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PacIOOS 'Voyager' released for all U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands

The Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System's innovative data visualization platform serves thousands of ocean data layers for free

Honolulu, Hawaii - The Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) released a flexible, interactive online mapping platform named 'Voyager' on October 2, 2012. Voyager allows ocean users to dynamically combine, view, download, and query thousands of data layers without the need for proprietary software. Free to the public, this powerful, yet easy-to-use interface serves as a decision-making portal throughout the Pacific Islands.

"Voyager allows a diversity of users to interact with ocean and coastal data, whether recent, historical, predictions, dynamic, or static, in a map-based interface that is comfortable, understandable, and built upon a familiar Google product," explains Chris Ostrander, PacIOOS Director. "The ability of a user to interact with many different data sets at the same time, in the same window, makes it easier to inform and make complex decisions. Furthermore, Voyager users can save maps and share visualizations to document their decision making, share their research, and preserve custom maps for future use and distribution."

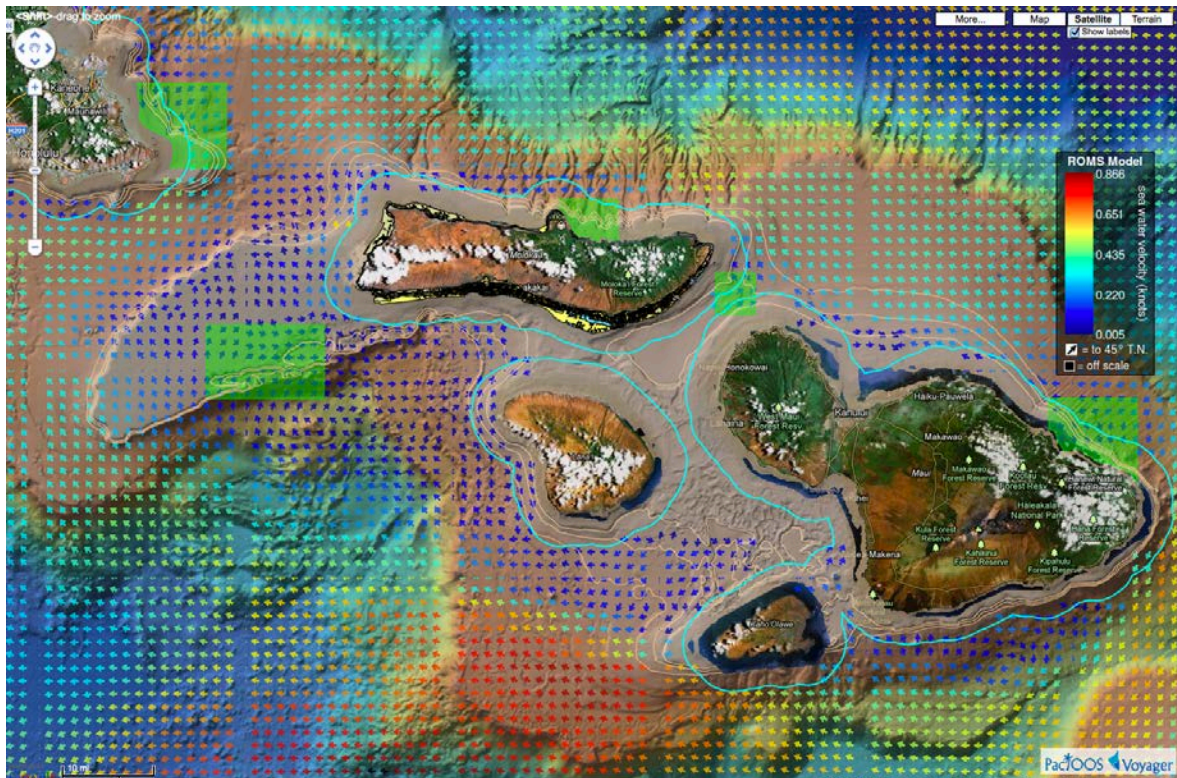
Voyager was developed in response to requests from researchers, agency staff, and the general public. Voyager has grown from an experimental map tool focused on the Hawaiian island of O'ahu to a regional system that provides access to dozens of terabytes of data spanning multiple disciplines, geographies, and decades. PacIOOS welcomes user feedback to improve services by incorporating other data sources and developing new features.

Check out Voyager at <http://pacioos.org/voyager>.

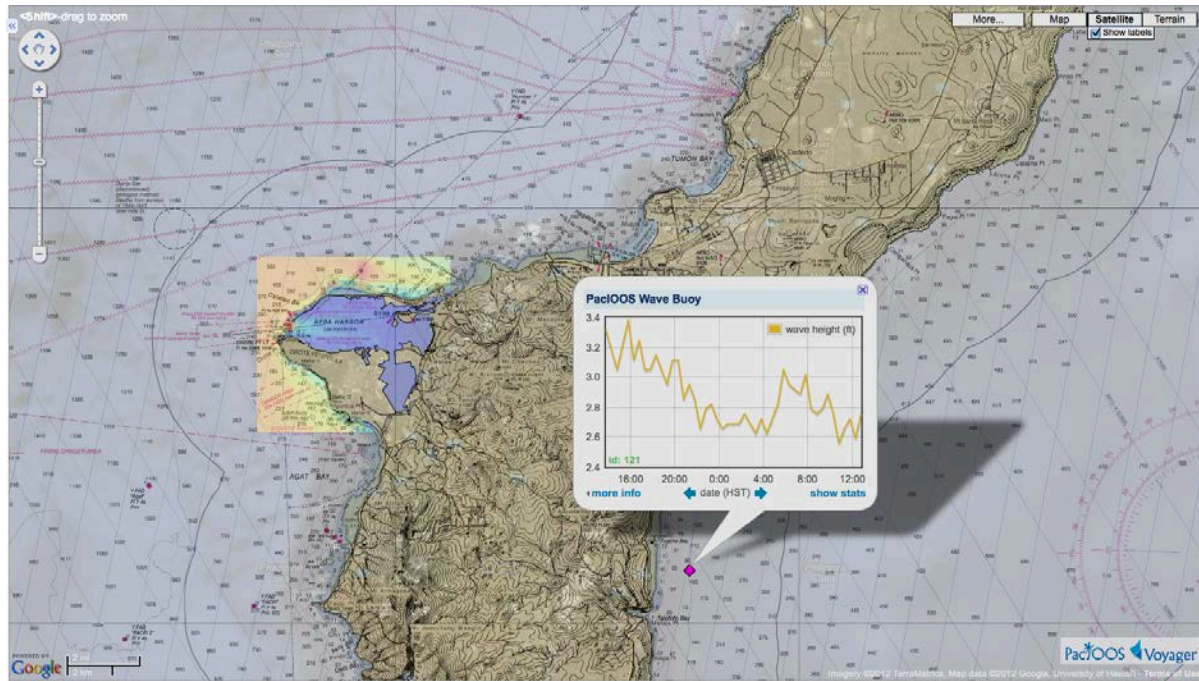
Based within the School for Ocean and Earth Sciences and Technology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, PacIOOS is the Pacific Islands regional component of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®). PacIOOS is a partnership of data providers and users working together to enhance ocean observations and develop, disseminate, evaluate, and apply ocean data and information products designed to address the environmental, economic, and public safety needs of stakeholders who call the Pacific Islands home.

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For more information about the PacIOOS Voyager, please contact Melissa Iwamoto, PacIOOS Outreach and Program Coordinator, at 808/956-6556 or e-mail Melissa at melissa.iwamoto@hawaii.edu.



Example Map Created in Voyager to Promote Safety among Fishermen. Active Layers include high resolution bathymetry; -200m, -300m, -400m contour lines; bottom fish protected areas; 3 nautical mile maritime boundary; ocean currents at 200m depth (from ROMS model); benthic geomorphology around Moloka'i



Example Map Created in Voyager to Enhance Safe Navigation around Guam. Active layers include the NOAA nautical chart for Guam; SWAN wave model for Apra Harbor; and PacIOOS real-time wave buoys.