



## ABOUT

### BLUE PROSPERITY MICRONESIA

Blue Prosperity Micronesia (BPM) is a government-led program to support the sustainable growth of marine resources in the FSM. BPM adopts a holistic approach based on best available science and stakeholder participation to build a healthier marine environment that will benefit future generations. Our progress through March 2025 is summarized below.

## MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING: OFFSHORE



### FSM leaders support Marine Spatial Planning

**President Simina submitted a streamlined version of the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Bill to Congress in January 2025.**

Once enacted, this legislation would set a **transparent, legally-binding process** for developing a Marine Spatial Plan in national waters.

In December 2024, leaders from Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and the National Government signed a resolution expressing unanimous support for the MSP Bill as **a critical tool for sustainable management of FSM's marine and coastal resources.**

This resolution recognizes these resources as "vital to the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of the nation."

**The FSM has made significant progress in developing a Marine Spatial Plan** to sustainably manage FSM's offshore waters. The MSP Working Group developed several Marine Spatial Plan scenarios, with two receiving endorsement from the BPM Task Force.

To better understand the **costs and benefits** of implementing a Marine Spatial Plan, BPM has completed several key assessments:

- **Vessel day scheme analysis** to determine potential effects on fishing revenue
- **Sustainable finance assessment** to identify the financial needs and potential sustainable funding sources
- **Enforcement & compliance assessment** to identify gaps and additional resources needed



## MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING: COASTAL

### Pohnpei Signs MOU Supporting Blue Prosperity Micronesia

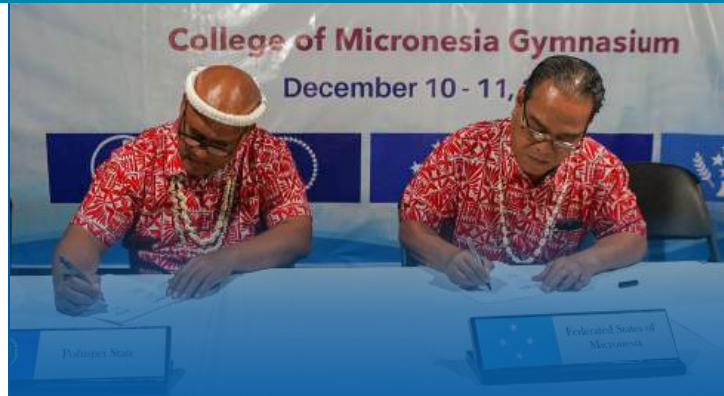
In December, H.E. President Wesley Simina, T.H. Governor Stevenson Joseph, and Mr. Ted Waitt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the State of Pohnpei to support the Blue Prosperity Micronesia program.

**This new MOU initiates the development of a legally-binding Marine Spatial Plan** for Pohnpei's waters from 0–12 nautical miles. Pohnpei joins Kosrae, Yap and Chuuk states, who have also signed MOUs to endorse and implement BPM.

**“We are extremely pleased that Pohnpei State is also dedicated to meeting BPM’s objectives.**

National and state-level collaboration is essential to achieve a better future for all of FSM, and we look forward to achieving these goals together.”

—President Simina



**“The State of Pohnpei is proud to honor our shared commitments to protect the FSM’s marine resources, both at the state and the national level.”**

– Governor Stevenson Joseph



### Marine Spatial Planning in Kosrae

The Kosrae Marine Spatial Planning Working Group **developed their draft Principles, Goals and Objectives to guide the development of the state’s future Marine Spatial Plan.** In addition to protected areas, the working group identified renewable energy, aquaculture, tourism and sustainable management of nearshore fisheries as key priorities. Kosrae is now beginning to draft its Marine Spatial Plan for state waters.



## MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING: COASTAL (continued)

### Yap's Ocean Use Survey

From August to November 2024, the BPM team conducted an Ocean Use Survey in all 10 municipalities on the main island of Yap and learned how community members use and value the ocean space. Results will inform Yap's future Marine Spatial Plan.

In March 2025, the BPM team began the next phase of the Ocean Use Survey in Yap's Neighboring Islands.



**The team collected 274 responses** representing the ocean uses and values of 1,227 people.

## BLUE ECONOMY

### Blue Prosperity Entrepreneur Fellows selected

Six ocean entrepreneurs and innovators in the FSM have been selected for the Blue Prosperity Entrepreneur Fellowship. **In 2025, selected fellows will develop projects that will benefit local economies and contribute to a healthy and sustainable future for FSM.** The fellowship provides mentorship, resources and global exposure to help scale initiatives across aquaculture, sustainable tourism and food systems.

Learn more about the Blue Prosperity Entrepreneur Fellows at [www.blueprosperitymicronesia.org/fellows](http://www.blueprosperitymicronesia.org/fellows).





## SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Since August 2023, the Blue Prosperity Coastal Fisheries App has been implemented in two Chuuk communities, Weno and Oneisomw, to address gaps in nearshore fisheries data collection and provide real-time, detailed insights into Chuuk's coastal fisheries.

BPM is now supporting all four states in transitioning to Ikasavea, an app developed by SPC, that allows fisheries surveyors to collect market, landing and socio-economic survey data offline.

### Milestones

- Surveyed 91,000+ pounds of nearshore fish
- Identified and measured 20,000+ individual fish to assess the stock status of key species landed in Chuuk
- Recorded 475+ fishing trips

### Four States Film Tour

In February 2025, the BPM team visited all four states to engage with communities and premiere "Federated States of Micronesia: Blue Prosperity," a feature film showcasing FSM's culture, traditional knowledge, and connection to the ocean.

The film incorporates footage from a 2023 marine science expedition conducted by BPM and National Geographic Pristine Seas, which surveyed 11 outer atolls across the FSM to understand climate change impacts on marine resources.

