

Agenda 16.1: Update from the Pacific Islands Marine and Oceans Services (PIMOS) Panel

Tommy Moore and Jens Kruger
SPREP/SPC



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Objectives

- Endorse the Terms of Reference for the PIMOS Panel;
- Highlight the progress of the Pacific Islands Marine and Ocean Services (PIMOS) Panel;
- Inform the Meeting of PICT Maritime Safety Information (MSI) obligations under the UN Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention and the current status of PIC compliance; and
- Request the endorsement to draft a PIMOS Panel implementation plan and develop project proposals to address gaps in MSI and to achieve the PIMS Pacific Key Outcome 2 (PKO-2).



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Background Information

- PMC-3 request the formation of the PIMOS Panel and for the Panel to draft it's Terms of Reference
- SPREP (Tommy Moore) was nominated as the Chair during PMC-3 and SPC (Jens Kruger) served as Co-Chair after the first panel meeting
- The Panel has met 3 times in person – October 2015, May 2016 and August 2017 and has coordinated its activities via Zoom/teleconference and e-mail
- Panel meetings focused on drafting of the ToR and identifying the priorities for the Panel



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Background Information

- UN Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention is regarded as the most important of all international treaties concerning the safety of merchant ships. In 2016, the IMO made mandatory an audit process of compliance to SOLAS for all Member countries.
- The following PICs have ratified the SOLAS convention (2 March 2016): Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.
- Under SOLAS, Chapter V, Regulations 5 & 9, each State must provide and promulgate meteorological information and warnings to ships, make provisions for recording and reporting observations from ships, ensure tide tables are available and Maritime Safety Information is promulgated.



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Update

- During the most recent Panel meeting Niue and Fiji were elected to serve as co-chairs for the panel, with SPC serving as Vice-Chair and SPREP continuing to serve as the Secretariat and technical advisor
- Tuvalu and Australia (BoM and CSIRO) have requested to become members of the Panel



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Update

- The Panel identified Coastal Inundation and Safety of Life at Sea as its key priorities
- The Panel is also prioritizing Tsunami (with PTWS) and Marine Climate Change and Ocean Acidification (as requested by Samoa)



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Update

Panel project activities:

- COSPPac Ocean and Tide Trainings, and Ocean Portal
- DBCP Ocean Observations and Data Applications Capacity Building workshops
- Scientific Educational Resources and Experiences Associated with the Deployment of Argo profiling floats (SEREAD)
- Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project – Fiji (WP 16.3)
- PacIOOS coastal inundation and hazards forecasts for RMI and high sea level forecasts for American Samoa and Guam



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Recommendation

The Meeting is invited to:

- Endorse the PIMOS Panel Terms of Reference, noting the inclusion of Australia and Tuvalu as members of the Panel the inclusion of marine climate change and ocean acidification as priorities;
- Note the need for PICs to develop marine weather and oceans services to strengthen economic growth, public safety and security and in comply with country obligations under the UN SOLAS Convention;
- Recognise the complementary roles of the CROP and other partners in supporting the implementation of PIMS PKO-2;
- Note the current and proposed activities that are supporting the goals of the PIMOS panel and acknowledge the support provided for them;



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Recommendation

- Request the PMC to task the PIMOS Panel to draft an implementation plan, consistent with the WMO RA V implementation plan and other relevant plans, to assist with the development of marine weather and oceans services capacity of the regions' NMHSs, to assist NMHSs meet their obligations under SOLAS and to achieve the goals of PIMS PKO-2 and WMO Marine Meteorology goals for PMC endorsement; and
- Request the PMC to task the PIMOS Panel to develop a project proposal to assist with the development of marine weather and oceans services capacity of the regions' NMHSs, to assist NMHSs meet their obligations under SOLAS and to achieve the goals of PIMS PKO-2 for PMC endorsement. NMHSs interested in working with the PIMOS Panel to develop a marine and ocean services project proposal are requested to express their willingness.



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