

Pacific Islands RPB Inaugural Meeting

July 11-12, 2013
8am-4:30pm HST

RPB Members in Attendance:

American Samoa: Taimalelagi Dr. Claire
Poumele, Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga
CNMI: Frank Rabauliman, Fran Castro
Guam: Joseph Cameron, Dr. Jason Biggs
Hawaii: Jesse Souki
WPFMC:
NOAA: Mike Tosatto

JCS: CAPT Pete Smith (USN)
DOD: Nicole Griffin (USMC)
EPA: John McCarroll
DOT:
DOI:
USCG:
USDA:

RPB Alternates:

Hawaii: Leo Asuncion
JCS: LCDR Tracy Kirby (USN)
DOI: Loyal Mehrhoff
EPA: Wendy Wiltse

USCG: CDR Brian Hofferber
USDA: Ben Schmidt
Executive Secretary: Sarah Pautzke

Others and Public:

NOC: Deerin Babb-Brott, Jon Andrechik
Public: Cindy Barger (USACE), Joshua DeMello (WPFMC), Dr. Takiora Ingram (PROP), Melissa Iwamoto (PacIOOS), Heather Kerkering (PacIOOS), Kitty Simonds (WPFMC), Miranda Smith (Hawaii Sub-ROP)

AGENDA OVERVIEW

- Introduction of co-leads and RPB members
- Visioning
- Development of a mission statement and draft objectives
- Development of a charter

The meeting opened with a welcome by the co-leads, Michael Tosatto and Jesse Souki, and the NOC Executive Director Deerin Babb-Brott. Everyone in the room then introduced themselves and the agency for which they work.

VISIONING

A visioning exercise was conducted with the RPB members. The visioning exercise began with a statement of problems, concerns, and opportunities that the jurisdictions, including federal agencies, have. Climate change was seen as one of the primary areas of concern as well as an opportunity, as was the protection, management, and potential Endangered Species Act listing of corals. The concerns and opportunities could be combined into several categories: 1) broad topics such as climate change, global warming strategy, and sea level rise; 2) utilization of the Clean Water Act to prevent marine debris, and protect nearshore water quality from land-based pollution and sedimentation; 3) species management, such as corals, tuna, fish, coral reefs, and biodiversity; 4) balancing uses, including ocean mineral extraction, renewable energy, economic development, resource protection, cultural use, and cultural identity; 5) cooperation across agencies at all levels that includes integrated planning and co-

management, supporting local initiatives, incorporating and/or addressing federal zoning requirements; 6) addressing use conflicts such as business versus military and other conflicts, and offshore energy development; 7) military activities, including impacts from the military build-up, impacts on marine mammals, and access to training areas; 8) research such as funding availability, new research opportunities, and technical assistance and reviews; 9) integration of the National Ocean Policy into existing policy; 10) nearshore issues such as interisland transportation, wetland restoration, and ridge-to-reef management; and 11) protection of human health, people, and property at sea.

MISSION STATEMENT DEVELOPMENT

The non-federal members presented a draft mission statement for all RPB members to work with that included several guiding principles. The mission statement was agreed upon as follows:

The mission of the Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body is to plan, coordinate, and realize all responsibilities described under Executive Order 13547, *Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts and Great Lakes*, commonly referred to as the National Ocean Policy. The Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body will create a coastal and marine spatial plan for effective conservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources for the benefit of the region, its indigenous peoples, and the nation.

The guiding principles were then developed and agreed upon as follows:

1. Promote cultural traditions, values, and practices of the Pacific Islands as a means of managing natural resources and fostering opportunities for participation;
2. Promote an ecosystem approach in the management of natural resources, including minimizing impacts on habitat and species;
3. Promote environmentally responsible use of natural resources to provide long-term economic growth and stability;
4. Support quality research and obtain the most complete scientific information and traditional ecological knowledge to assess and manage natural resources;
5. Promote education and outreach that fosters good stewardship and broad public participation;
6. Promote regional and international cooperation to manage natural resources;
7. Encourage development and use of technologies to effectively manage and monitor natural resources;
8. Incorporate responses to climate change into plans and decisions;
9. Encourage data sharing to increase efficiency and resolve conflict;
10. Support risk-informed decisions that consider long-term implications; and
11. Promote compatible and discourage incompatible uses of coastal and ocean areas that support the needs of the local population, region, and nation.

CHARTER DEVELOPMENT

The charter, as drafted, was read word by word. RPB members supplied edits as necessary. In some instances, clarification was needed. In others, editing was agreed upon by consensus. The draft charter will be circulated among the RPB members for review after smoothing and being reviewed for inconsistencies with the final CMSP handbook, which was released on July 19, 2013. The estimated date for circulation to RPB members is August 16, 2013.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Executive Secretariat was tasked with drafting the goals and objectives for the group to review, edit, and discuss via email. The goals and objectives should address 1) coordination of the RPB work, data,

and other objectives of the National Ocean Policy that leads to better decision making, 2) incorporation of state and territorial input, cultural needs, stakeholder input, and traditional ecological knowledge, and 3) balanced sustainable use of resources. The Executive Secretariat was advised to look to the National Ocean Policy goals and objectives, Hawaii Ocean Resource Management Plan goals and objectives, and goals and objectives discussed during this two-day RPB meeting. The estimated completion date to get the draft goals and objectives to the RPB for review is 3 months, or October 18, 2013. The goal for finalized goals and objectives including input from and approval by the RPB members is 6 months, or January 17, 2014.

PRIORITY AREAS FOR RPB MEMBERS

Each RPB member was asked what their jurisdiction's or agency's priority areas are. Overlapping priority areas included energy development, the Coral Reef Initiative, water (storm water, Clean Water Act), and data gaps including spatial data. For each member's priority area, please see Appendix 1.

REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIPS

Miranda Smith provided an overview of the Hawaii Sub-Regional Ocean Partnership (SubROP) and described how the other regions are trying to find cohesion between and identities of their RPBs versus their ROPs. The Hawaii SubROP has commitments of the state and county agencies; federal agencies and NGOs are partners. The Hawaii SubROP formalizes the partnerships to address action items within the Hawaii Ocean Resource Management Plan (ORMP). They have one year to organize. Currently, the Hawaii SubROP is getting funding to create a tool to help with decision making.

Fran Castro provided the update of the Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership (PROP), which was formalized in 2012. Their action plan has three priority areas: 1) develop strategies to address impacts (climate change, sea level rise, etc.), 2) develop capacity to manage Endangered Species Act listings, and 3) develop a comprehensive marine plan for managing at a regional level. A workshop to discuss the potential impacts of the coral listings under ESA was held July 9-10, 2013. The next workshop topic will be disaster response.

While it is still unclear exactly how the ROPs and the RPB will interact, it is thought that the activities of the SubROP will provide a foundation for development of a CMSP plan in Hawaii and be the organization the RPB can engage for input from the state and county agencies.

NEXT STEPS

The RPB identified a need to have a capacity assessment. The capacity assessment would identify what is important to the non-federal and federal members, what research federal agencies have planned, how communities can participate and work collaboratively on priorities, inventory what projects and activities are in process and/or funded, identify individual partners' roles, identify what data already exists, and identify what groups the RPB can coordinate with or lean on (PICCC, PACSIS, etc). At the meeting, this was discussed briefly, but no timeline or further coordination was pursued.

A strategy needs to be developed for the RPB that incorporates the Executive Order requirements, federal point of view, and non-federal point of view. After identification of an issue such as climate change, the RPB strategy can then identify how best to use the CMSP process to address the issue.

TASKS FOR RPB MEMBERS AND/OR THE SECRETARIAT

RPB Members:

- Email your wants for your agency or jurisdiction to the Executive Secretary. Goal: 30 days (August 16, 2013)
- Email ideas for goals and objectives to the Executive Secretary. Goal: 30 days (August 16, 2013)
- Identify who signs the charter based on each RPB member's territory, state, or federal agency.
- Consider the value of a data group and what that group might be charged with completing. Goal: none provided.

Federal Co-Lead

- Seek the National Ocean Council's guidance about how to add other federal agencies (e.g. DOE). Does the RPB make a decision or does the NOC work with the federal agency to be added?
- Draft an initial goal statement.

Executive Secretary

- Draft this meeting's summary
- Smooth charter and email to RPB members for review. Include the CMSP handbook in the email, identifying any discrepancies that may have arisen with finalization of the handbook versus the draft utilized during charter development. Ask for concurrence/acceptance or edits. Goal: 30 days (August 16, 2013)
- Look up comments from previous listening sessions to identify what the concerns were for the Pacific Islands areas to incorporate into the goals and objectives.
- Research goals and objectives from the NOC and the conversations at the RPB meeting to identify draft goals and objectives. After drafting and review by co-leads, email for review/edit/agreement to the RPB members. Goal: 3 months (October 18) to disseminate draft, 6 months (January 17, 2014) for final goals and objectives.

NEXT RPB MEETING

The next RPB meeting is planned, depending on availability of RPB members, in November 2013 when the PROP members are planning a meeting of the governors. The exact date of the governor's meeting is still unknown, but it is tentatively planned for November 18.

An issue that has been raised is funding availability. The charter now reflects the desire of the RPB to rotate throughout the jurisdictions, and hopefully funding can be secured to aid this decision.

APPENDIX 1: Priority areas by RPB member

Priority areas were identified during a round-robin discussion. While the following is by no means an exhaustive complete list, priority areas were identified by some of the RPB members as follows:

DOA NRCS

- Clean Water Act watersheds
- Coral Reef Initiative
- Soil health

DOI FWS

- Watershed health
- Micronesian Challenge
- Compatible energy use
- Climate change

American Samoa

- Marine protected areas: education and training
- Community development projects
- Understanding similarities and differences between activities of the PROP and RPB and how to create a symbiotic relationship between the two bodies

State of Hawaii¹

- Access to data for plan development to determine what data we have and what data we need
- Climate change
- Energy
- Spatial Planning

Guam

- Building GIS layers to determine what data we have and do not have
- Data varies with distance to populated areas: the closer you get to a populated area, the more data exists
- Important coastal areas
- Large areas to manage, including what is currently used by military and heritage areas
- Information needs to be shared with local people and they must be brought into the process
- Need to create a transparent and balanced planning process

EPA

- Clean and healthy nearshore area
- Promote resilience of coral and other marine resources against climate change
- Sustainable waste water and drinking water
- We should use all tools are our disposal
- Ocean dumping

¹ Since the RPB meeting was held, the ORMP was signed by Governor Abercrombie. For a full list of management priorities for the State of Hawaii, please see:

http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/ormp_update_reports/final_ormp_web_2013.pdf