



## **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 those impacted by, who have a stake in, or are interested in CMS planning (CMSP). Stakeholders are not just the “public”; they also include local governments, academics and researchers, business leaders, cultural practitioners, fishermen, community members, recreational users of the coast and ocean, and many more.

### **Why engage stakeholders**

Stakeholders with expertise on issues such as science, environment, economics, security, culture, technology, and business contribute greatly to the planning process. They will be engaged in the discussion, evaluation, and application of information during development of the CMS plan. 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 and where the RPB will engage stakeholders**

Efforts will be made to ensure stakeholder engagement occurs throughout each state and territory within the Pacific Islands region. The RPB will engage stakeholders through various means including:

1) *RPB meetings*

RPB meetings will be rotated annually throughout the participating jurisdictions and, 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. These events will be held in the state or territories as appropriate based on the context and content of the event. Members and/or the Executive Secretary may also attend, participate in, or assist in workshops pertaining to CMSP that are hosted by other entities.

3) *Non-RPB-hosted meetings*

RPB members and the RPB Executive Secretariat will make every effort to attend and/or participate in non-RPB-hosted meetings, such as meetings of the Hawaii Ocean Partnership or Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership, held throughout the jurisdictions so that information pertaining to CMSP and spatially-pertinent issues can be incorporated into the CMS plan.

4) *RPB Committees and working groups*

RPB Committees and working groups can be used to incorporate stakeholder input and expertise into the CMS planning process. These include (but are 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. Some of the working groups or committees may be geographic in nature and thus engagement would occur in those areas. This will ensure that the RPB incorporates stakeholder input specific to each state and territory.

### **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. Press releases to media outlets may also be used to announce meetings; press releases may contain a link to the RPB website and/or other social media. 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.

### **Opportunities to participate**

Stakeholder engagement activities must evolve to meet specific needs according to the issues being discussed. The best method(s) to engage interested parties will be determined accordingly. 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 in person. All efforts will be made to provide teleconference or webinar access. Committee and working group meetings could also be attended to provide input.

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) *Request to 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. Although RPB committee and working group members are appointed by the RPB, requests for inclusion within these bodies are encouraged.

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).