

Blue Prosperity Micronesia



PROGRAM UPDATES:

Marine Spatial Planning- Ocean Use Survey Kicks Off

World Oceans Day

Sustainable Fisheries

Blue Economy

Program Management Unit

Marine Spatial Planning - Ocean Use Survey Kicks Off in Kosrae

As part of the Nearshore Marine Spatial Planning efforts, the Ocean Use Survey (OUS) has kicked off with communities in Kosrae in partnership with the Kosrae State Government and Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization. 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.

This tool allows us to learn how people use and value the ocean, which will feed into the development of Kosrae's Marine Spatial Plan. The OUS team is carrying out the surveys by going hamlet by hamlet in each municipality of Kosrae and is conducted in the local Kosraean language. More than 150 residents of Utwe took the survey in June and the team will be surveying Malem residents next week!

State level discussions have also begun with State partners to begin forming the necessary groups and mechanisms to pave the way forward for Nearshore Marine Spatial Plans.

At the national level, the BPM team has made significant progress towards the development of an offshore Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) and a legal framework to establish and govern a MSP in offshore waters. 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 group comprised of R&D, NORMA, DECEM, The Nature Conservancy and facilitated by The Waitt Institute has been meeting regularly since January to review spatial modeling to inform identification of areas for marine protection in offshore waters.



BPM partners pick up trash along the coast in Kosrae

LIVE

WORLD OCEANS DAY

celebrating
Micronesian Leadership in Ocean Action

 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
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LIVE WEBINAR

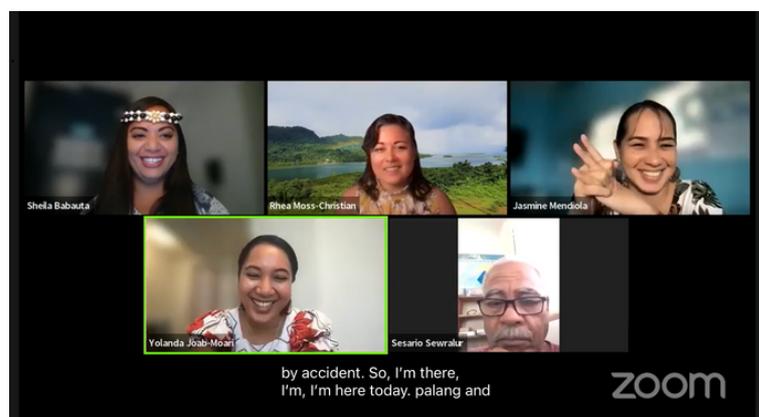


Community member from the N-one hamlet takes the survey with OUS team member

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 is in the process of being finalized for submission to the Task Force for endorsement.

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 received by mid-July and reviewed by the Blue Economy Working Group.

Program Management Unit

In May, the Program Management Unit welcomed Ms. Beverlyn Danis Fred to the team as the new Program Assistant. Bev brings to the program a wealth of experience in community engagement and sustainable resource management as the former Protected Areas Network Coordinator in Chuuk.



BPM Program Assistant Bev Danis leading mangrove reforestation