



Blue Prosperity Micronesia

Marine Spatial Planning Activities

Sustainable Fisheries

Blue Economy

Program Management



Offshore MSP Workshop Part I:

For the first time since the FSM's borders closed due to the pandemic, colleagues and partners supporting Blue Prosperity Micronesia were able to gather again and meet in-person in Pohnpei for a series of meetings and the first of a two-part workshop to continue work on the FSM's Offshore Marine Spatial Plan. The workshop brought together key government officials and technical staff from FSM R&D, NORMA, DECEM, DOJ and partners from the Waitt Institute and emLab to review the progress made in the marine spatial planning process, verify data and discuss the different uses the FSM wants addressed in the plan.

Throughout the week the visiting staff from the Waitt Institute, Sustainable Fisheries Director Dr. Pablo Granados and Program Manager Zara Curimjee and the BPM team held meetings with various partners and stakeholders including SPC, NORMA, representatives from the tourism sector as well as a courtesy visit to H.E. President David W. Panuelo.

APIL passes Resolution in support of BPM & Marine Spatial Planning:

In October, BPM Science Advisor Dr. Nicole Yamase and BPM Coordinator Yolanda Joab-Mori were invited to give a presentation on BPM's work and the effectiveness of marine spatial planning to members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) during a luncheon hosted by the Micronesia Conservation Trust. Dr. Yamase highlighted the importance of ocean protection as human pollution has already reached the deepest point of the ocean, which she observed first hand during her expedition to the Challenger Deep. BPM Coordinator Yolanda Joab-Mori emphasized the importance of the political will from elected leaders needed to move this work forward. In result, the following day the APIL unanimously passed Resolution No. 39-GA-13, expressing support for Blue Prosperity Micronesia and the associated Marine Spatial Planning Bill.

Outreach & Public Consultation on Marine Spatial Planning Bill in Kosrae State:

On November 14-15, the Blue Prosperity Micronesia team and partners visited the State of Kosrae where they held consultations on the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) bill that is currently with congress. The delegation was headed by T.H. Secretary Elina Akinaga and included Assistant Attorney General Jun Bacalando Jr., Senator Mitaro Simina of Pohnpei state who represented the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, his staff Stanley Sitan, BPM Coordinator Yolanda Joab Mori and BPM Program Assistant Beverlyn Danis Fred. .

Program Update (4th Quarter 2022)

The public consultation brought together Kosraean government leaders, community leaders and civil society representatives. Members of the delegation presented on the overall Blue Prosperity Micronesia program including the Blue Economy and Sustainable Fisheries pillars of work in addition to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and the MSP bill itself. The delegation also paid a courtesy visit to T.H. Governor Carson Sigrah, T.H. Lt. Governor Arthy Nena and their cabinet members where discussions on the MSP Bill and how it will benefit all Micronesians continued. The consultations resulted in the Kosrae State Legislature passing a Resolution of support towards the MSP Bill.



**Vice President Palik hosts Dinner
Engagement with Congress:**



On the margins of Congress's November regular session, T.H. Vice President Aren B. Palik hosted a dinner engagement for members of Congress to provide an opportunity to discuss Blue Prosperity Micronesia's work and provide updates on the marine spatial plan as it relates to the MSP Bill. The dinner featured special remarks from T.H. Vice President Palik T.H., Congresswoman Perpetua Konman, as well as special remarks prepared by NORMA Deputy Director Mathew Chigiyal that were delivered by the BPM Coordinator in absentia. The gathering provided an opportunity for the Vice President and T.H. Senators Victor Goulund, Robson Romwolow, Rollinson Neth and Perpetua Konman to discuss the tool that is Marine Spatial Planning and how the MSP Bill that is currently being considered by Congress provides the legal framework needed to utilize MSP for the benefit of the FSM.

Sustainable Fisheries

Key Traceability has been brought on board and has commenced its assessment work on FSM's seafood markets and opportunities for diversification. The consultancy addresses several aspects of the seafood markets in the FSM with the view to recommend opportunities to promote market access, explore the diversification of current value-added products, whilst ensuring quality and safety of those commodities. Further to this, the project aims to suggest potential frameworks for the market development of mariculture resources. In collaboration with the BPM team, the Sustainable Fisheries Working Group, key stakeholders have been identified for ground-truthing interviews and site visit will be conducted later in 2023.

Blue Economy

Following government review and approval of the Terms of References, MarFishEco has been brought on board and has commenced its work on the economic analyses to assess the feasibility of the development of a portside fisheries hub in the FSM. The project is organized into two phases where Phase 1 will assess the opportunity and build the business case for a new or expanded Portside Fisheries Hub and Phase 2 will analyze the feasibility of a Portside Fisheries Hub at key sites across FSM, prioritize sites accordingly and develop a detailed implementation plan.

Concurrently, Green Case Consulting has been brought on board for the development of a geotourism strategy around unique Pacific maritime heritage & cultural artifacts in the FSM. Geotourism is defined as tourism that sustains or enhances the distinctive geographical character of a place—its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture, and the well-being of its residents. Green Case will assist in the planning of a strategic sustainable tourism development which would help to lift the international profile of FSM while providing a basis for greater levels of "conscious" community-based Geotourism that harnesses the rich cultural and maritime heritage of FSM.

Program Management

In December, key staff from NORMA and the BPM team from FSM R&D attended a capacity building exchange at the Waitt Institute office in La Jolla, California. The workshop provided an opportunity to collaboratively conduct an analytic capacity-building exchange for offshore resource management in the FSM, with particular focus on Marine Spatial Planning and bioeconomic modeling for decision-making in tuna fisheries management. The week also featured guest speakers and presentations from partners from the emLab, Global Fishing Watch and a visit to the Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

