



## Blue Prosperity Micronesia



### Governance & Program Management

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## Governance & Program Management

The Governors of Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae each signed Memorandum of Understandings to declare their commitment to Blue Prosperity Micronesia. The agreements between the States, the FSM National Government, and the Blue Prosperity Coalition acknowledge BPM's overarching goals to protect 30% of the FSM's waters and agree to develop marine spatial plans for coastal waters, building on existing efforts, stakeholder input, and best available information. An MoU with Pohnpei is currently under review.

The BPM Task Force met three times in Q1 of 2022. In January, the Task Force endorsed the BPM Sustainable Fisheries goals and objectives, and reviewed the Blue Economy strategy. A meeting in February focused on a discussion of implementation questions related to marine spatial planning and marine protected areas. In March, DoJ and the Waitt Institute legal team presented draft legislation for a marine spatial planning framework.

## Sustainable Fisheries

Building on the Task Force-endorsed Fisheries goals and objectives, and strategies outlined FSM National Oceanic Fisheries Investment Policy, the Sustainable Fisheries Working Group drafted a roadmap that outlines priority projects to help strengthen fisheries management and diversify fisheries markets. As a next step, the Task Force will review the draft road map before project implementation begins.

## Marine Spatial Planning

A modeling group comprised of R&D, NORMA, emLab, and the Waitt Institute began to review model outputs that help inform potential areas for marine protection and MSP scenarios in offshore waters. The modeled scenarios are informed by best available habitat and fishing data to meet Task Force-endorsed MSP objectives whilst minimizing effects on the tuna fishery. After the work of this technical group, the Task Force will decide upon zoning scenarios for the offshore MSP that will form the basis for stakeholder consultations.



H.E. David W. Panuelo with T.H. Carson K. Sigrah at the MOU

The legal team comprised of DoJ, Ramp & Mida, and the Waitt Institute began developing draft legislation to establish a legal framework for Marine Spatial Planning in the FSM. The legislation will harmonize (not replace) existing legislation and be submitted to Congress after consultations with the Task Force and relevant stakeholders.

BPM has begun planning an Ocean Use Survey to assess where and how stakeholders use the marine environment. The survey will launch in Kosrae and, pending government approval, be conducted in all other states in collaboration with state governments and other stakeholders. The survey will produce maps of ocean use to inform coastal marine spatial plans and resource management.

## Blue Economy

The Blue Economy team developed a roadmap (Trunk & Branch Strategy) of key Blue Economy activities under the Task Force-endorsed “Pristine World” scenario based on input from the Blue Economy Working Group. The roadmap explores investment opportunities related to fisheries, infrastructure, tourism, and human capital to help strengthen marine industries.



Pictured Above: H.E. David W. Pannelo & T.H. Alexander R. Narmuh sign the Memorandum of Understanding



Pictured Above: President Pannelo & Governor Salahu sign

Based on this roadmap, the team drafted Terms of Reference for economic analyses related to (1) the development of a portside fisheries hub, and (2) the development of a tourism strategy around unique Pacific maritime heritage such as Nan Madol and other cultural artefacts. Once approved, the Terms of Reference will be made available to consultants. The fisheries hub consultancy is further pending state consultations by NORMA on the FSM National Oceanic Fisheries Investment Policy.

## Expeditions

The Pohnpei and Chuuk coral reef monitoring teams have begun in-water surveys and assessments; Kosrae and Yap finalized respective work in late 2021. This effort will support long-term monitoring of coral reef and fisheries, support the Micronesia Challenge, and contribute to future coastal marine spatial planning work.

The BPM team has started to plan for a nation-wide scientific expedition (tentative dates September/October '22, pending the pandemic) in partnership with the University of Guam, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Waitt Institute, and National Geographic Pristine Seas. As a next step, the team will engage partners from national and state governments to develop an expedition strategy that aligns scientific objectives and Covid-19 safety measures to ensure an expedition will expand baseline knowledge of coral reefs and protect the safety of community and researchers.



Pictured Above: H.E. David W. Pannelo poses with T.H. Carson K. Sigrah