



**Pacific Islands RPB Meeting**  
February 15-16, 2017  
Honolulu, Hawaii

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**RPB Members in Attendance:**

American Samoa: Chris King (alt),  
Henry Seseapasara (also for  
WPFMC)

CNMI: Fran Castro

Guam: Dr. Jason Biggs, Senator Wil Castro

Hawaii: Bruce Anderson

WPFMC: Henry Seseapasara

NOAA: Michael Tosatto (NMFS)

JCS: CAPT Ash Evans (Navy)

DOD: Nicole Griffin (USMC)

EPA:

DOT:

DOI: Matt Brown (FWS)

USCG: CDR Brian Donahue (alt)

USDA: Tony Ingersoll

**Others and Public:**

Executive Secretary: Sarah Pautzke

Facilitators: Miranda Foley, John Parks

Public: Doug Fetterly (Sierra Club), Sarah Courbis (Ecology and Environment Inc), Sara Gultinan (BOEM), Ariel Jacobs (NMFS), Melissa Iwamoto (PaciOOS), Keith Mattson (CONCUR Inc), Rebecca Walker (WPFMC).

**AGENDA OVERVIEW**

- RPB update
- Review of 2016 goals and setting of 2017 goals
- RPB organization
- Reflections on ocean planning
- Capacity building: American Samoa, moving to other jurisdictions, and funding
- Discussion of data and tools
- Discussion about stakeholder engagement
- Moving forward

The meeting opened with a welcome by the federal co-lead Mr. Tosatto and non-federal co-lead Dr. Jason Biggs. The RPB members and alternates, followed by the audience, then introduced themselves and stated the agency or company for which they work (if applicable).

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body (PI RPB) met in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 15-16, 2017. The PI RPB has divided its workload between three building blocks for successful development of the Pacific Islands Ocean Plan: capacity, data and tools, and stakeholder engagement. The meeting was structured to review 2016 goals, and develop 2017 goals and related directives/recommendations to progress our efforts on these building blocks in the year ahead.

### **Meeting Outcome #1: Consensus to move forward with ocean planning**

The PI RPB discussed what may happen due to a change in the Administration and the potential for a reversal of the National Ocean Policy Executive Order. The PI RPB agreed to keep moving forward unless directed otherwise.

### **Meeting Outcome #2: Consensus on the PI RPB goals for 2017**

#### Capacity Building:

1. Finalize draft American Samoa Ocean Plan
2. Begin planning in another jurisdiction
3. PI RPB CMSP goals and objectives development
4. Identify and increase general funding support for PI RPB capacity

#### Data:

5. Mapping interface prototype developed that relies on and includes jurisdictional knowledge
6. Identify data gaps for American Samoa and include draft list in their ocean plan

#### Stakeholder engagement:

7. Completed American Samoa stakeholder assessment

### **Meeting Outcome #3: Recommendations and directives for the Executive Secretariat to act on over the next year.**

**Regarding the PI RPB charter:** The PI RPB recommended that the Executive Secretariat drafts, for PI RPB review and adoption, a Terms of Reference that will be included as an appendix. It also directed the Executive Secretariat to act on the reviewed edits of the charter by Department of Transportation. The changes will be approved by co-lead sign off with PI RPB consensus, and will include a document identifying all changes.

**Regarding capacity:** The PI RPB supported initiation of coastal and marine spatial planning efforts in Guam and CNMI, with recommended next steps and a draft timeline.

**Regarding data and tools:** The PI RPB made several suggestions to the Data Team, including identifying drivers necessitating a data tool, determining if/what data agreements are needed, and data verification.

**Regarding stakeholder engagement:** The PI RPB heard a report about the proposed stakeholder assessment for American Samoa by CONCUR. Members look forward to the results to determine the assessment's applicability to other jurisdictions.

### **Meeting Outcome #3: Comment and recommendations to the American Samoa Ocean Planning Team**

- 1) The PI RPB recommended the ASOPT build in flexibility in the ocean plan to incorporate data, uses, etc. that are identified later in the planning process.
- 2) The PI RPB provided feedback regarding the goals developed by the ASOPT.

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

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### **PI RPB UPDATE**

Ocean planning updates:

- Deerin Babb-Brott is the director of the National Ocean Council.
- The US federal administration changed. The national ocean planning efforts stem from 16 years of bipartisan efforts under the last 2 administrations, so while ocean planning may undergo rebranding, the hope is that efforts continue. However, the fate of the National Ocean Policy Executive Order is unknown.

National RPB update:

- The New England RPB has released its final plan in fall of 2016.
- The Mid Atlantic RPB has released its final in winter of 2016.
- The Pacific Islands RPB continued its ocean planning efforts in American Samoa. The goal is to have the American Samoa Ocean Plan complete in draft form by December 2017.
- West Coast RPB has gained momentum and has started development of subplans.

### ***New Administration: Moving Forward Discussion***

The PI RPB discussed how it will move forward should the National Ocean Policy (NOP) executive order be rescinded. NOAA has made an internal commitment to proceed with supporting ocean planning at the national level; in the Pacific Islands that includes being co-lead and providing capacity for the coordinator. The Department of Defense has no position on ocean planning at the national level at this time, but there is an upcoming meeting in which that will be discussed. The Administration will ultimately decide the direction of the federal RPB members.

The general feeling was that the PI RPB would shift to a predominantly jurisdiction-led approach, but progress would be questionable unless funding can be secured. The potential for support from the Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership (PROP) was raised, but it is unclear at this time what type of support it would provide. At the jurisdictional level, Hawaii has coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP; ocean) efforts underway in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and in the Main Hawaiian Islands; the goal is 30 by 30: 30% of Hawaii's nearshore waters effectively managed by 2030. The question was raised about the role of federal agencies for this goal, as well as what the best forum would be for jurisdictional CMSP coordination. In American Samoa, CMSP efforts thus far have been federally supported with respect to funding and continuation is questionable without continued funding support. CNMI has several coastal zone projects, but overarching CMSP has not started; CNMI offered that they can learn from other states and regions who have been successful. Guam is poised to begin CMSP, starting with a training offered in February 2017; they have expressed a desire to move forward regardless of the NOP.

**The PI RPB stated it will move forward with ocean planning unless directed otherwise.**

Actions from 2016 PI RPB meeting and their status:

Actions from 2016 RPB Meeting	Status
ID funding gaps related to capacity needs and accompanying strategies	In progress
ID local facilitator in AS	In progress
ID local coordinator in AS	Not complete
Establish Data Team	Complete
RPB members ID Data Team members	Complete
RPB members ID support partners for stakeholder engagement	Not complete

Status of 2016 goals:

Building Block	Goal	Status
Capacity	Complete AS Ocean Plan	In progress
Data	Begin development of mapping interface	In progress
Data	Begin development of decision support tool	Not complete
Data	Identify data and data gaps	Not complete
Stakeholder Engagement	Stakeholder assessment in American Samoa	In progress

### **GOALS FOR 2017**

Draft goals for 2017 presented to the PI RPB:

#### **Capacity Building:**

- 1) Finalize draft American Samoa Ocean Plan
- 2) Begin planning in another jurisdiction
- 3) PI RPB CMSP goals and objectives development

#### **Data:**

- 4) Mapping interface prototype completed

#### **Stakeholder Engagement:**

- 5) Completed American Samoa stakeholder assessment

The PI RPB added two goals. To capacity building, members added “general funding for PI RPB capacity.” To data, members added “identify gaps for American Samoa in 2017 and ensure that list of gaps is reflected in the American Samoa ocean plan.”

The final list of 2017 goals for the PI RPB, based on discussion covered later in this summary:

#### **Capacity Building:**

- 1) Finalize draft American Samoa Ocean Plan
- 2) Begin planning efforts in Guam and CNMI
- 3) PI RPB CMSP goals and objectives development
- 4) Identify and increase general funding support for PI RPB capacity

**Data:**

- 5) Mapping interface prototype completed
- 6) Identify data gaps for American Samoa and ensure that list of gaps is included in the draft AS ocean plan

**Stakeholder Engagement:**

- 7) Completed American Samoa stakeholder assessment

**RPB ORGANIZATION****Charter Updates**

Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) provided feedback prior to signing the charter. None of the provided feedback was a showstopper for MARAD, thus they signed with the understanding that their edits would be revisited in the future. The PI RPB was provided an opportunity to address their edits, as well as make additional changes.

Regarding the MARAD comment that the mission of the PI RPB seems more implementation-oriented than the model charter. The PI RPB recognized the hard work and thought that went into the mission statement and recommended no changes to the mission. However, the PI RPB directed the coordinator to add the vision statement to the charter.

The PI RPB reviewed grammatical edits and determined whether to keep or reject them. They also reviewed content related suggestions, such as describing the role of the Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

***PI RPB recommendations:***

- 1) Draft and adopt a Terms of Reference that describes members' roles and the roles within the Executive Secretariat. Add as an appendix.**
- 2) The co-leads will sign off on changes with PI RPB consensus.**
- 3) The coordinator will provide a document that tracks the changes made to the charter.**

**Co-Lead Discussion**

The federal co-lead position has been held by Mr. Michael Tosatto / NOAA since 2012, which means he is in the middle of his third 2-year position. Federal members were given an opportunity to self-volunteer for being the next co-lead. There were no takers.

The non-federal co-lead position is held by Dr. Jason Biggs / Guam currently, and is up for rotation in December 2017. Non-federal members were asked if anyone wanted to fill this position. No one volunteered. This position also has a 2-year rotation.

**REFLECTIONS ON 2016**

The PI RPB members reflected on 2016 – how ocean planning went at the regional level as well as in American Samoa.

Engaging with the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) was fruitful. They have helped assess data availability in American Samoa, as well as provided a draft work plan and draft data portal. NPS also helped the Data Team determine its data standards.

Cross-jurisdictional learning is very valuable. Wil Castro, PI RPB member from Guam, attended the American Samoa Ocean Planning Team (ASOPT) meeting in February 2017. He commented that it allowed him to see how the ASOPT is progressing, see how GIS is applied in American Samoa, and gain valuable insight into issues and actions that affect American Samoa and Guam. The PI RPB generally agreed that an ASOPT member should attend the kick-off meetings in the Marianas to provide continuity and expertise in the ocean planning process.

Regarding stakeholder engagement, the PI RPB commented that the results of the stakeholder assessment in American Samoa are needed to inform the ASOPT as well as the data team to ensure the appropriate data layers are included.

Regarding moving forward, the PI RPB said that strategic decisions need to be made by the PI RPB to maintain momentum, including mobilizing support and funding from jurisdictions and promoting jurisdiction-to-jurisdiction interactions. The PI RPB recognized the synergy that was built in support of the American Samoa ocean planning process. And the PI RPB agreed that American Samoa will implement its plan regardless of where the PI RPB is in its regional planning process; once the plan is finished, it will be implemented.

With respect to the Hawaii Ocean Resource Management Plan (ORMP), it incorporates CMSP and the NOP principles, but there is room to include a more regional perspective. One comment was that there is value in a CMSP process separate from the ORMP because the ORMP is not spatial in nature and does not include the EEZ (3-200 miles). One idea was that we could spatialize the ORMP management priorities into ocean planning priorities. We can lean on lessons-learned during ORMP development. The PI RPB can also use the American Samoa Ocean Plan as an engagement tool with Hawaii. It was stressed during the meeting that the PI RPB needs a deeper engagement with Governor Ige and DMWR Director Suzanne Case, and should also reach out to other relevant agencies and departments.

Lastly, the PI RPB acknowledged the uniqueness of the island communities – they are very reliant on their coastal resources, yet differ across cultures. It is important to not forget cultural traditions and voices in ocean planning. A need for free trade and food security between jurisdictions was also stated.

#### **CAPACITY BUILDING: AMERICAN SAMOA OCEAN PLANNING**

Mr. Chris King provided the PI RPB with an update about the progress of ocean planning in American Samoa. The ASOPT has developed its vision statement with stakeholder and PI RPB input. It has developed its goals and objectives, and will be seeking stakeholder input in the near future. The ASOPT sought PI RPB feedback on its goals during this PI RPB meeting. The AS ocean planning process has been collaborative with no contentious issues. The ASOPT adopted the method of developing its plan content and structure in tandem because it found developing the outline helped guide their discussions for goals, objectives, and actions.

Regarding the ocean plan, it will align with the American Samoa territorial plan and will fit into a permitting framework that relates to marine and coastal uses. It will have decision support and agency

priorities will be incorporated with spatial uses and footprints (i.e. EPA, piggeries, and streams). The process of developing the ocean plan will include a data assessment.

The major hurdle the ASOPT encountered thus far was participation. This has been overcome with constant and persistent communication through different channels. One major key to overcoming the hurdle was utilizing local champions.

**PI RPB Recommendation:**

- 4) Build in flexibility to incorporate data, uses, etc. that are identified later in the planning process.

Discussion

The PI RPB discussed the progress of the ASOPT. Points of clarification:

- Actions will describe how to achieve the goals and objectives, and will be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time sensitive)
- Sustainable development will be encouraged by identifying permitting agencies and good places for development so guidance is provided, not just increased coordination (AS Goal 2, Objective 3)
- A mapping interface can show where a new activity is more suited even if the regulatory landscape has not changed (this effort does not create new laws or amend current ones) – this can aid streamlining permitting, which can increase economic development, decrease conflict, and guide permittees

PI RPB feedback to the ASOPT:

- When drafting the plan, consider competition for space related to different uses
- Consider the agency/jurisdictional footprint or process related to use by area (e.g. fishponds in Hawaii)
- Consider ranking objectives and priorities
- AS Goal 2 Objectives: should include future and proposed uses
- Consider impacts related to future and proposed uses over time
- It may be challenging to capture the potential for impact mitigation, but it is possible. For example: if you do not want an artificial reef to mitigate for coral reef loss due to harbor dredging, then identify that in the plan. You also can identify where you might WANT to have a particular mitigation measure.

**CAPACITY BUILDING: PLANNING IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

The PI RPB discussed starting ocean planning in the PRIA, Guam, and CNMI, which is goal 2 for 2017 (begin planning in another jurisdiction).

Pacific Remote Island Area (PRIA): The PRIA are remote and require less resources to do planning because there is no population and few stakeholders. It would be an easy win. However, the utility of planning is not evident and would draw on limited resources for planning in the Marianas. The PI RPB could choose to scope and do strategic engagement. It could also let the NOAA PIRO Monument and Fish and Wildlife Service team develop the monument plan and attend those meetings. Also of note, the current administration may change the boundaries of the PRIA Marine National Monument. For these reasons, the PI RPB decided to wait on starting ocean planning this year in the PRIA.

Guam: The Governor of Guam introduced the 2065 Plan, a 50 year strategic vision for Guam that includes a Guam Land Master Plan, Government of Guam Modernization Plan, and Guam Social Stabilization Plan. Planning in the coastal zone and ocean of Guam can be done in conjunction with the 2065 plan. Guam also has the potential to serve and host data.

CNMI: CNMI Coastal Zone Program is currently developing a decision support tool with a coastal fellow that will enable effective development decision-making. CNMI also established its Office of Planning. GIS data are hosted by NOAA Digital Coast.

Hawaii: Hawaii Office of Planning, which houses the Coastal Zone Management Program, is staged to begin several projects that align with coastal and ocean planning. This includes probabilistic tsunami design zone maps and code amendments, implementation of the ORMP dashboard launch and update, approval of a coastal non-point pollution control program with Department of Health, an interagency climate adaptation plan, and a regional coastal resilience grant with UH Sea Grant. They have moved all their data to the ESRI Cloud and increased state agency users. They've also completed the update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

### *Discussion*

The PI RPB determined that there is bandwidth and funding to start planning in another jurisdiction, as well as continue planning in American Samoa and the work of the Data Team. We were cautioned to remember our capacity when selecting the timing of jurisdictional planning, but also to recognize opportunities as they arise. The members voiced support for beginning the additional work. Guam and CNMI are interested in developing their planning teams and kicking off ocean planning.

### ***PI RPB Recommendation:***

#### **5) The PI RPB supported initiating the ocean planning efforts in Guam and CNMI with the following caveats and actions:**

- We need jurisdictional support from the Guam and CNMI governors, obtaining which must be initiated by the PI RPB through sending a letter to the governors with details about the PI RPB
- We need to develop the planning teams working with the Guam and CNMI RPB members
- We must initiate stakeholder engagement at the outset of the process
- We must identify sustainable available funding and resources from the PI RPB and jurisdictions
- We must ensure planning in the Marianas does not detract from or slow momentum of the planning effort in American Samoa
- The PI RPB said the priority of the PI RPB is to complete planning in American Samoa
- The planning will be jurisdiction-led
- Milestones must be established by which to gauge progress of planning in the jurisdictions

The PI RPB also reviewed a timetable for planning in the jurisdictions and suggested making it more detailed to reflect the activities. For example, do not say “draft” and “finalize”; instead have the following categories: kick-off/scope, draft, draft review, and finalize/endorse.

**The PI RPB agreed to the following timeline:**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
American Samoa	Scope	Draft	Draft review	Finalize/ endorse		
CNMI		Kick-off / scope				
Guam		Kick-off / scope				
Hawaii						
PRIA		Listen				
Regional						
PI RPB		Data/GIS support for Guam/CNMI				

This timeline is flexible and will be revisited at each PI RPB meeting. Hawaii was not present during the PI RPB discussion about timelines, and the PI RPB was hesitant to add regional overarching planning at this point due to limited capacity.

**CAPACITY BUILDING: FUNDING**

The PI RPB discussed potential other sources of funding. First, jurisdictions are applying for NOAA resilience grants through NOAA NOS OCM. The joint Guam/CNMI proposal may include funding for ocean planning, and the regional proposal may include funding. Second, there are instances of in-kind funds that can be counted included use of the American Samoa Port Administration conference room, NOAA Pier 38 conference room, and Coastal Reef Task Force (CRTF) funds to fly PI RPB members to the PI RPB meeting that was piggy-backed onto the CRTF annual meeting.

***PI RPB Tasks:***

- 1) The coordinator will identify and sum the in-kind contributions to date.
- 2) Mr. Wil Castro and Ms. Fran Castro will work with the coordinator to identify the appropriate place in the coastal resilience grants for incorporating funding for ocean planning in the Marianas.

**DATA AND TOOLS**

The PI RPB heard a report by Ms. Nicole Griffin about the Data Team. The Data Team has agreed to its goal and data standards, and is currently working on a draft work plan. The goals of the data team are to gather and assess relevant data, identify an adequate data host site and mapping interface, and work toward identifying/developing decision support tools that further coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP).

***Discussion***

The PI RPB was reminded that data generation and stakeholder engagement is what makes the portal we create valuable. We must identify the drivers necessitating a data tool. Without stakeholder input, the portal can be rendered meaningless. We must also plan for continued updating of the data and metadata to maintain the utility of the mapping interface. There is a potential for PacIOOS's Voyager to be tailored to support portals in the jurisdictions and be relevant to ocean planning. The PI RPB suggested adding a data portal to the planning list for 2017 because it supports planning in all areas. However, this would need additional funds.

Of note, federal data may be easier to share due to the mandate to make public data publicly available. Proprietary data issues will need to be made clear and then vetted. Data sets and their quality will need to be verified at the jurisdictional level with the author if possible. Lastly, data agreements with the jurisdictions should be part of our planning efforts.

Regarding the data portals, the PI RPB members commented that data portals exist in the jurisdictions and so we should consider scoping the accessibility of the existing data sets on the portals. The members also saw value in a regional interface that allows for jurisdictional control of the datasets feeding into it.

***PI RPB Recommendations:***

- 6) We should rely on jurisdictional knowledge to build the mapping interface
- 7) We should continue the discussion between the Data Team and jurisdictions about available datasets at the next meeting

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT**

Mr. Keith Mattson, on behalf of CONCUR, provided an overview of the upcoming stakeholder assessment in American Samoa. The purpose of the assessment is to identify overarching stakeholder engagement goals and objectives of the ASOPT, explore stakeholder perspectives about the ocean planning process, uncover potential barriers, and develop a stakeholder engagement action plan that identifies when, how, and how frequently the ASOPT should be engaging different stakeholder groups during ocean plan development. CONCUR has already begun meeting with key people, has set up a kick off meeting with the ASOPT members, and is slated to begin their work on the first visit in early March.

**Discussion**

The PI RPB commented that the timing of stakeholder engagement is critical to the American Samoa ocean planning process, as well as implementation of other 2017 PI RPB goals.

**TIMELINE FOR 2017**

The PI RPB discussed its timeline for 2017. The following is a draft of the year:

- March: email PIRPB with Data meeting update, and Marianas kick-off update, Data Team teleconference, ASOPT teleconference
- April 19/20: GIS Working Group meeting possible for data piggyback
- May: best option for next ASOPT meeting
- June: PIRPB call, 10-14 is the PI Environmental Conference that we could data team piggyback
- July: Budget check
- August: nothing
- Sept: nothing
- October: late October PIRPB meeting in Saipan