



## **Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

The Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body (RPB) is dedicated to developing a coastal and marine spatial (CMS) plan that reflects input and participation from interested organizations and individuals. The RPB routinely solicits comments and participation as an important component of its activities. These opportunities range from commenting on draft documents to participating in workshops, attending RPB meetings, and attending meetings of RPB members' agencies. This plan identifies likely stakeholders for engagement, when and where engagement will occur, and various avenues for engagement. The plan is subject to change and will be incorporated into the greater CMS Plan.

### **Commitment to engage stakeholders**

The RPB commitment is included in three guiding principles of its charter:

1. Promote cultural traditions, values, and practices of the Pacific Islands as a means of managing natural resources and fostering opportunities for participation.
2. Support quality research and obtain the most complete scientific information and traditional ecological knowledge to assess and manage natural resources.
3. Promote education and outreach that fosters good stewardship and broad public participation.

The charter states that the “RPB members commit in good faith to a cooperative, open, and transparent planning process leading to the development of a regional plan.” It also states that the RPB will ensure that “there is regular and appropriate public engagement during all phases of its work” and that “as the overall planning effort progresses, non-governmental organizations, academic and business entities, and private individuals will be consulted when necessary to ensure that planning is based on the best available information and sound science.” It is anticipated that non-governmental individuals will be engaged in projects and efforts that support the RPB, including committees and working groups.

### **Target audience**

Stakeholders are not just the “public.” Stakeholders include the public, academics, business leaders, fishermen, community members, recreational users of the coast and ocean, researchers and many more. They will be engaged in the discussion, evaluation, and application of information.

### **Why engage stakeholders**

Stakeholders with expertise on issues such as science, environment, economics, security, culture, technology, and business contribute greatly to the planning process. Their participation ensures a full understanding of the range of interests and interactions of ocean user groups, which will inform the development of the CMS Plan.

### **How the RPB will engage stakeholders**

The RPB will engage stakeholders through:

- 1) *RPB meetings*  
RPB meetings, unless otherwise specified, are open to stakeholders. Time will be reserved on the agenda for stakeholders to present ideas and provide feedback and information.
- 2) *Workshops, Conferences, and Listening Sessions*  
The RPB may host workshops, conferences, and listening sessions as avenues to gather information for the CMS Plan. Members and/or the Executive Secretary may also attend, participate in, or assist in leading workshops pertaining to CMS planning (CMSP) that are hosted by other entities.
- 3) *Non-RPB-hosted meetings*  
Members and/or the Executive Secretary may attend and/or participate in meetings that are not hosted by the RPB, such as meetings of the Hawaii Ocean Partnership or Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership. These meetings provide an opportunity to gather important information and feedback to guide the development of the CMS Plan.
- 4) *Committees and working groups*  
Committees and working groups established by the RPB can be used to incorporate stakeholder expertise into the CMS planning process. This includes (but is not limited to) technical reviews of data and science, research on specific planning issues, and guiding development of sub-plans for each territory and state within the broader regional CMS Plan.

### **Timing of RPB engagement with stakeholders**

Meetings will be held at regular intervals. Announcements of meetings will be made via email distribution, social media, and the RPB's website. The RPB will endeavor to provide meeting notices two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Workshops, conferences, and committee and working group meetings will be held when necessary. Additionally, stakeholder listening sessions will be conducted at regular intervals during the planning process.

### **Where engagement will occur**

Efforts will be made to ensure stakeholder engagement occurs in each territory and all Main Hawaiian Islands. This will include stakeholder listening sessions in areas that may not otherwise have opportunities to provide input due to remote locations, such as outlying villages in American Samoa. RPB meetings will be rotated throughout the three territories and Hawaii

annually. Some working groups or committees may be geographic in nature, which would ensure that the RPB incorporates stakeholder input specific to each territory and Hawaii.

### **Opportunities to participate**

Stakeholders have many ways they will be able to participate. The following are avenues available:

1) *Attend a meeting*

RPB meetings are open for stakeholders to attend. It is anticipated that non-governmental individuals, i.e. individuals who are not RPB members, will be engaged in projects that support the Pacific Islands RPB, including committees and working groups.

2) *Communicate with the RPB*

Questions or comments on plans and products can be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Pacific Islands RPB at [PacificIslandsRPB@yahoo.com](mailto:PacificIslandsRPB@yahoo.com) or to the co-leads.

Spreading the word about RPB activities to colleagues and community members is also a way to participate.

3) *Participate on a committee or working group*

The RPB will have committees and working groups that guide the development of the CMS Plan. Participating on one of these will provide direct input.

4) *Stay informed*

Opportunities to participate will be posted on the PI RPB web page ([www.PacificIslandsRPB.org](http://www.PacificIslandsRPB.org)). Information and updates will be provided via emails from the Executive Secretary. To get on the email distribution list, a stakeholder should email the Executive Secretary at [PacificIslandsRPB@yahoo.com](mailto:PacificIslandsRPB@yahoo.com).