



REPORT

February 21, 2013

CNMI Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Workshop

February 8-9, 2013
Multipurpose Center
Susupe, Saipan

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council hosted a CNMI Coastal and Marine Spatial Management Training Workshop for Council family members on Friday and Saturday, February 8 and 9, 2013 at the Multipurpose Center, Saipan. Council family groups invited to participate in this training workshop included members from the CNMI Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee, Advisory Panel, Plan Team and Scientific and Statistical Committee.

Thirty four people participated in the two-day workshop from thirteen different agencies and organizations. Eight CNMI Council advisory panel members participated. The workshop content and materials were develop by Ms. Anne Walton from the International MPA Capacity Building Program of the National Ocean Service, NOAA and was workshop was led by Ms. Margo Jackson, NOAA Affiliate, who works closely with Ms. Walton on conducting CMSP training workshops. Three Council staff, Mark Mitsuyasu, Joshua DeMello and Marlowe Sabater, and Sarah Pautske, Pacific Island Region Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Program Coordinator assisted in facilitating the workshop.



Participants Name

Organization

Frank Aldan	Advisory Panel
Wence Aquino	Department of Public Lands
Ana Aguito	Coastal Resources Management
Francis Buniag	Division of Fish and Wildlife
Fran Castro	Division of Environmental Quality
Rita Chong	Coastal Resources Management Office

Lawrence Conception	Advisory Panel
Trey Dunn	Division of Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Kaipat Emery	DPS Boating Safety
Richard Farrell	Advisory Panel from Tinian
Mike Fleming	Advisory Panel
John Gourley	Advisory Panel
Robbie Green	NOAA/CRM
Angie Iginioef-Mangerero	Carolinian Affairs Office
Sixto Igisomar	Department of Commerce
Pete Itibus	Department of Public Land
Steve Johnson	Division of Environmental Quality
John Joyner	Office of the Governor (OG)
Luis Q. Kapileo	Represented Congressman from Tanapag
Lence Kubakii	Commonwealth Port Authority – Seaport Operations
Frank Kuipat	Office of the Mayor Northern Islands
Sean McDuff	Division of Fish and Wildlife, Data Section
Todd Miller	Division of Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Ambrose Ogumoro	Advisory Panel
Ryan Okano	Division of Environmental Quality
Lino Olopai	Advisory Panel and Lunar Calendar Committee
Arnold Palacios	Council Chairman, DLNR Secretary
Jose Quan	Division of Environmental Quality
Ray Roberto	Division of Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Ben Sablan	Village of Tanapag,
Nicole Schafer	Coastal Resources Management
Stan Taisacan	Advisory Panel from Rota, Represent Rota Mayor
Frank Villagomez	Division of Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Kay Zitos	Commonwealth Ports Authority

The two day workshop provided a participatory working example of the CMSP process with a goal to show participants how the process can be used to develop complex management plans for marine and coastal environments. Typical CMSP workshops held by the International MPA Capacity Building Program runs for 10 days. This workshop was compressed to provide a glimpse into the elements and thought process behind each step as a plan is considered, developed, analyzed and vetted through stakeholders. The major topic areas focused on in this workshop included:

- 1) Current coastal and marine resource management issues in the local area;
- 2) Overview of Place-Based Coastal and Marine Planning
- 3) Evaluating the need for CMSP
- 4) Defining the Area of Focus for the CMSP

- 5) Identifying Target Resources
- 6) Identifying, Mapping and Ranking Priorities for Target Resources
- 7) Using Management Objectives as Drivers for Decision Making
- 8) Building Objectives for Place Based Management
- 9) Mapping uses of Coastal and Marine Environment
- 10) Identifying, Characterizing and Managing Stakeholders Engagement
- 11) Considering Impacts from Outside the Management Area from Future Uses
- 12) Identifying Areas of Conflict and Compatibility
- 13) Overview of Place-Based Marine Plan
- 14) Identifying and Selecting Management Strategies for Marine Specific Uses in the Management Area; and
- 15) Developing Spatial Allocation Categories and Objectives.

For most of these topic areas, the team of facilitators provided a brief powerpoint presentation on the specific topic which was followed by group exercises. Five working teams were pre-assigned based on the participant's respective backgrounds. The intent of team assignments was to make sure there were different perspectives and expertise represented within each group.

Overall, the teams worked through their worksheets and exercises quickly as many participants were familiar with general strategic planning processes. A significant factor contributing to the efficiency of participants was the local knowledge to the pre-selected study site of Garapan and Tanapag. All participants were intimately aware on both personal and professional perspectives of the geo-physical morphology, anthropogenic historical baseline, biological, environmental, cultural and historical resources, commercial, cultural and non-commercial uses and other factors related to the study area.

The teams went through the planning process and based on their top priority resources identified and linked objectives, each team mapped those resources against current uses. For example, Team one selected an objective to sustain fishery resources for cultural harvest and identified the conservation of coral reefs and sea grass beds as priority resources to support the objective.

Teams then evaluated the severity of impacts between uses and on identified resources. These included both temporal and spatial approaches. Working through the example above, the Team identified overlapping uses affecting coral reefs and seagrass beds including coastal development, tourism based activities (snorkeling, jet skis), and commercial vessel traffic amongst a list of other activities. Working through the analytical process, the Teams the developed options for mitigation and management based on objectives, priority resources and conflicting uses.

At the end of the workshop, each Team presented their findings and proposed management approaches to the group. As expected all five proposals differed greatly as they worked toward different objectives to protect/conserves/manage different resources. Many of management approaches included some element of zone based approaches to separate conflicting uses, such as vessel traffic lanes from recreational and tourism-based activities.

Participants were asked to complete a workshop evaluation form at the end of the workshop. Based on the responses received, workshop participations through the training was informative and helpful. All respondents said they would recommend the training for others. They also noted that materials, interactive exercises and information were good, however several noted that more time should be allotted for this training.

