

Blue Prosperity Micronesia



PROGRAM UPDATES:

BPM Task Force

Marine Spatial Planning

Blue Economy

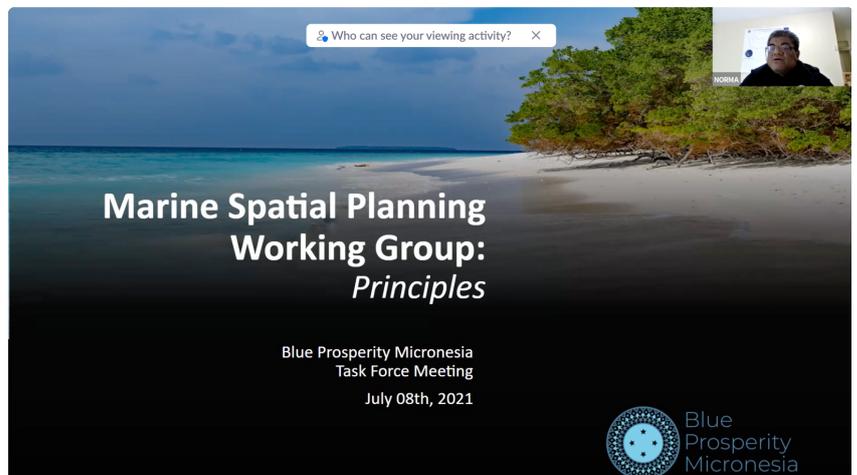
Sustainable Fisheries

Legal

Communications & Awareness

BPM Task Force Convenes Second Quarter Meeting

The National Task Force for Blue Prosperity Micronesia convened for its second quarter regular meeting on July 8th. Chaired by FSM R&D Acting Secretary Florian J. Yatilman, the Task Force made key decisions for the program including the review and adoption of the Offshore Marine Spatial Plan Principles and the Blue Economy scenario. The Marine Spatial Plan Principles were developed and recommended by the Marine Spatial Planning Working Group and presented by the MSP Working Group Chair and NORMA representative Mr. Alfred Lebehn Jr. The Blue Economy “Blended Scenario” was one of five scenarios reviewed and recommended based on stakeholder consultations and public webinars. With the adoption of these key items, both the Marine Spatial Planning and Blue Economy Working Groups are able to move forward in the next phase of their work.



MSP Working Chair Alfred Lebehn Jr. presents the MSP Principles to the Task Force
Photo Credit: BPM Coordinator



BPM Awareness with Y-Boom Baseball Team in Kosrae
Photo Credit: KCISO

Marine Spatial Planning

With the Offshore MSP Principles adopted by the Task Force, the Marine Spatial Planning Working Group and support team agreed to hold a Workshop to develop the Offshore Marine Spatial Plan Goals and Objectives. The workshop layout and content has been developed by the BPM team and partners. The workshop, set for August 13th, will bring together the MSP Working Group members plus local partners from each of the states for a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting to discuss and develop the goals and objectives for the FSM’s Offshore Marine Spatial Plan, which will also be submitted to the BPM Task Force for consideration and adoption.



Students participate in Marine Island Ecology course
Photo credit: YCHS

Blue Economy

In July, the Blue Economy Working Group convened its first meeting. Guided by the BPM Coordinator and Waitt Institute Blue Economy Director, the group was briefed on the program's status and the Working Group's Terms of Reference. The key outcome of the meeting was the group's organization of electing its Chair and Vice Chair.

Through discussion and consensus the Working Group members elected Mr. Roger Arnold, the State Economist, representing Chuuk State, to serve as the Chair and Mr. Bermance Aldis, Assistant Secretary of Tourism, representing FSM R&D, to serve as the Vice Chair. The group will be meeting on a monthly basis throughout the remainder of the year to carry out its next phase of work, including developing a strategy and roadmap that are aligned with FSM's priorities.

Sustainable Fisheries

In July the Sustainable Fisheries Working Group convened its first meeting. Guided by the BPM Coordinator and Waitt Institute Sustainable Fisheries Director, the group was briefed on the program's status and the Working Group's Terms of Reference. The key outcome of the meeting was the group's organization of electing its Chair and Vice Chair. Through discussion and consensus the Working Group members elected Ms. Vanessa Fread, representing FSM R&D, to serve as the Chair and Mr. Steven Palik, representing Kosrae State, to serve as the Vice Chair. The group will be meeting, as needed, on a bi-weekly basis throughout the remainder of the year to carry out its work including the review of the Sustainable Fisheries Characterization Report and development of the Goals and Objectives to propose activities for implementation in the coming years.



*Students conduct field work in Marine Island Ecology course
Photo credit: YCHS*

Legal

BPM completed soliciting comments on the legal framework assessment and the draft is set to be finalized and made public by August 30th to be shared back with all interviewees and the Task Force. The legal assessment acts as Step 1 in the legal workstream for the Blue Prosperity Micronesia program. It outlines the legal foundation for developing an enforceable, comprehensive, and sustainably financed marine spatial plan and blue economy strategy. The content will be used to inform a broader conversation on how the existing legal framework can be used to support the objectives of Blue Prosperity Micronesia, as well as help to identify what legal reforms may be necessary.

Communications & Awareness

BPM awareness campaign activities have been continuing in Kosrae, Yap and Chuuk through partnerships with KCSO (Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization), YCHS (Yap Catholic High School) and CWC (Chuuk Women's Council). These activities have been focusing on public events, coastal clean-ups, outreach and youth engagement and continue to be shared on the BPM Facebook page. The BPM communications team is also developing an animation video on Marine Spatial Planning to support future outreach and awareness raising efforts.



*CWC & BPM volunteers clean up near Weno shoreline in Chuuk
Photo credit: CWC*