



# Blue Prosperity Micronesia



## Marine Spatial Planning

## World Oceans Day

## Sustainable Fisheries

## Blue Economy

## Historic Yap Trench Expedition



Chuuk OUS Planning Group

## Ocean Use Survey Exceeds Targets in Kosrae and Kicks off in Chuuk:

The Ocean Use Survey is a participatory mapping survey that asks respondents to identify areas in their coastal marine environment that they value or use. Community members are able to select an ocean sector they associate with, draw shapes in locations they utilize, and assign a relative value for each shape.

As part of the Nearshore Marine Spatial Planning efforts, the Ocean Use Survey (OUS) has been underway with communities in Kosrae in partnership with the Kosrae State Government and Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization. In Chuuk, an OUS Planning Group, led by the Chuuk State Government, has been formed and have been convening to begin the planning phase of Chuuk's Ocean Use Survey.

This tool allows us to learn how people use and value the ocean, which will feed into the development of Kosrae's and Chuuk's Marine Spatial Plans. In Kosrae, the OUS team has been carrying out the surveys by going hamlet by hamlet in each municipality, collecting surveys that represent 1,278 Kosraeans!

## Offshore Marine Spatial Plan and the Marine Spatial Planning Act of 2022:

At the national level, the BPM team has made significant progress towards the development of an Offshore Marine Spatial Plan (MSP), which would cover the FSM's 12-200nm ocean space. Building on a comprehensive literature review of FSM's existing plans, the MSP Working Group developed MSP principles, goals and objectives for offshore waters. Following their adoption by the BPM Task Force in December 2021, a working group led by R&D, NORMA, DECEM, The Nature Conservancy and facilitated by partners at the Waitt Institute has been meeting regularly since January to review and assess spatial data to identify areas of priority for consideration for protection while simultaneously minimizing impacts to the tuna fisheries. This assessment is an important step in the development of the offshore MSP, as the results directly support the next step of proposing potential boundaries for offshore MPAs.

The BPM legal team, led by the DOJ, has also developed a corresponding legal framework- the Marine Spatial Planning Act of 2022. The Marine Spatial Planning Act would build upon existing legislation to establish a legal framework for MSP in the offshore waters of the FSM. On September 6th, President Panuelo submitted the Marine Spatial Planning bill to the FSM Congress for their consideration during this current regular session.

**WORLD OCEANS DAY**  
celebrating  
Micronesian Leadership in Ocean Action

**LIVE WEBINAR**

**Rhea Moss-Christian**  
Fisheries Consultant  
Marshall Islands

**Sesario Sewralur**  
Grand Master Navigator  
Satawal

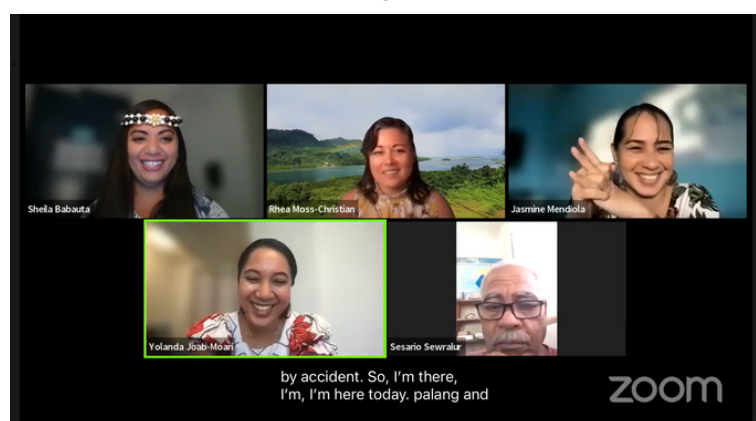
**Jasmine Mendiola**  
Rare Senior Program Manager  
Pohnpei

**Sheila Babauta**  
CNMI House of Representatives  
Saipan

## World Oceans Day

Blue Prosperity Micronesia celebrated World Oceans Day this year by hosting a live Virtual Panel Discussion with ocean leaders from across the region. Moderated by the BPM Coordinator, the panelists included former Chair of the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Rhea Moss-Christian of the Marshall Islands; Grand Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur of Satawal; Rare Senior Program Manager Jasmine Mendiola of Pohnpei; and Congresswoman Sheila Babauta of Saipan.

The event attracted hundreds of viewers from around the world and served as a platform to highlight and celebrate the diverse ways local people are leading ocean action from conservation to traditional navigation in Micronesia.



*World Oceans Day Live Panel Discussion*

In addition to the virtual Panel Discussion, BPM also celebrated World Oceans Day by supporting a coastal and underwater clean-up event in Kosrae.



*Community members celebrate World Oceans Day in Kosrae*

## Sustainable Fisheries

Following the completion of the Fisheries Characterization report, the Working Group engaged in extensive dialogue and identified six priority goals that were endorsed by the BPM Task Force:

(1) support FSM efforts for electronic monitoring, and compliance & enforcement, (2) support management to mitigate unsustainable harvesting of nearshore resources, (3) strengthen nearshore fisheries data collection, (4) support capacity building for coastal monitoring and enforcement (once coastal MSPs are done), (5) support the development of artisanal pelagic fisheries, (6) explore the development of pelagic export markets. The Working Group translated these priorities in a draft BPM Sustainable Fisheries Roadmap that outlines proposed projects that will help strengthen fisheries management and diversify fisheries markets.

The Roadmap will be presented to the Task Force for endorsement in the next Task Force meeting.

## Blue Economy

The first steps for Blue Economy planning included consultations with more than 40 stakeholders to identify promising opportunities to grow FSM's economy. Based on consultation findings, the Blue Economy Working Group developed the Task Force endorsed FSM Blue Economy Narrative, followed by a more detailed roadmap ("Trunk & Branch Strategy") that explores investment opportunities related to fisheries, infrastructure, tourism, and human capital to help strengthen marine industries.

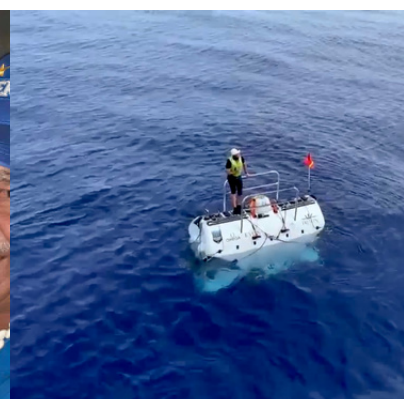
Following government review and approval of the Terms of Reference for economic analyses to assess the feasibility of (1) the development of a portside fisheries hub, and (2) the development of a tourism strategy around unique Pacific maritime heritage & cultural artifacts, calls for proposals have been solicited. Proposals will be reviewed by the Blue Economy Working Group then shared with the BPM Task Force.

## Historic Yap Trench Expedition

On July 14th 2022, Grand Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur of Satawal, who was also on featured in BPM's World Oceans Day virtual panel, and explorer Victor Vescovo descended to and explored the bottom of the Yap Trench, becoming the first humans ever to do so. At the bottom of the Yap Trench, Sesario and Victor signed the Pledge for Prosperity - a pledge of support to the FSM's ocean protection commitments to the Micronesia Challenge and Blue Prosperity Micronesia.



*Sesario poses with the signed Pledge for Prosperity at bottom of the Yap Trench*



*Submersible with Victor and Sesario emerges from its return*