; and
- d) Operating in line with WMO Marine Meteorology Principles (align with WMO Structure).

4. Membership

4.1. The PIMOS Panel core membership is comprised of Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Niue, USA, Australia, WMO, UNESCO-IOC, SPC, IRD, SPREP, and USP, consistent with the decision of PMC-5.

4.2. The PIMOS Panel will appoint its Chair, serving a maximum of four years, and if necessary, a vice-Chair.

4.3. The PIMOS Panel may establish Task Team(s) to carry out specific time bound task(s) for limited time periods. There are four task teams under this panel.

The task Teams consist of;

1. SOLAS Compliance: SPC, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Is, Vanuatu and NOAA.
2. Ocean Acidification: SPREP, Samoa, Marshalls, Niue, USP and NOAA.
3. Coastal MHEWS: SPC, Fiji, Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa and NOAA.
4. UN Decade for Ocean Science: SPC, SPREP, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and NOAA.

4.4. The PIMOS Panel meetings are open to all PMC members and may invite experts either from its PMC members, partners, or marine and ocean users to its meetings, discussions and Panel activities including Task Teams.

4.5. Meetings of the PIMOS Panel shall be coordinated and convened by its Chair, with the support of SPREP/WMO/Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership (PMDP).

5. Review and Approval of Terms of Reference

- 5.1. The PIMOS Panel may develop recommendations to the PMC to revise the Panel's ToR.
- 5.2. The PMC will be invited to consider and approve the PIMOS Panel ToR and related amendments.

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Annex 1: PIMOS Panel Core Members

PMC-3 Decision

PMC Working Group	PIMOS Panel
Members:	Australia, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Niue, USA, WMO, UNESCO-IOC, SPC, IRD, SPREP, USP, and WMO RA-V member
Chair:	Niue
Vice Chair:	SPC
Secretariat	SPREP/WMO/PMDP

Last updated: 5 August 2019 by Rossy Mitiepo

Last updated: 12 March 2019 by Maria Sapatu

Last updated: 1 August 2017 by Tommy Moore

Last updated: 23 May 2016 by 2nd PIMOS Panel Meeting

Last updated: 11 February 2016, consolidated by Tommy Moore/SPREP

Reviewed: 13 October 2015 by Henry Taiki/WMO

Reviewed: 17 October, 2015 by Tommy Moore/SPREP

Reviewed: 28 October, 2015 by PIMOS Panel during WMO RA V Forum (Nadi, Fiji)

Reviewed: 30 October, 2015 by Jennifer Lewis/NOAA, Arthur Peterson/NOAA, and Tommy Moore/SPREP