



Blue Prosperity Micronesia



PROGRAM UPDATES:

Marine Spatial Planning

Blue Economy

Sustainable Fisheries

Legal

Communications

Marine Spatial Planning

On August 12th, members of the Marine Spatial Planning Working Group and BPM team held a hybrid virtual and in-person workshop to discuss and develop the goals and objectives for the Offshore Marine Spatial Plan. Under the leadership of Chairman Alfred Lebehn Jr. of NORMA, the workshop was co-facilitated by the MSP Advisor Liz Terk, MSP Director John Weber and BPM Coordinator Yolanda Joab-Mori. To ensure cross-collaboration between the different working groups, the workshop was also attended by both Chairs of the Blue Economy and Sustainable Fisheries Working Groups. The workshop was also attended by other state partners including representatives from local ngos, municipal government and private sector. The workshop and two following meetings of the working group have resulted in a draft set of Goals and Objectives for the FSM Offshore Marine Spatial Plan which will now be shared with the BPM Task Force for consideration and endorsement. These goals and objectives will guide the development of a draft Offshore Marine Spatial Plan that will be shared widely in an extensive period of stakeholder and community consultation.

Blue Prosperity Micronesia is partnering with the FSM's ongoing coral reef monitoring program by supporting the State Coral Reef Monitoring teams (CRM) with technical support from the University of Guam (UOG). In-water research has been approved for the states of Chuuk, Kosrae and Yap and will be conducted from October to November 2021. The data will support long-term monitoring of coral reefs and fisheries, and help inform marine spatial planning efforts.

Blue Economy

In August, the Blue Economy Working Group convened for its second monthly meeting. Co-chaired by the Working Group's Chair Mr. Roger Arnold and BPM Coordinator Yolanda Joab-Mori, the group carried out an exercise to complete a Blue Economy Project Matrix for the FSM. The matrix will help identify completed, on-going and upcoming blue economy related development projects in the FSM and aid the group in narrowing down which area has the highest need and opportunity to focus its work. This will feed into developing an overall Blue Economy strategy and roadmap that is aligned with the FSM's priorities, building on the Blue Economy Scenario that was endorsed by the Task Force in July 2021. In addition to this, 1-2-1's were held with various Working Group members to get additional input into the FSM Project Matrix, as well as circulation of a survey to identify Blue Economy priorities in the FSM.



Topo & Bottom: Fishing Derby hosted by KCSO
Photo credit: KCSO

Sustainable Fisheries

In August the Sustainable Fisheries Working Group convened its second and third meetings. Chaired by Ms. Vanessa Fread and guided by the Waitt Institute's Sustainable Fisheries Director Dr. Pablo Granados, the group completed its review and comment period into the draft Sustainable Fisheries Characterization Report developed under Blue Prosperity Micronesia. The group has also begun to develop the Goals and Objectives for the Sustainable Fisheries pillar and will finalize these via a workshop in September. The final Goals and Objectives will then be shared with the BPM Task Force for consideration and endorsement.

The BPM Coordinator also attended the National Fisheries Summit hosted by NORMA and worked with NORMA on including linkages to the BPM 30% marine protection goal and overall sustainability into the draft National Fisheries Investment Policy.

Legal

The FSM Legal and Policy Framework Assessment Report developed by Blue Prosperity Micronesia and Rare, in partnership with Ramp & Mida, was completed and made public on August 30th. The document outlines the legal foundation for developing an enforceable, comprehensive and sustainably financed marine spatial plan and blue economy strategy. The report will serve as the basis to inform a broader conversation on how the existing legal framework can be used to support the goals of Blue Prosperity Micronesia, as well as help identify potential policy pathways and what legal reforms may be necessary. The report was shared with BPM Task Force, all who participated or were requested to participate in the interviews and made publicly available on the BPM website as well as shared via press release from the President's Office. The report can be found here: <https://www.blueprosperitymicronesia.org/resources>



Communications

Phase 1 of BPM awareness campaign activities are wrapping up in Kosrae, Yap and are underway in Chuuk through partnerships with KCSO (Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization), YCHS (Yap Catholic High School) and CWC (Chuuk Women's Council) respectively. These activities have focused on public events, coastal clean-ups, community outreach, and youth engagement and continue to be shared on the BPM Facebook page. The BPM communications team is also developing an animation video on Marine Spatial Planning to support future outreach and awareness raising efforts. The BPM website has also been updated with a Resources page, where program status reports and documents can be found.



Top & bottom: CWC & BPM volunteers clean up near Weno shoreline in Chuuk
Photo credit: CWC