



## **CNMI Ocean Planning Team Meeting**

Gualo Rai, CNMI  
April 12-13, 2018

### **Meeting outcomes:**

1. Developed draft vision statement, set of draft goals, and draft objectives
2. Articulated the CNMI OPT's statement of purpose
3. Discussed stakeholder engagement

**Attendees:** Janice Castro (BECQ), Rodney Camacho (BECQ), Mark Rabauliman (Commerce), David Benavente (BECQ), Steve McKagan (NOAA PIRO), Anthony Yochikawa (DOC), Roberta Guerrero (MINA), Mike Tenorio (DFW), Robbie Greene (NOAA OCM), Emily Northrop (BECQ), Paul Plunkett (USCG), Jack Ogumoro (WPFMC), John Gourley (MES), Larisa Ford (USFWS), Brooke Nevitt (NPS), Larla Brown (USCG), Brad Ruzala (DOD), Sarah Pautzke (PI RPB), Fran Castro (UOG).

The CNMI Ocean Planning Team meeting opened with a welcome by CNMI Team Lead Janice Castro.

Ms. Sarah Pautzke, coordinator of the PI RPB, provided a brief description of what this team was created to do: develop an ocean plan for CNMI and provide input into the data tools that are being developed by the PI RPB's Data Team to support spatial planning. Ms. Fran Castro served as facilitator.

### **Ocean Planning Review**

The CNMI Ocean Planning Team (CNMI OPT) received a brief overview of the National Ocean Policy (NOP), what ocean planning is, and what drivers can exist. The team members also received the update from the recent February 2018 PI RPB meeting.

**PI RPB Meeting Outcome 1:** The PI RPB agreed to several 2018 goals. The goals pertaining to CNMI: continue ocean planning in CNMI, transfer data portal prototype to a permanent site and identify data gaps, conduct CMSP training in CNMI, and develop a stakeholder engagement plan for CNMI. The data portal and data gaps goal also benefit the other US territories and Hawaii.

**PI RPB Meeting Outcome 2:** The PI RPB reviewed its Mid-Point Process Assessment and identified priority actions, including ensuring clear and tailored messaging in CNMI about the goals for the effort and engaging key government leaders in CNMI. Another priority action relevant to CNMI is identifying and engaging local staff to help support the ocean planning effort.

Regarding **funding**, the PI RPB is applying for grants to fund its efforts. This includes federal grants as well as grants offered by private foundations. The grant money would support the CNMI Ocean Planning Team meetings, stakeholder engagement, CMSP training, and PI RPB Data Team work, among other efforts. The PI RPB is looking for people skilled in grant writing to be part of the PI RPB's Finance Team.

### **Tying the Ocean Planning Effort to Local Efforts**

#### *Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan (SLUMP)*

Ms. Emily Northrop, CNMI BECQ DCRM, described how the 2017 update to the SLUMP was developed and its purpose. The SLUMP identifies priority issues, key goals, and specific management actions that DCRM and its partners can pursue to improve the needs of a diverse set of users and stakeholders. One of the important goals of the SLUMP is balancing multiple, and at times conflicting, uses of Saipan Lagoon. Extensive stakeholder engagement will continue throughout implementation activities, including changes to DCRM's rules and regulations.

#### *Tying the Efforts*

One of the primary differences between these two efforts is that the SLUMP can result in updated rules and regulations, while the CNMI Ocean Plan will work within the existing rules, regulations, and policies. The CNMI Ocean Plan is not a management plan. It does not tell you where you can do an activity, but instead guides you to informed decision making regarding proposed activities. The SLUMP may say "establish designated lagoon use areas for motorized marine sports operations" and "update DCRM marine sports permits," while the Ocean Plan would say "identify established lagoon use areas for motorized marine sports operations" and ask "what are various permitting efforts within the motorized marine sports use area?" BOTH plans ask where you would like to see current and future uses, and where you would *not* like to see which current and future uses.

### **Statement of Purpose**

The CNMI members developed a statement of purpose for their effort. A statement of purpose helps articulate what we are doing and why, and should be simple and easy to understand. It is a statement that helps guide our process and provides an easy explanation to people outside the effort, such as legislators, public, and others within agencies.

CNMI OPT members envisioned the end point as a common resource, such as an interactive tool that would show how various uses fit within a spatial landscape and could impact other uses or resources. Members wanted input from stakeholders. They viewed ocean planning as a way to improve community and industry interactions.

CNMI OPT members split into 4 small groups to develop draft statement of purposes. After selecting the one they liked best, the large group refined the statement of purpose to read:

#### ***The purpose of the CNMI Ocean Planning Effort is to:***

- ***Provide the CNMI with a strategic multi-use tool that guides the management of diverse ocean uses;***
- ***Improve community, industry-based, and governmental user interaction; and***
- ***Support, protect, and enhance sustainable cultural, environmental, and commercial uses.***

**Vision Statement Development**

There are already great vision examples to build upon from agencies, the PI RPB, the American Samoa Ocean Planning Team, and MINA. Attendees participated in a short visioning exercise in October 2017 to begin reflecting on a vision that could be advanced with a coastal and marine spatial plan. The CNMI OPT developed a draft vision based on adjectives that the CNMI OPT identified in the October 2017 meeting, words from vision and mission statements for several Guam agencies and federal agencies, and reviewing the vision statements developed for the PI RPB and American Samoa OPT.

In small groups, CNMI OPT members developed five vision statements. CNMI OPT members reviewed all five draft statements as a large group, picked one, then refined it. Members focused on themes such as capturing being adaptive with respect to an uncertain future, balance being important, making the vision relevant 20-30 years from now, economic and environmental sustainability, emphasizing social awareness, and thinking about tourism as a root of problems as well as economic benefit. Recurring words in the five vision statements were *sustainable* and *balance*. Cultural heritage was an important aspect the CNMI OPT wanted to emphasize. The issue of balance was discussed in terms of balancing cultural heritage, economy (multiple use), and the environment. *Sustainable* was amended to *resilient*. The CNMI OPT also discussed whether to include collaboration of stakeholders, communities, and agencies.

The resulting draft vision for CNMI’s ocean planning effort is:

***Adaptive marine management that balances economic growth, environmental health, and cultural heritage to achieve a secure and resilient CNMI.***

**Goals**

Goals are end results of efforts – what we hope to achieve. Typically, goals are formed in response to a concern. CNMI OPT members reviewed goals developed by the Mid Atlantic, New England, and American Samoa. They then reviewed the results of the exercise from October 2017 CNMI kick-off meeting turning concerns to goals. CNMI OPT members split into four groups, each receiving four concerns-to-goals from the kick-off meeting. From those, the small groups developed one or more goals for the ocean plan. In a large group, the CNMI OPT reviewed the resulting goals for themes and similarities. After discussion and refinement, the CNMI OPT members agreed to the following **draft** goals:

- 1. *Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems***
- 2. *Sustainable human uses of marine and coastal resources consistent with cultural values***

**Objectives**

Objectives provide a way to accomplish the goals of the plan. The CNMI OPT reviewed the development of the ASOPT objectives. Using the same approach that the ASOPT used, the CNMI team began drafting their objectives for their goals as small groups. There was no large group refinement of the objectives to create final draft objectives.

The draft objectives from the four groups were:

<b>Goal 1: Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems</b>	<b>Goal 2: Sustainable human uses of marine and coastal resources consistent with cultural values</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved water quality parameters</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Responsible fishing</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitored, managed, and restored coastal ecosystems</li> <li>• Public awareness for sustainable use of coastal ecosystems</li> <li>• Reduce point and non-point source pollution</li> <li>• Monitor and manage species and habitats to maintain and/or restore marine and coastal ecosystems (define healthy?)</li> <li>• Identify, design, and fund social marketing campaign to decrease marine debris by 30% in CNMI by 2025.</li> <li>• Identify, design and fund a long-term coral reef restoration that supports an effective coral nursery and outplanting program by 2021 with 60% survivorship in all stages.</li> <li>• Identify 100% of areas in which incompatible (damaging to environment) human uses overlap with the most resilient reef sites. Relocate 100% of those uses that intersect with the top quartile of resilient reef sites by 2020, and relocate 100% of remaining incompatible uses among the second highest quartile of resilient sites by 2025.</li> <li>• Identify marine resource use trends</li> <li>• Determine negative impacts of economic human use</li> <li>• Effective environmental awareness campaign</li> <li>• Assess current condition of coral reef being impacted by human use</li> <li>• Improve quality of discharge in stormwater outfall system</li> <li>• Extend outfall beyond the reef</li> <li>• Promote clean water practices</li> <li>• Increase trash receptacles at public recreation areas and implement maintenance plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapped CNMI-wide uses (e.g. identified hotspots)</li> <li>• Educated and engaged community</li> <li>• Increase awareness and understanding of responsible use of resources (to bring about behavior change)</li> <li>• Provide a framework for conflict resolution</li> <li>• Develop a tool that identifies all permit requirements and key stakeholders for actions in coastal areas by 2022.</li> <li>• Fund and develop a conflict resolution program, including mediators and stand-alone, devoted resources for marine and coastal users by 2022.</li> <li>• Identify sustainable tourism practices</li> <li>• Highlight marine related cultural concerns in the CNMI region</li> <li>• Establish a comprehensive reference guide for ocean related permits</li> <li>• Establish line of communication for community concerns</li> </ul>
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**Data**

The PI RPB Data Team is working to develop a mapping interface and data portal for ocean planning. The prototype portal developed by the Naval Postgraduate School has, for CNMI, data layers that include coastal features and beaches, elevation, shoreline, hydrology, marine protected area

boundaries, benthic habitat, military bases, shipping, anchorage areas, aids to navigation, and airports. (<http://www.oc.nps.edu/CMSP/>). Data has been preliminarily identified by the PI RPB Data Team as relevant for ocean planning in the Western Pacific and is on the last page of this summary.

Robbie Greene presented a mapping interface developed for coastal and marine spatial planning that has the benefit of also being a repository for data from agencies and individuals. It also has the “fishnet” capability in which the map is in grid fashion such that, when a box is clicked, the agencies with jurisdiction (permitting authority) appear as well as current uses within that box. This is an informative tool for project developers.

***The CNMI OPT recommendation to the PI RPB’s Data Team (refer to final page of this summary):***

- Include the following additional items in the list of data needed for ocean planning: critical habitat, MPAs, port boundaries, fishing sites, add surfing to the list of recreational uses, and culturally important areas to “uses” category.
- Change “indicator” to “protected” in the species data category
- Add a new category: “relevant for permitting” that includes USACE, NOAA, and other agency jurisdictions

**Stakeholder Engagement**

Stakeholder engagement is a critical part of the ocean planning process. During the meeting, a couple points were raised with respect to stakeholders. First, community is not synonymous with stakeholders. Stakeholders can be targeted groups such as recreational ocean users or commercial fishermen or developers, while community denotes a sense of place or group with no single specific use in mind.

The second point that was raised was that, when we discuss ocean planning throughout CNMI, the message and statement of purpose will need to be tailored to Tinian and Rota to make this effort relevant to them.

**Moving Forward**

We are awaiting on funding to come through before we can continue the effort. Several grants have been applied for. The goal is to have ocean planning training in October 2018 for CNMI OPT members, as well as community members and targeted stakeholders.

Relevant Links:

<http://www.oc.nps.edu/CMSP/>

[Mid Atlantic Ocean Data Portal](#)

[PacIOOS](#)

[www.PacificIslandsRPB.org](http://www.PacificIslandsRPB.org)

## PI RPB Data Categories

- 1.1 Sub-Region Description
  - 1.1.1 Location
  - 1.1.2 Climatology
  - 1.1.3 Geology/Soil/Topography
  - 1.1.4 Substrate, benthic environment
  - 1.1.5 Hydrology
  - 1.1.6 Oceanography
  - 1.1.7 Governance
  - 1.1.8 Population
- 1.2 Indicator Species (with input from Fed Agency, State Agency, Public)
  - 1.2.1 Marine Mammals
  - 1.2.2 Marine Reptiles
  - 1.2.3 Fish
  - 1.2.4 Coral
- 1.3 Water Quality
  - 1.3.1 Nearshore Surface Water Quality
  - 1.3.2 Off-Shore Water Quality Concerns
- 1.4 Economics (what are each area's main economic drivers?)
  - 1.4.1 Tourism
  - 1.4.2 Military
  - 1.4.3 Subsistence
  - 1.4.4 Fishing/Aquaculture
  - 1.4.5 Shipping
  - 1.4.6 Energy
- 1.5 Uses
  - 1.5.1 Boating
  - 1.5.2 Shipping
  - 1.5.3 Energy
  - 1.5.4 Offshore offal pipes
  - 1.5.5 Moorings
  - 1.5.6 Commercial fishing
  - 1.5.7 Beach Use
  - 1.5.8 Surfing
  - 1.5.9 Recreational fishing
  - 1.5.10 Viewsheds
  - 1.5.11 Emerging Uses (renewable energy, mining)
- 1.6 Culture
  - 1.6.1 Human History
  - 1.6.2 Culturally Important Areas
- 1.7 Security/Access
  - 1.7.1 Harbors
  - 1.7.2 Navigation Aids
  - 1.7.3 Airports
  - 1.7.4 Airspace
  - 1.7.5 Military
- 1.8 Climate Change
  - 1.8.1 Vulnerable coastlines
  - 1.8.2 Ocean Changes