Q: What happened to plans for the MTS Hawaii election?
A: As with many things in the past few months, COVID-19 derailed plans for the election. Everyone has been focusing on how to handle staying safe and coping with new family and work challenges. Life will start returning to a more normal state, and we want to be prepared to move forward with revitalizing the Hawaii Section by making sure we have a strong leadership team in place.

Second Call for Nominations: Volunteer leaders needed! From Board members to Committee and Section leadership teams, it is members who step up and volunteer who make the difference.

MTS Hawaii is overdue for an election for Section officers: Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary. This Executive Committee, along with other volunteer leaders, plans events and programs to share the latest research, technology and policy updates and provide networking opportunities among local colleagues, businesses, universities and government/military offices.

Several of the current officers will not be running during this election. In order for MTS Hawaii to continue to grow and serve as an effective “big tent” for Hawaii’s diverse marine science and technology interests, new leaders need to step forward. All members are encouraged to consider this opportunity to help shape our future.

Self-nominations are welcome. The only requirement is active membership in MTS. Send an email indicating your interest in running for one of the positions to: lizcorbin7@gmail.com by Friday, May 22, 2020.

Voting will be by email, between May 25 and June 1.

Virtual Meetings: We’re planning to hold the second quarter MTS Hawaii meeting sometime in June. It will likely be a virtual meeting. Watch your email for details. Anyone interested in presenting their work at a future meeting? Suggestions for venues are also welcome for when we can start gathering together again.

MTS Council Meeting Recap: The Council consists of the nationally elected Board of Directors, locally elected section chairs and those professional committee chairs who request a seat on the Council, and two student members. A virtual meeting was held on May 4, led by President Rick Spinrad:

• A webinar series kicked off on May 6. Plans are for 2-4 per month. Will be recorded and available for viewing after (good since they are at 6 am in Hawaii).
• MTS Conferences/Meetings through early June have been cancelled/postponed or converted to virtual. Decisions will be made for future meetings.
• Currents is becoming monthly (4th Thursday) and Eddies is a new monthly newsletter focused on industry updates (2nd Thursday).
• MTS, in partnership with the Society for Underwater Technology (SUT), has entering into a pilot program to begin offering the Chartered Marine Technologist (CMarTech) certification. Click here for more details. Four volunteers are now going through the test evaluation process.
• There is a new program under development to support early career ocean professionals - ECOPs.

The Ocean Enterprise Study Update: The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) are updating the 2015 assessment of the revenues and employment generated by U.S. business (for profit and non-profit) activity in the provision of products and services enabling ocean observations, measurements and forecasts and the commercial use of ocean information to support the needs of a growing ocean economy.

Results will help to demonstrate the growing activity and economic importance of the U.S. Ocean Enterprise business sector and help decision makers better understand the scale, scope, and needs of this important industry sector, and its essential contribution to the potential of the total ocean economy.

Everyone involved in some aspect of this important activity is encouraged to participate. Click here to learn more and opt-in to the survey.