

New wave technology deployed off Delap

A Sea Patrol boat speeds away from a new wave buoy (below left) that was placed on the ocean side of Delap and is now transmitting vital data about wave strength and size, which is posted on the website <http://cdip.ucsd.edu>. It is the only wave-monitoring buoy in the central Pacific. See stories, more photos, page 4.
Photo: Lawrence Kimmel.

The Marshall Islands

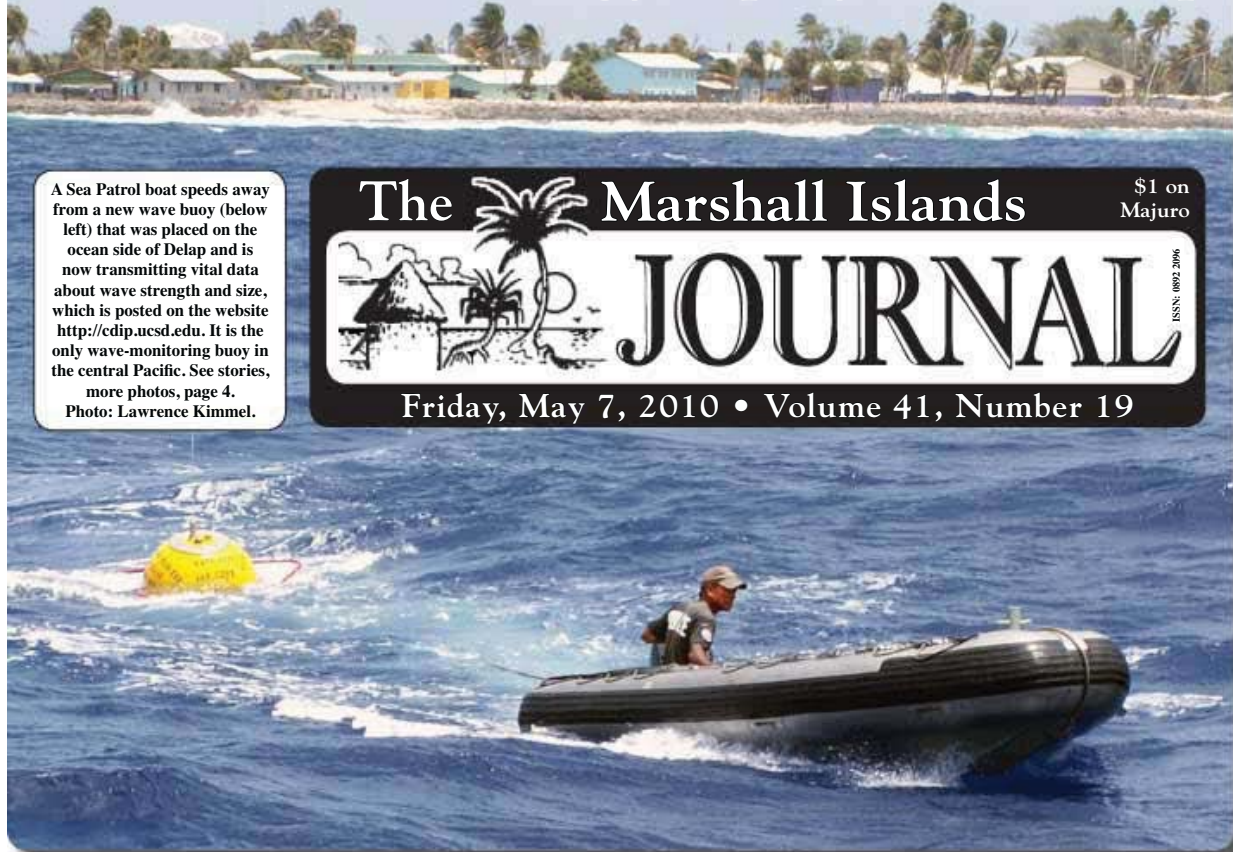
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Sea Patrol's Robert Heine helps to coordinate the deployment of the weather buoy, at left, from the deck of the Lomor. Photo: Lawrence Kimmel.

Wave hello to new technology

A buoy to measure wave activity around Majuro has been installed on the ocean side of Delap.

It is part of project run by Dr. Mark Merrifield of the University of Hawaii and funded by the US National Science Foundation

The deployment and processing of the data is run by the Coastal Data Information Program out of the University of California San Diego, said Dr. Murray Ford, who supervises the work in the RMI.

The buoy was deployed on April 24 with the assistance of RMI Sea Patrol and Pacific International Inc.

The buoy is about located about one mile east of Delap point, but is designed to move around with the current. It has a flashing light on it, which is visible for about a quarter of a mile.

It will measure wave heights, the time between waves and sea surface temperature.

The deployment of the buoy is part of a larger project, which aims to improve the understanding of flooding events like that which occurred in December 2008, said Ford. "The wave buoy gives us better knowledge of the ocean swell conditions and will improve forecast quality of large swell events," he said. "The project is also looking at what happens to waves once they reach the reef flat. The amount of wave energy — wave height — which reaches the shoreline is what ultimately drives flooding and erosion."

This summer, research work will be extended to the ocean side area by CMI and also on Kwajalein at Roi-Namur.

Fisherman and other mariners will be able to access real-time information on the conditions off Delap and will also be able to access forecasts showing wave conditions over the next three-to-five days.

Ford reminded boats not to tie off on the buoy as this has potential to damage sensitive equipment.

"This is the only wave buoy of its kind in

Prizes up for grabs

Given the general lack of horse racing in the Marshall Islands and the fact that the fantasy football season is months away, University of Hawaii Sea Grant has come up with a solution to those in need of competition.

With the deployment of the new Kalo, Majuro Wave Buoy off Delap, Sea Grant is running a "guess the wave height competition."

The competition will involve emailing majurowavebuoy@gmail.com with your best guess for the maximum significant wave height measured by the buoy each month. Significant wave height is the average of the highest one third of waves measured by the buoy in 30 minutes. Simply send an email with your guess (in meters) and you're in to win.

Entries close at midnight the day before the start of the month and will run all year. Except in May, when they are running a half-month from May 15 with special bonus prizes, said Dr. Murray Ford, a University of Hawaii Sea Grant researcher based at the College of the Marshall Islands.

the central Pacific," Ford said. "This fills a massive gap in data and knowledge within the region providing forecasters, fisherman and coastal planners with an exceptionally valuable tool to better understand our ocean."

He said cooperation of MIMRA, CMI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the US Embassy, Sea Patrol, MALGov and PII made the buoy deployment a success.