



ISLANDS

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

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Coastal States Organization Islands Engagement Strategy

Executive Summary

The CSO Islands Engagement Strategy is meant to support the work of the island coastal programs by providing a useful inventory of annual interactions between CSO Staff and the islands, identifying and disseminating resources, monitoring relevant legislation, collaborating with state, territorial, and federal partners, and increasing awareness of the islands' successes and unique challenges.

The responsible CSO Staff member(s) will play an instrumental role in coordinating across state and territorial agencies, federal agencies, and NGO partners to elevate and address island topics. This coordination will result in stronger partnerships between CSO, Island Members, congress, executive agencies, NGO partners, the All Islands Committee (AIC), and more. Additionally, CSO Staff will improve awareness of relevant networks, funding opportunities, tailored resources, and island coastal programs' technical assistance needs. The Engagement Strategy will be a living document that serves two key functions: an instructional tool for CSO Staff and a resource guide for CSO Island Members and partners.

Engagement Priorities

Coral Reef Recovery and Restoration (CRR&R)

Partner(s): AIC & US Coral Reef Task Force Agencies (USCRTF), including EPA, FEMA, USACE, USGS, NOAA, USDA

Aligned Interests:

- Coral reefs as hazard mitigation
- Riverine and coastal flood mitigation
- Shoreline erosion
- CRTF Priority Watershed support
- Improving water quality and sediment management
- [Reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act](#)
- Non-traditional and sustainable financing
- Coral reef climate change adaptation and community resilience

Coastal Management

Partner(s): AIC, EPA Oceans and Coastal Management Branch (OCMB), NOAA Office for Coastal Management (OCM), USFWS National Coastal Program

Aligned Interests:

- Communication products, campaigns, and outreach
- Environmental justice needs and activities at the state/territory and local level
- Training and capacity building
- Funding and technical assistance

Hazards and Resilience

Partner(s): AIC, EPA OCMB, FEMA, NOAA OCM, USACE

Aligned Interests:

- Lessons learned from previous disasters
- Natural infrastructure and [coastal flood risk reduction benefits provided by coral reefs](#)
- FEMA benefit cost analyses (BCA) gaps
- Coral reefs as hazard mitigation
- Hazard planning assistance for underserved communities

PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

The goal of partnership engagement is to connect partner tools and resources that benefit island coastal management program priorities and help partners respond to the stated needs of coastal states and territories through the implementation of cooperative federalism.

All Islands Committee (AIC)

The U.S. AIC represents the combined voice of the coral reef jurisdictions of the U.S. and Freely Associated States. The Committee elevates cross-cutting jurisdictional issues and priorities within the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) and federal processes related to coral reef conservation.

Goal(s):

- CSO Staff will facilitate coordination between CSO, federal agencies (e.g. EPA, FEMA, and NOAA), the USCRTF, and the AIC to ensure state and territorial voices are considered during federal processes (e.g. tool and report development)

Objectives:

- Draw on the AIC's positions and outreach materials to develop CSO member consensus on corals and islands issues
- Pursue USCRTF discussions regarding FEMA funding for CRR&R via [404 and 406 grants](#) and verify AIC members are present or informed of ongoing activity
- Ensure unified coral messaging on the Hill by maintaining regular staff check-ins and providing opportunities for Hill briefings on the importance of corals

Actions:

- Update the CSO Corals Bill with input from the AIC
- Schedule (at minimum) annual check-ins with AIC leadership to discuss priorities, relevant legislation, and communication products
- Submit CSO Islands Engagement Strategy to AIC Executive Director for review and feedback

EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW)

EPA OWOW works to protect freshwater, estuarine, coastal and ocean ecosystems, including watersheds and wetlands. The Oceans and Coastal Management Branch (OCMB) sits within OWOW and specifically addresses coral reefs, coastal wetlands, ocean and coastal acidification, vessels, marinas, and ports, and Climate Ready Estuaries (CRE).

Goal(s):

- The joint CSO/EPA Knauss Fellow will connect OWOW tools and resources to coastal programs and communicate island priorities to OWOW to help EPA address the needs of states and territories

Objectives:

- Collaborate with state/territory staff and the USCRTF Watershed Working Group to enable post-graduation sustainability of USCRTF Priority Watersheds
- Use the CSO Coastal Hazards Planning and Adaptation Work Group to disseminate OCMB coral resources to island coastal programs

Actions:

- Schedule and facilitate a knowledge exchange webinar between the EPA coral team and the AIC to highlight EPA coral resources (e.g. EPA Resource Guide and Coral Storymap)
- Develop a Faga'alu Watershed Accomplishment Report for post-graduation support in partnership with American Samoa staff
- Develop a process document for the priority watershed coordinators' graduation preparations
- Compile data related to the American Samoa Priority Watershed and assist with the evaluation of social metrics linked to priority watershed graduation criteria
- Coordinate the American Samoa Graduation Team calls and maintain a record of the priority watershed graduation process
- Attend the watershed work group calls and the USCRTF meetings
- Assist in coordinating the 2nd Watershed Coordinator Learning Exchange meeting.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

The FEMA mission is to support the citizens and first responders and to build, sustain, and improve capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Goal(s):

- CSO Staff will support island coastal programs' efforts to improve awareness of coral reefs as a hazard mitigation issue and to obtain FEMA funding for CRR&R via [404 and 406 grants](#)

Objectives:

- Address obstacles to natural infrastructure within the FEMA benefit cost analyses (BCA)

Actions:

- Collect regional/OCM peer-to-peer lessons learned from previous disasters (specifically eligibility for grants, types of grants (FEMA and beyond), projects completed, documentation that worked for grants, successful projects/initiatives)

NOAA Office for Coastal Management (OCM)

NOAA's Office for Coastal Management oversees implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) and provides technical assistance. The National Coastal Zone Management Program addresses the nation's coastal issues through a voluntary partnership between the federal government and coastal and Great Lakes states and territories.

Goal(s):

- CSO Staff will coordinate with NOAA OCM to identify and disseminate funding opportunities, tools, resources, trainings, etc. to island coastal programs to help NOAA respond to the unique challenges of island states and territories

Objectives:

- Identify funding opportunities (including match waivers) and technical assistance to address island priorities as identified in 309 assessments and elsewhere
- Build state and territory capacity via Digital Coast and other in-person trainings
- Coordinate social media campaigns to highlight island programs' success stories and unique challenges
- Track legislation and maintain consistent coastal management messaging on the Hill
- Keep members informed of changes in CZM Program Change submission and other rulemakings on Program modifications

Actions:

- Monitor S.2429 (reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000) and keep members informed of its contents and progress
- Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of USVI and Guam Coastal Programs via coordinated social media materials
- Develop and implement a Hispanic Heritage Month campaign to celebrate the diversity in culture across members' locations and feature relevant coastal program stories
- Coordinate with NOAA OCM and island programs to develop and/or update CSO State and Territory Fact Sheets
- Include NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program Leadership (Jennifer Koss) in triannual CSO/OCM check-ins

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

The United States Army Corps of Engineers is under the Department of Defense (DoD) and made up of civilian and military personnel. It is one of the world's largest public engineering, design, and construction management agencies. The mission of the USACE is to deliver vital public and military engineering services, strengthen the nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters.

Goal(s): CSO Staff will engage coastal programs with USACE Planning and Operations Staff to pursue potential collaborations (e.g. studies, projects, funding, etc.)

Objectives:

- Encourage island members to participate in or facilitate the establishment of a Silver Jackets team
- Communicate the benefits and importance of natural infrastructure, especially coral reefs as hazard mitigation, to USACE staff and leadership
- Use the Coastal Hazards Planning and Adaptation Work Group to share best management practices (BMPs) for sediment management and beneficial use of dredged material

USFWS National Coastal Program

The Coastal Program is one of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's resources for restoring and protecting fish and wildlife habitat on public and privately-owned lands. Their locally-based staff work with partners to provide technical assistance for habitat conservation design and planning, and financial assistance for habitat restoration and protection projects.

Goal(s):

- CSO Staff will provide support to the Pacific Island Coastal Programs in submitting project proposals for the USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation (NCWC) grant and Coastal Program grants

Objectives:

- Connect islands with technical assistance for developing grant proposals and/or for project implementation

Actions:

- Host webinars and/or workshops with FWS to offer state and territory coastal programs technical assistance with proposal development
- Develop and implement a social media campaign to increase awareness of grant opportunities
- Create a one-pager on FWS grant requirements
- Facilitate FWS Coastal Program Staff presence at CSO meetings

WORK TO DATE

A record of CSO Staff accomplishments pertaining to Islands engagement.

- **CSO Islands Engagement Strategy:** CSO Staff developed a strategy that is repeatable and expandable to achieve consistent and effective communication between CSO staff, Island members, and federal agencies that produces tangible result and value for the Island coastal programs.
- **Congressional Engagement**
 - CSO Staff advocated to Congress on behalf of states and territories regarding FY20 CZM Grant and National Coastal Resilience Fund appropriations.
 - CSO Staff monitored relevant legislation including the Coastal State Climate Preparedness Act of 2019 and the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2019.
- **NOAA Office for Coastal Management Engagement**
 - CSO Staff supported webinars to inform States and Territories about changes to CZM Program Change submission website and protocol
 - CSO Staff submitted comment on Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on changes to Federal Consistency
- **USFWS Coastal Program Coordination**
 - CSO Staff developed a partnership with the USFWS Coastal Program to promote awareness of FWS collaboration opportunities among coastal zone managers in the Pacific Islands. Coordination has included:
 - FWS Coastal Program Staff participation at the 2019 CSO Winter and Fall Meetings
 - Facilitating a webinar, “Opportunities for Coastal Conservation through the US Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program”, with a focus on the Coastal Program and the National Coastal Wetlands Grants
 - Developing shared materials, including a directory and one-pagers on the FWS Coastal Program and NCWC grants
- **EPA OCMB Coordination:**
 - The shared Knauss Fellows have leveraged OCMB resources and networks to provide support for corals and islands issues, including:
 - Collaborating with the USCRTF Watershed Working Group to advance the graduation process of the existing priority watersheds
 - Providing leadership to organize and host a FEMA 404 & 406 Eligibility for Coral Reef Recovery & Restoration workshop to discuss and strategize how to successfully obtain FEMA funds for CRR&R with federal partners, including FEMA, EPA OCMB, and NOAA OCM and CRCP.
 - Developing lessons learned from the original USCRTF priority watersheds’ selection and management processes to inform the selection of future priority watersheds
- **USACE Coordination**
 - CSO Staff helped strengthen connections between the Guam Coastal Programs and USACE (Honolulu District). Increased coordination led to positive outcomes, including:

- Guam and USACE signed the charter for the first territorial Silver Jackets team, which is also innovative as an All-Hazards (not exclusively Flood Risk Management-focused) SJ team.
 - Guam worked with USACE to conduct key floodplain and erosion studies, which have in turn contributed hazards data for the state hazard mitigation plan process, allowing coastal erosion hazards to be added to the plan and making Guam eligible for FEMA funding for those hazards
 - CSO Staff has worked with territories and USACE to share information and training on match waiver opportunities under USACE authorities.
- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month:** The CSO Communications team developed and implemented a social media campaign to highlight success stories from the Pacific Islands Coastal Programs.

STAFF WORK INTEGRATION

Reoccurring annual items for CSO Staff awareness and guidance for future Fellows/Staff responsible for Islands engagement.

Action	Purpose	Partner(s) Involved	Time Period
Staff intro/check-in call	Familiarization; discussion of shared priorities; goal setting	AIC	Feb
Attend Winter USCRTF meeting (DC)	Insight into Island issues from corals perspective; introduction to members who overlap with both coastal and corals programs; AIC networking opportunity	USCRTF, AIC	Feb
Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Campaign	Use CSO's social media platforms to highlight the work of Pacific Island members	Pacific Island Coastal Management Programs	May
Attend a Regional Coastal Programs & Partners Meeting (within island regions)	Gain familiarity with regional partners/POCs and increase understanding of island and territory-specific challenges related to coastal management	NOAA OCM and Caribbean Island or PI Coastal Management Programs	Dependent on FY
Attend Summer USCRTF meeting	Share ongoing projects and realign priorities w/ AIC and fed partners; additional networking	USCRTF, AIC	Aug-Sept
Track relevant legislation and develop memos, white papers, one-pagers, etc.	Ensure the Island Members are fully aware of and engaged in the relevant policy processes	AIC	All year
Resource collection & distribution	Identify and distribute new and relevant funding sources, research, and/or projects of special interest. Maintain resources for AIC members.	All	All year
Highlight Island CMPs on social media	Feature projects or milestones (e.g. USVI 40 th and Guam Silver Jackets)	Island Coastal Programs	All year

Conduct onsite technical assistance	To strengthen communications on the importance of the CZM national and local network and to advise on acute program needs/issues	Island Coastal Programs	Semiannually
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AMERICAN SAMOA (AS)



Coastal Program Established: 1980

CSO Membership

Delegate: Sandra Lutu (sandra.lutu@doc.as)

Alternate: Not filled

Legal Council: Sean Morrison (sean.morrison@doc.as)

AIC Membership

Va'amua Henry Sesepasara

Director, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources

Background Information

American Samoa is an unincorporated, unorganized territory of the U.S. and has been a territory of the U.S. since April 17, 1900, when the High Chiefs of Tutuila signed the first of two Deeds of Cession for the islands to the U.S. The Samoan way of life, or Fa'a Samoa, is communal and has three key structural elements to it – the matai (chiefs), aiga (extended family), and the church. Read more about AS culture and history [here](#) and [here](#).

Capital: Pago Pago

Governor: Lolo Matalasi Moliga

Language(s): Samoan and English

Population: ~ 57,400 people

Religion(s): Christian Congregationalist, Roman Catholicism, Protestant, and others

Geography: consists of five main islands and two coral atolls (the largest and most populous island is Tutuila); total land area is 199 square kilometers (76.8 sq. mi)

309 Priorities

- Coastal hazard mitigation
- Impacted habitat
 - Develop a territorial wetlands monitoring program to assure that American Samoa has reliable data on wetlands health.

Annual Events and Meetings

Communication Products

- [“A Day in the Life” Pictures](#)
- [Coastal Awareness video](#)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)



Coastal Program Established: 1980

CSO Membership

Delegate: Janice Castro (jcastro@dcrm.gov.mp)

Alternate: Sam Sablan (ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp)

Legal Council: Kastle Lund-Turner Fuller (kastle_lund-turner@cnmioag.org)

AIC Membership

Janice Castro, AIC Vice Chair

Background Information

The Northern Mariana Islands, officially the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is an insular area and commonwealth of the United States consisting of 14 islands, with three principle islands– Saipan, Rota and Tinian, in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. The Federal law (the Covenant) making the CNMI a U.S. territory passed in 1975. The art and culture of the islands’ two indigenous groups, the Carolinians and the Chamorros, can be found throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, including food, music, artwork and more. Over the past 500 years, island culture has also been shaped by Spanish, German, Japanese and American influences. Read more [here](#).

Capital: Saipan

Governor: Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres

Language(s): Chamorro, Carolinian, and English

Population: 53,883 people

Religion(s): Roman Catholicism, Protestant, Buddhism, Folk Religions, and others

Geography: total land area of 475.26 square kilometers (183.5 sq. mi)

309 Priorities

- Coastal hazards mitigation and planning

Annual Events and Meetings

Communication Products

- [CNMI State Fact Sheet 2018](#)
- DCRM Resources and Publications ([Educational videos, wetland poster and wetland booklet](#))
- [Saipan Pictures](#)

GUAM (GU)



Coastal Program Established: 1979

CSO Membership

Delegate: Tyrone J. Taitano (tyrone.taitano@bsp.guam.gov)

Alternate: Edwin J.C. Reyes (Edwin.reyes@bsp.guam.gov)

Legal Council: Not filled

AIC Membership

Lola E. Leon Guerrero

Chief Planner, Bureau of Statistics and Plans

Background Information

Guam is an unincorporated and organized territory of the United States in Micronesia in the western Pacific Ocean. It became a U.S. territory in 1898, after it was also ceded to the U.S. in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War. Post-European-contact CHamoru (Chamorro) Guamanian culture is a combination of traditional CHamoru, Spanish, American, Filipino, other Micronesian Islander, and Mexican traditions. It is often called the place where “America’s Day Begins” because it’s located on the other side of the International Date Line. Read more [here](#).

Capital: Hagatna

Governor: Lourdes Aflague Leon Guerrero

Language(s): Chamoru and English; Hafa Adai is a very popular greeting

Population: 159,358 people

Religion(s): Roman Catholicism, Protestant, and others

Geography: total land area of 549 square kilometers (212 sq. mi)

309 Priorities:

- Public access and cumulative and secondary impacts

Annual Events and Meetings

- Guam Assembly of Planners

Communication Products

- [Guam Pictures](#)
- [Man, Land, and Sea Newsletter](#)

HAWAI'I (HI)



Coastal Program Established: 1978

CSO Membership

Delegate: Leo R. Asuncion (Leo.Asuncion@dbedt.hawaii.gov)

Alternate: NA

Legal Council: Bryan C. Yee (bryan.c.yee@hawaii.gov)

AIC Membership

David Delaney, Ph.D.

Program Specialist, Division of Aquatic Resources

Background Information

Hawai'i is the most recent state to join the United States, on August 21, 1959. The eight main islands are—in order from northwest to southeast: Ni'ihau, Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Kaho'olawe, Maui, and Hawai'i. The last is the largest island in the group; it is often called the "Big Island" or "Hawai'i Island". The diverse culture of Hawai'i is expressed in language, music, art, theater, dance, film, cuisine and festivals. At the core of each is the spirit of aloha. The "Aloha Spirit" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. Read more [here](#).

Capital: Honolulu

Governor: David Ige

Language(s): Hawai'ian and English

Population: 1,420,491 people

Religion(s): Protestant, Roman Catholicism, Mormon, and Buddhism

Geography: comprises hundreds of islands spread over 2,400 km (1,500 miles)

309 Priorities

- Coastal hazard planning
 - Development and adoption of comprehensive high-resolution probabilistic tsunami design zone maps for the State of Hawaii
- Ocean Resources Management Planning
 - Provide a basis for proposed legislation to amend the Hawaii State Plan

Annual Events and Meetings

Communication Products

- [HI State Fact Sheet 2018](#)
- [40th Success Story](#)

PUERTO RICO (PR)



Coastal Program Established: 1978

CSO Membership

Delegate: Mr. Ernesto L. Diaz (ediaz@drna.pr.gov)

Alternate: Not filled

Council: Jinnie Nieves (jlnieves.cz@gmail.com)

AIC Membership

Ernesto Díaz

Director, Coastal Zone Management Program

Background Information

Puerto Rico, officially the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, is an unincorporated territory of the United States. Puerto Rico includes the main island and several smaller islands, such as Mona, Culebra, and Vieques. The culture of Puerto Rico has been greatly influenced by its history and the consequential blending of Taino Indians, Spanish and African cultures, as well as the impact of the United States political and social exchange. Read more [here](#).

Capital: San Juan

Governor: Wanda Vázquez Garced

Language(s): Spanish and English

Population: 3,195,153 people

Religion(s): Roman Catholicism, Protestant, and others

Geography: includes the main island and several smaller islands

309 Priorities

- Resilience
 - Restoration and enhancement of wetlands and corals
 - Ecosystem-based adaptation and other nature-based approaches
 - Relevant Docs
 - Lessons learned from Hurricanes Irma and Maria: FEMA NCR RSF (2017-2019)
 - Status of Puerto Rico's Coral Reefs in the Aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria Assessment Report

Annual Events and Meetings

Communication Products

US VIRGIN ISLANDS (USVI)



Coastal Program Established: 1979

CSO Membership

Delegate: Jean-Pierre Oriol (jp.oriol@dpr.vi.gov)

Alternate: Marlon Hibbert

Legal Council: Not filled

AIC Membership

Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, AIC Chair

Background Information

The US Virgin Islands, officially the Virgin Islands of the United States, is a group of islands in the Caribbean and an unincorporated and organized territory of the United States. There are three primary islands: St. Thomas, St. John, and St Croix. Many influences have shaped the culture of the United States Virgin Islands, but European and African cultures have left the most visible imprint on the region's arts, language, cuisine, and the names of places. Read more [here](#).

Capital: Charlotte Amalie on the island of St. Thomas.

Governor: Albert Bryan Jr.

Language(s): English, Virgin Islands Creole, Spanish, and French

Population: 106,405 people

Religion(s): Baptist, Roman Catholic, and Episcopalian

Geography: total land area of the territory is 346.36 square kilometers (133.73 sq mi)

309 Priorities: NA

Annual Events and Meetings

Communication Products

- [St. Croix Pictures](#)

CONTACTS

Island Coastal Programs & CSO Members

American Samoa

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Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

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Guam

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Hawai'i

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U.S. Virgin Islands

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All Islands Committee (AIC)

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*CSO Members who represent their jurisdictions on the AIC

Federal Partners

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NOAA CRCP & USCRTF

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FEMA

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-AND-

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NGO Partners and Key Networks

Blue Ventures

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Conservation International (CI) & Blue Alliance (partnership between PEW and CI)

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Island Conservation

Gregg Howald, Director of Global and External Affairs

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MPA Connect

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North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN)

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Ridge to Reefs

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Socioeconomic Monitoring for Coastal Management (SocMon)

NOAA CRCP and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)

Maria Pena

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The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)

Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio, Conservation Program Manager

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The Nature Conservancy & the Reef Resilience Network (partnership between the Nature Conservancy and NOAA CRCP)

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The Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Area Community (PIMPAC)

Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio and Mike Lameier, Co-coordinators

MCT and NMFS PIRO

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FUNDING & RESOURCES

Funding

EPA Clean Water Act (CWA) Grants

[Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grants](#): Provides states, territories and tribes grant money that supports a wide variety of activities including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects and monitoring to assess the success of specific nonpoint source implementation projects.

[Water Pollution Control \(Section 106\) Grants](#): Provides assistance to states (including territories), interstate agencies, and eligible tribes to establish and implement ongoing water pollution control programs.

EPA Urban Waters Small Grants

The EPA [Urban Waters Program](#) seeks to help communities — especially underserved communities — access, improve and benefit from their urban waters and the surrounding land by more effectively leveraging existing programs. EPA aims to support projects and build partnerships with a variety of federal, state, tribal, and local partners that foster increased connection, understanding, and stewardship of local waterways.

USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (YEAR) Request for Proposals

The [National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant \(NCWCG\) Program](#) was established to acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands in coastal areas through competitive matching grants to eligible State agencies. It is expected that approximately \$XX million will be available for grants through the NCWCG Program in FY 20XX. Awards typically range from \$125,000 to a maximum of \$1,000,000. Cost sharing is required except for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, or the U.S. Virgin Islands. The deadline for receipt is **XXXX**, at 11:59pm PDT.

Office of Insular Affairs Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative

The CRNR Initiative provides grant funding for management and protection of coral reefs and to combat invasive species in the U.S. insular areas. The goal of the CRNR Initiative is to improve the health of coral reef ecosystems and other natural resources in the U.S. insular areas for their long-term economic and social benefit. Priority will be given to projects that help the insular areas address a variety of threats to coral reef ecosystems and to eradicating aquatic and terrestrial plant, insect, and animal invasive species. The U.S. insular areas include the United States territories of the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, and American Samoa, as well as the independent Freely Associated States of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

[Financing Coral Reef Conservation and Management with Tourism-Related Tools](#)

This webinar will explore the range of existing and emerging tools that protected areas and site managers can use to capture funds from tourism for conservation and management. Specifically the webinar will discuss the use of: 1) entry, activity, and special use fees; 2) commercial concessions; 3) departure taxes; 4) partnerships with hotels; and 5) voluntary donations.

[Finance Tools for Coral Reef Conservation: An Overview](#)

The Wildlife Conservation Society, in collaboration with the Conservation Finance Alliance and in support of the 50 Reefs initiative, recently released "Finance Tools for Coral Reef Conservation: A Guide" as a resource for protected area managers and others charged with managing and financing reef conservation. The report describes 13 types of finance tools which have either been proven successful at or have great potential to support reef conservation and sustainable management. Some of the finance tools to be covered in this overview webinar include various tourism-based fees, biodiversity offsets, bonds, debt swaps, and conservation trust funds.

AIC Resources

- [AIC Strategic Plan, 2016-2020, Executive Summary](#)
- [AIC Strategic Plan, 2016-2020](#)
- [Coral Reef Conservation Act \(CRCA\) One-pager](#)
- [Urgent Action One-pager](#)

CSO Resources

- [Resolution of the All Islands Coastal Zone Management Meeting](#)

EPA Resources

- [EPA Resource Guide](#)
- [Coral Reef Program Fact Sheet](#)
- [EPA Coral Storymap](#)
- [Water Quality Portal](#)
- [Recovery Potential Screening Tool](#)
- [National Aquatic Resources Surveys](#)
- [Biological Condition Gradient](#)

NOAA Resources

CRCP

- [CoRIS: Coral Reef Information System](#)
- [Adaptation Design Tool: Corals & Climate Adaptation Planning](#)

Digital Coast

- [Describing the Ocean Economies of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico](#)
- [Characterizing the Ocean Economies of Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands](#)
- [ENOW Hawaii: Exploring the Hawaii Ocean Economy through a Deeper Dive into the ENOW Data Set](#)

USFWS Resources

- [USFWS Coastal Program & National Coastal Wetlands Grants Program Presentation](#)
- [USFWS Coastal Program Region 1 and Pacific Islands Presentation](#)
- [National Coastal Wetland Grant Fact Sheet](#)
- [Pacific Island Coastal Programs Fact Sheet](#)
- [Restoring Island Ecosystems: Benefits to Native Plants and Animals](#)

Social Media Resources

[Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month](#)

Pre-posting email alert: In celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPIHM), CSO is posting success stories from our PI members. We like to check in with programs prior to posting and are planning to feature your program's story in XXX. If you see any issues with the below story, please let us know and we will make the necessary changes.

Other Resources

- [Blue Solutions](#)
- [THE ART OF KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE- co-authored by the World Bank and Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#)
- [Small Island Developing States and the GEF: Building Lasting Partnerships](#)
- [Panorama: Solutions for a Healthy Planet](#)
- [Handbook on Coral Reef Impacts: Avoidance, Minimization, Compensatory Mitigation, and Restoration](#)
- [Island Conservation Publications](#)
- [International Coral Reef Initiative \(ICRI\)](#)
- [Coral Reef Conservation in Puerto Rico](#)
- [Management for network diversity speeds evolutionary adaptation to climate change](#)
- [Rigorously Valuing the Role of U.S. Coral Reefs in Coastal Hazard Risk Reduction](#)
- [Implementing nature based flood protection: principles and implementation guidance](#)
- [A Research Review of Interventions to Increase the Persistence and Resilience of Coral Reefs \(2019\)](#)
- [Designing a new type of insurance to protect the coral reefs, economies and the planet](#)
- [USGS Real-time Water Quality Data](#)
- US Economic Development Administration (Rural Development)

Relevant Conferences & Meetings

- [The Pacific Risk Management 'Ohana \(PRiMO\)](#)
- [Hawai'i Conservation Conference \(HCC\)](#)
- CSO Fall and Winter Meetings
- USCRTF Winter and Summer Meetings
- Southeast and Caribbean Regional Coastal Managers Meeting (SEC)
- Pacific Regional Coastal Managers Meeting

Time Zones

Location	Guam/CNMI	Am. Samoa	Hawai`i	West Coast	East Coast	PR/USVI
Standard Time Nov - Mar	ChST +14 hrs	SST -7 hrs	HST -6 hrs	PST -3 hrs	EST	AST +/- 0 hrs
Daylight Savings Mar - Nov	+15 hrs	-6 hrs	-5 hrs	-3 hrs		+ 1 hr