PUBLIC NOTICE ON PELORUS REEF VOLCANO #01- 17/11/2026

HAZARD ALERT to all Mariners to sail 2 nautical miles away from Pelorus Reef.
GREEN Terrestrial Color Code to residents of Tongatapu.
ORANGE ACC to the Aviation Community.

This is the Public Notice No.01 on the volcanic activity at Pelorus Reef in the Tongatapu group.

Pelorus Reef is a Pleistocene **submerged volcano** with a large stratovolcano and caldera system under the sea *(Figure 1)*, which sits about 60 km south-southwest of Ata Island and about 217 km southwest of ‘Eua, and 220 km southwest of Tongatapu Island *(Figure 2)*. This volcano remains underwater and has not yet risen above sea level. The last recorded eruption occurred during the Pleistocene epoch, 11,700 years ago.

Tonga Geological Services (TGS) has received reports from outside agencies regarding volcanic activities observed in the area between 13 - 16 November 2026 (Tonga time):

- Volcanic activities observed and reported gas and pumice were produced (Figure 3)
- Underwater sound signals (hydroacoustic) in the area were interpreted as high-frequency underwater volcanic explosions.

TGS has also identified vapour eruption, thermal anomalies, water discoloration resulting from the dispersal of the plume in the water, and a pumice raft drifting away from the volcano. These observations were made in the vicinity of Pelorus Reef through a review of NASA Worldview satellite imagery captured on 13 to 16 November 2026 (Figure 3).

TGS will provide further updates as additional information becomes available. Members of the public and mariners are advised to sail away from Pelorus Reef.

Issued by the Volcano Watch Team
Tonga Geological Services/Natural Resources Division
Ministry of Lands, Survey, Spatial Planning and Natural Resources

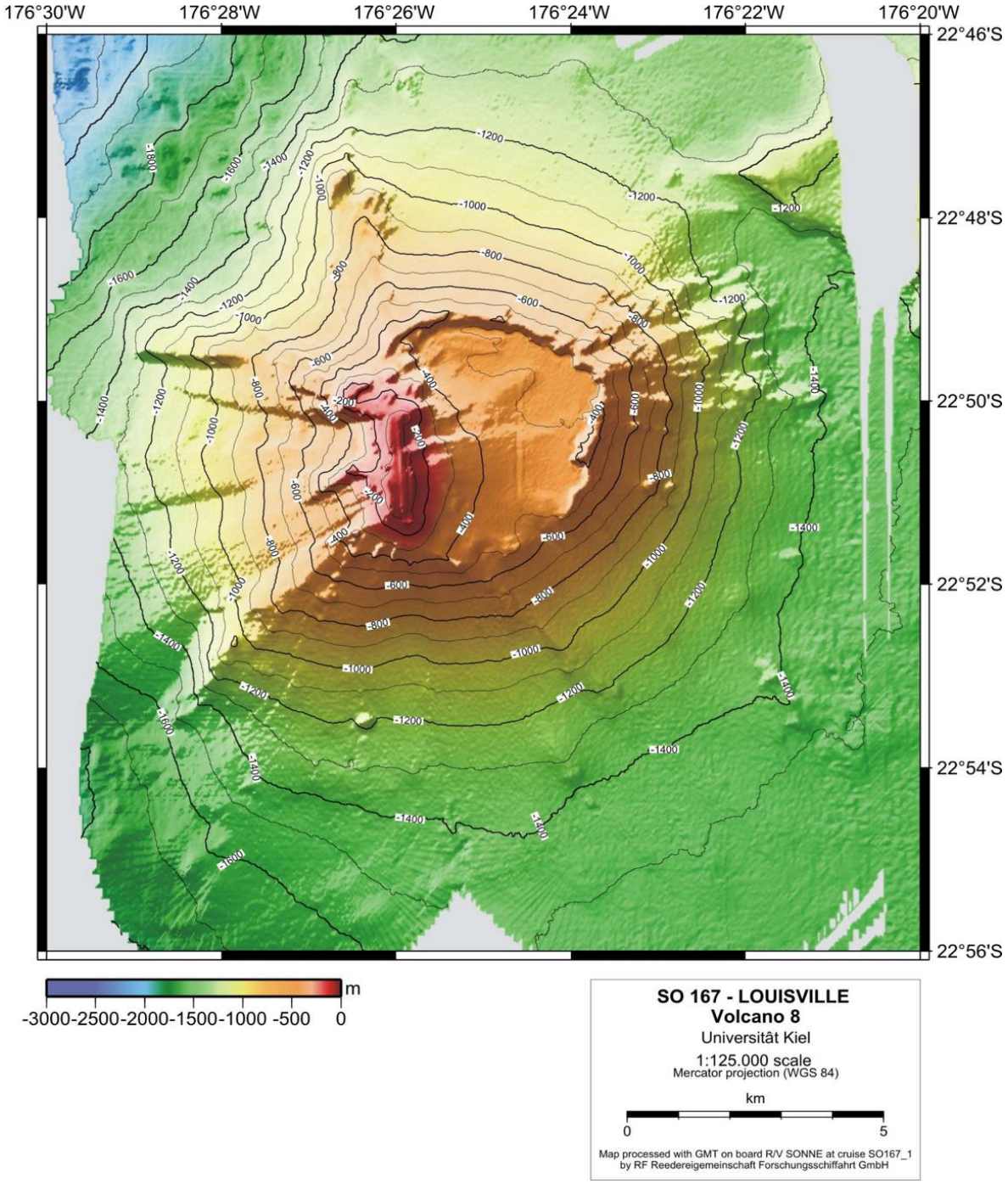


***Figure 1**. A bathymetric map of Pelorus Reef Volcano.*

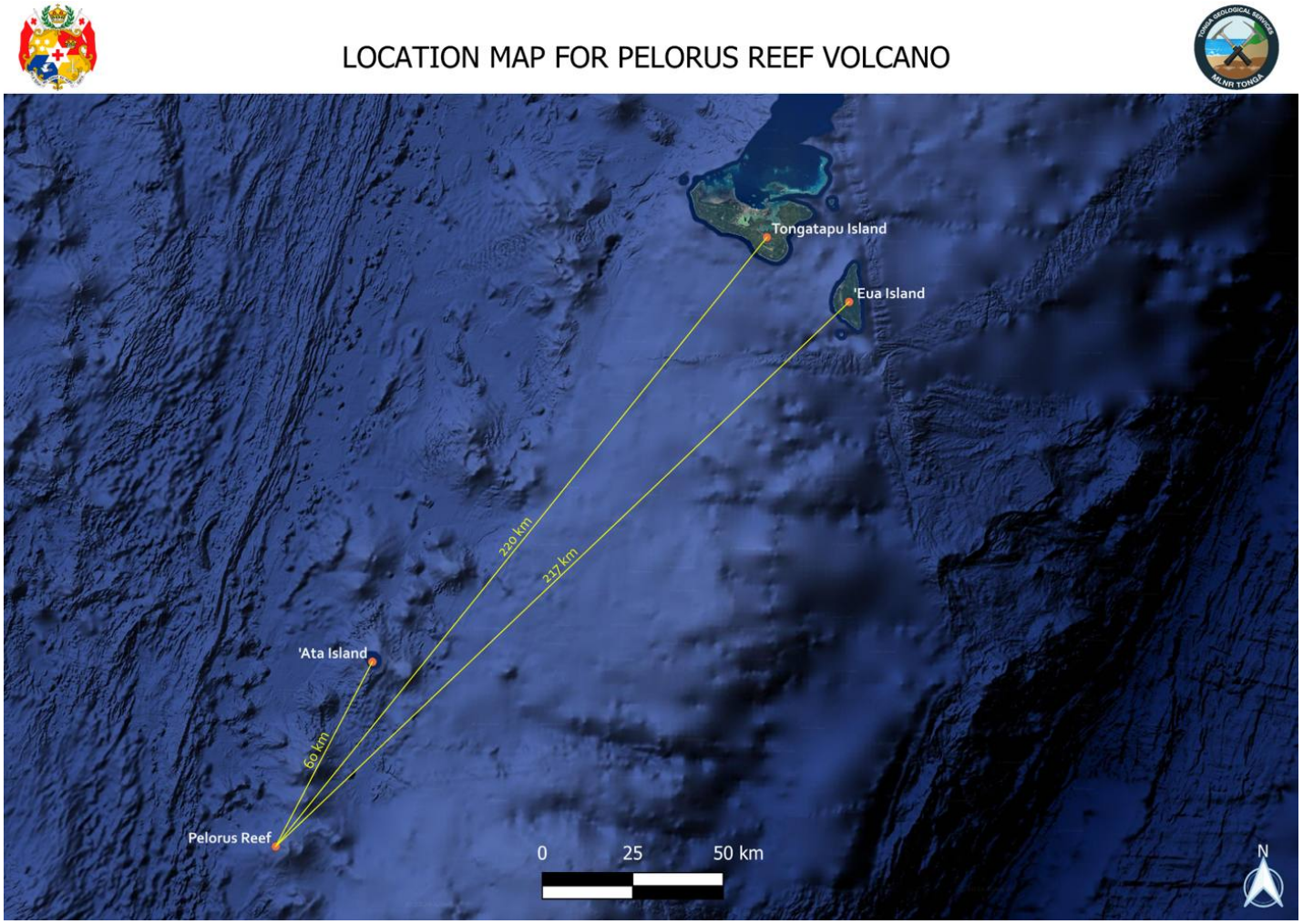


***Figure 2**. This image shows the location map for Pelorus Reef Volcano and its distance to 'Ata (60km), Tongatapu (220 km), and 'Eua (217 km) islands.*

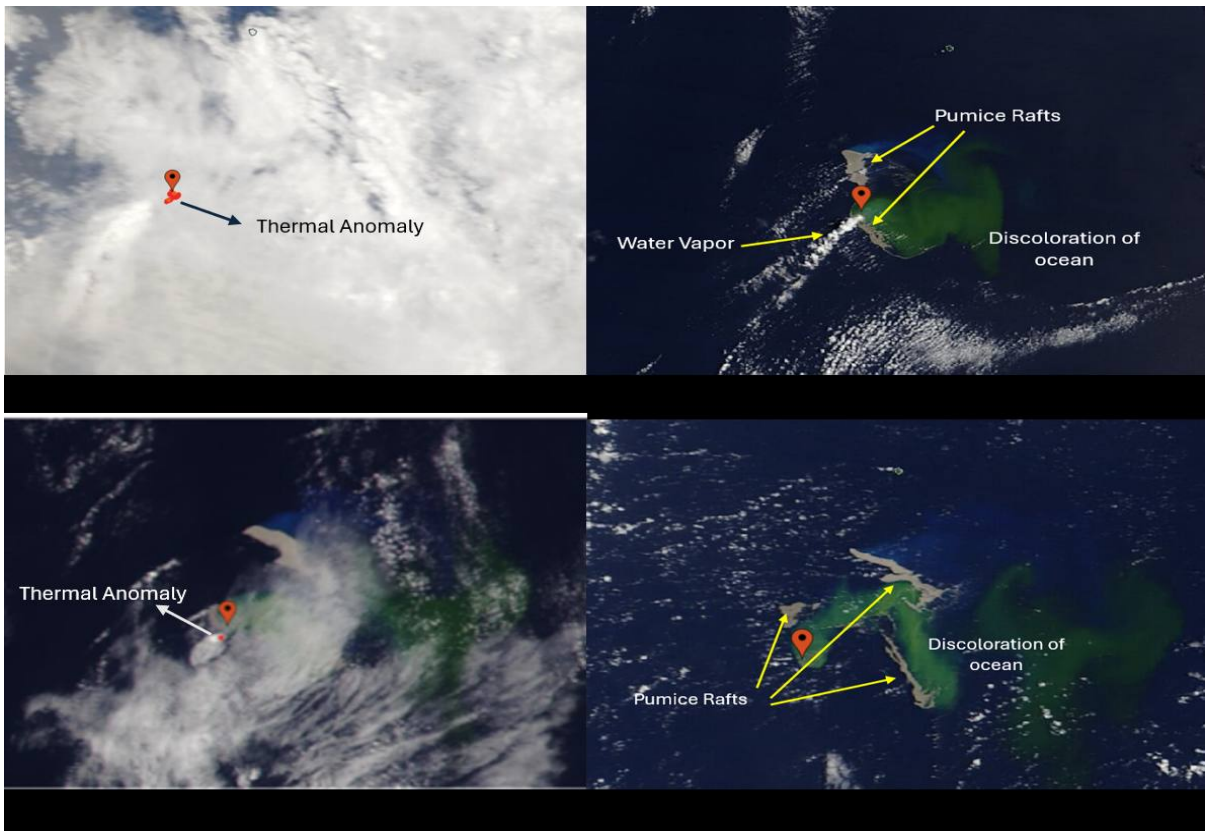


***Figure 3**. Satellite images from NASA Worldview activities detected in the vicinity of Pelorus Reef Volcano from November 13 to 16: showing the thermal anomalies (top left & bottom left), vapour eruption (top right), water discoloration (top right, bottom left, & bottom right), and pumice rafts.*