



**U.S. All Islands
Coral Reef
Committee (AIC)**
Report to the U.S.
Coral Reef Task Force

St. Croix, USVI
November 2013

Fran Castro, AIC Chair



Introduction



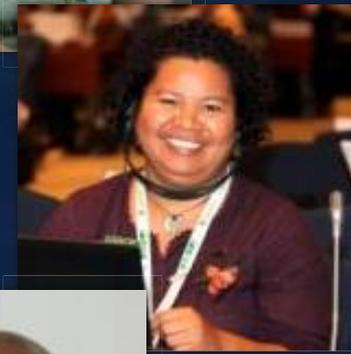
- Thank you to Governor John P. de Jongh, Jr. for hosting us this week
- Welcome to Governor Eloy S. Inos from CNMI, Governor Eddie Baza Calvo from Guam, and Lieutenant Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga from American Samoa
- Welcome new Task Force co-chair, Dr. Mark Schaefer, Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Management for NOAA





AIC Updates

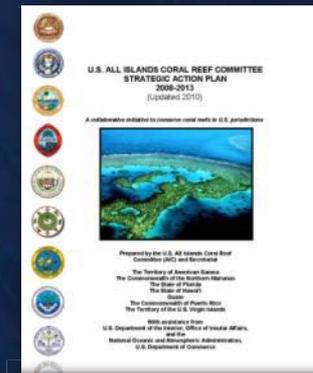
- New POC for American Samoa: **Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga**
- Affiliate Member representatives:
 - **Alissa Takesy**, Federated States of Micronesia
 - **Umiich Sengebau**, Republic of Palau
- New Secretariat and executive director of the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee: **Carey Morishige**





AIC Updates cont.

- ***New*** AIC Website - allislandscommittee.org
- ***New*** Facebook - www.facebook.com/AllIslandsCommittee
- ***New*** AIC Blog - allislandscommittee.wordpress.com
- ***New*** AIC and LAS 1-pagers
- ***Coming soon*** UPDATED Jurisdiction 1-pagers



U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee

<http://allislandscommittee.org/> www.allislandscorals.org



General Updates



ESA Coral Listing

Priority issue of the AIC

- Concern re: two items:
 1. “Risk of extinction” determination tool – method = subjective → potential bias
 2. The quality and quantity of science used in applying the tool

The AIC encourages NOAA to determine the final listing by:
incorporating new information available:

- Dr. Charles Veron’s eco-regional plan
- “Climate Change 2013” IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report



Coral Reef Institutes

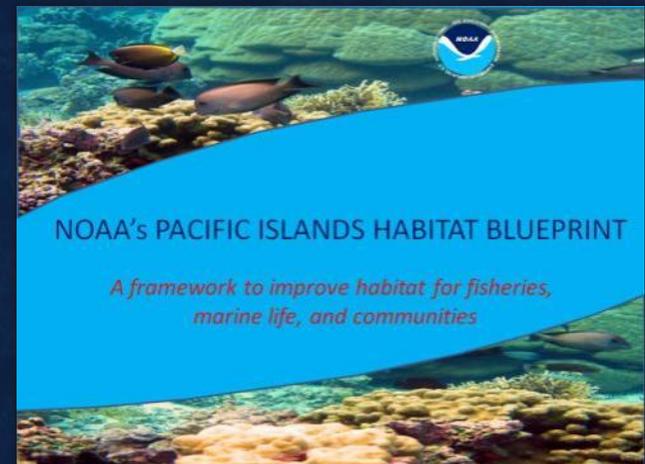
- CRIs in FL, PR, Hawaii, and Guam
- Provide critical research capacity & support to management entities
- Gaps at the national level; could benefit from expanding the geographical scope of the CRIs
- Gaps at jurisdictional level
- AIC working to characterize the status of the CRI's engagement in each jurisdiction + ID a strategy to address gaps





Habitat Blueprint

- NOAA initiative
- Focus and share resources
- Site selection; measurable and meaningful improvements in 3-5 yrs.
 - Final stages of NOAA clearance
- Pacific: 9-month effort + workshop





Micronesia Challenge



- **27th Pacific Islands Environment Conference** (June 26-28, 2013 in Guam) – plenary panel & presentations
- **Regional MC Communication Strategy and Framework** – finalizing
- ***NEW* Celebrating Seven Years of Progress** fact sheet
- **MC Endowment Fund** – \$500K from CI to RMI + \$500K from TNC to FSM; part of initial pledges of \$3M each to the (currently over \$13 million)





Micronesia Challenge



- **Micronesia Challenge Business Plan** – possible endorsement at Micronesia Chief Executives Summit (Saipan in December)
- ***Indicators for Monitoring Social Impacts of the Micronesia Challenge: An Addendum to SEM-Pasifika Regional Socioeconomic Monitoring Guidelines*** – developed by MC Measures Working Group
- **Regional marine ecological indicators** – collected baseline data in nearly all of the main islands in Micronesia and inputting to centralized MC database
- **Forest Inventory and Assessments (FIAs)** – Working with U.S. Forest Service





Caribbean Challenge Initiative

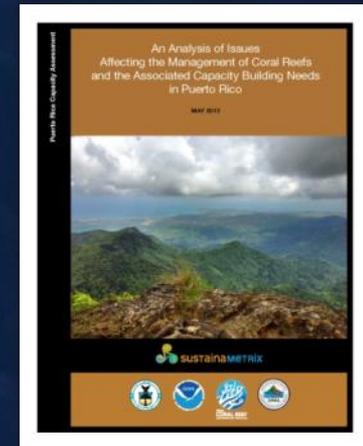
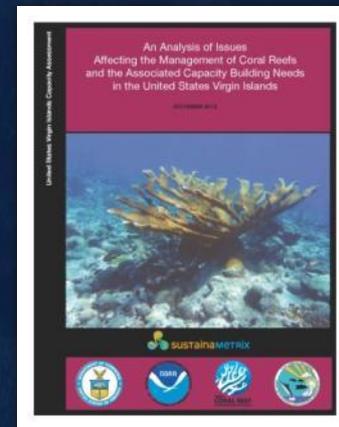
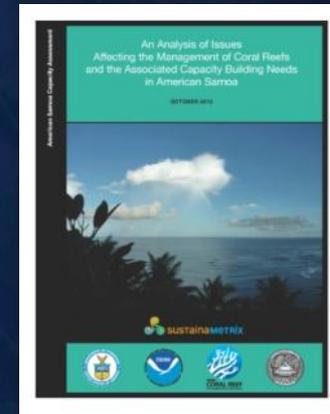
- **Caribbean Summit of Political and Business Leaders** – May 17-18 in British VI; Result: Commitment of \$75M and immediate action to protect the region's marine environment and accelerate renewable energy.
- **Caribbean Biodiversity Fund** – Currently \$42M; will be ready to disburse funds to National Protected Area Trust Funds in the near future.
- **Defend Paradise campaign** – Launched at Summit; designed to generate funding for marine conservation in the Caribbean and raise consumer awareness of the marine environment.





Jurisdictional Capacity Assessments

- **FL** – Interviews just completed late Oct.
- **Guam and CNMI** – final draft in review
- **Hawaii** – nearly completed
- **American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and USVI** – completed
- **Synthesis document**



U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee

<http://allislandscommittee.org/> www.allislandscorals.org



AIC Member and Affiliate Jurisdiction Updates

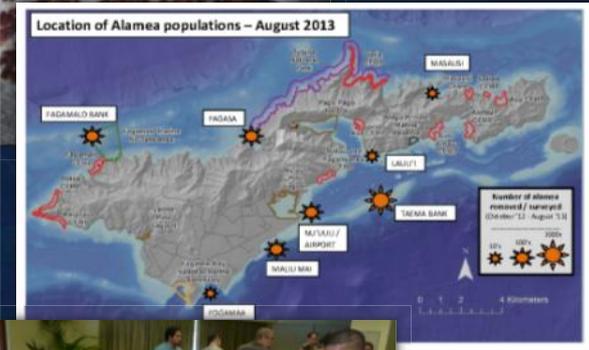
American Samoa AIC Member

Crown of Thorns Outbreak

- COTS populations are spreading, and are now being found all the way around Tutuila
- Cooperative effort working to survey and remove COTS around Tutuila, utilizing the Assessment and Rapid Reef Response Plan

Two Samoa Marine Managed Areas Workshop

- Goal: Support Two Samoa's Strategic Plan Objective to Develop an archipelago-wide network of no-take MPAs.
- Outcomes: 1) ID data gaps and needs; 2) potential projects on ocean circulation and mapping; and 3) messaging for no-take MPA outreach





American Samoa AIC Member

Faga'alu Watershed





CNMI AIC Member

• Coral Bleaching Response

- Bleaching first reported on Aug. 3, 2013
- Ongoing monitoring of four staghorn sites in the lagoon where bleaching has occurred in the past
- Tracking bleaching severity of 59 colonies at Paupau
- Characterizing water quality with YSI
- Collaborating with the University of Guam in a spatial assessment of bleaching (30 sites on Saipan, 20 Tinian and 10 Rota)

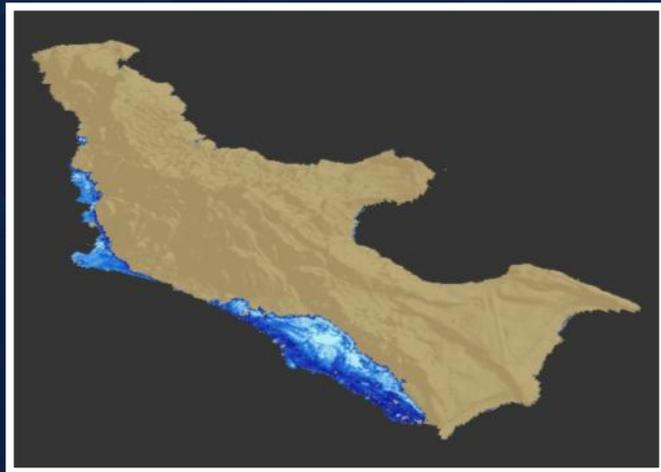




CNMI cont.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

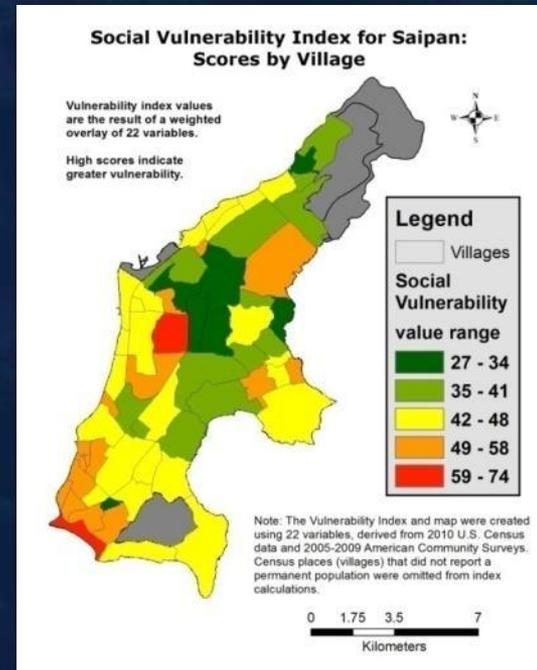
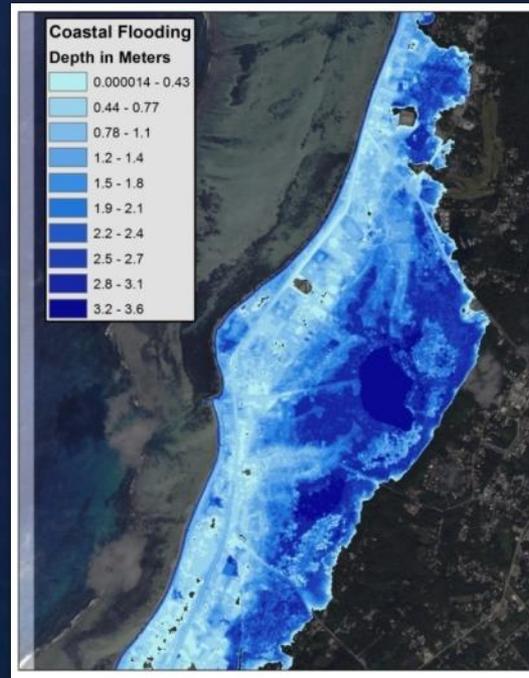
- Social Vulnerability Index for Saipan
- Nine CNMI-Specific Sea Level Rise Scenarios for the Island of Saipan



CNMI-Wide Survey of Climate Change Knowledge

- Survey of 402 CNMI residents on the islands of Saipan and Tinian.

Climate Change Working Group





CNMI cont.

Garapan Conservation Action Plan

GOALS:

- To identify sources of pollution and habitat degradation in the Garapan watershed.
- To educate community members and visitors to become stewards of the watershed and adopt best practices.
- 2-5 year workplan
- **Over 30 partner organizations** participated
- **Identified nine habitat and species targets**



The Garapan watershed and events. Photo credit: Kaitlin Mattos



Florida AIC Member

Staghorn Coral Outplanting

- Nursery grown
- Florida Keys reefs
- Evaluate the effect of coral density on fish and invertebrate populations





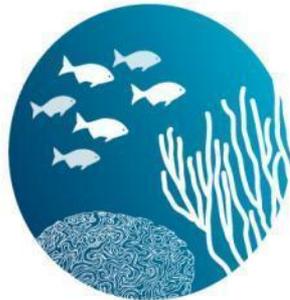
Florida cont.



Hosted by Florida's Local Action Strategy:
the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)

www.OurFloridaReefs.org

A COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS FOR SOUTHEAST FLORIDA'S CORAL REEFS



**OUR FLORIDA
REEFS**

YOUR VOICE, OUR FUTURE

STEP 1 COMMUNITY MEETINGS



Learn more about our reefs.
Share your ideas.

STEP 2 COMMUNITY WORKING GROUPS

Local representatives develop
recommendations for reef
management actions.

STEP 3 SHARE RECOMMENDATIONS

Community meetings to review draft
recommendations. Tell us what you think!

STEP 4 REEF MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Final recommendations guide development
of a reef management strategy for southeast
Florida's coral reefs.



Guam AIC Member

- **Coordinating Bleaching Surveys Data Collection**
 - East side of Guam (2)
 - Northern Guam (3)
 - West Hagatna Bay –quantitative survey
 - Extensive Bleaching with Staghorn community involvement
- **Long Term Monitoring Program**
 - New Partnership with UOG Marine Lab and WPCRI
 - Contributed to the Community Coral Reef Monitoring Program
 - Sexual Coral Reef Reproduction Workshop and in-water coral nursery





Guam cont.

- **Coral Reef Fellowship – Roxanne Miller**
 - Data set analysis; 2010-2013
 - School & community coral presentations
- **Community Watershed Management**
 - Manell/Geus : Community Conservation Action Plan
 - Fouha Watershed: Humatak Community Fdtn.
- **Outreach**
 - Partner with STEM teachers to integrate coral projects in curriculum and service learning requirements
- **Micronesia Challenge**
 - Partnership with Guam Hotel Restaurant Association





Hawai`i AIC Member

Priority sites: South Kohala and Wahikuli-Honokowai

Wahikuli-Honokowai:

- West Maui Kumuwai Campaign kicked off
- Successful rain garden pilots and training workshops
- Kahekili Herbivore Enhancement Area Birthday Bash
- Reef-friendly landscaping project began
- Community continues to care for re-vegetated slope at a coastal cemetery

South Kohala:

- Full time coordinator
- Investigating interactions between nutrients and corals
- Beginning ungulate exclusion fencing with community partners
- Community outreach to ocean users continued through Makai Watch
- Roi round-up engaged fishers in removing alien fish





Hawai`i cont.

Rapid Response Contingency Plan for Coral Bleaching, Disease, and Crown of Thorns Outbreaks

- Anne Rosinski, Coral Fellow – coord. Implementation; 2-day workshop



Community Engagement and Empowerment

- New Makai Watch Coordination and Community-based Subsistence Fishing Area Planner
 - Place-based fishing rules: administrative structure and community engagement
- Strategic Plan for the Makai Watch program – Implemented by Luna Kekoa, former Coral Fellow

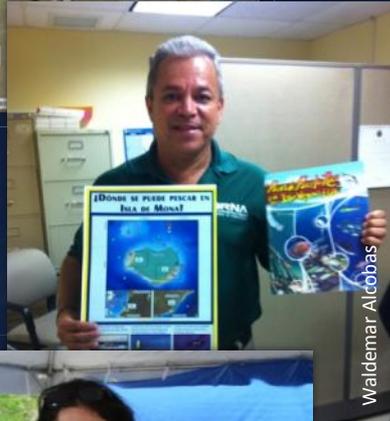




Puerto Rico AIC Member



Michelle Seiner



Waldemar Alcobas

Education and Outreach at Mona Island Natural Reserve to Promote Implementation and Compliance of Fisheries Regulation

- Promoted management and conservation of coral reef fish populations
- Improved compliance with fisheries regulations

Main outcomes and project deliverables:

- 173 visitor surveys
- Educational short video & materials to visitors
- Fact-sheet provided for camping permits
- Off-site educational campaign – 25 businesses
- 300 educational materials to stakeholders & businesses
- Case-study analysis of interventions; 4 interventions on illegal fishing
- No-take zone boundaries – DNER Rangers' GPS units
- Rangers' surveillance and patrolling increased



Bertha Morales

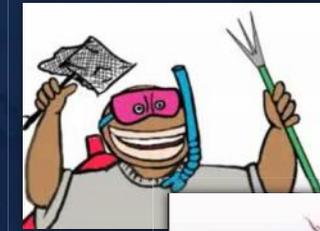
Puerto Rico cont.

Education and Outreach

- Two PSA's have been developed – shared through social media
 - Singing chef – lionfish control & consumption
 - “Chana” the brown pelican – land-based sources of pollution

Coral Farming Forums

- April 25 and September 11, 2013
- Promoted coral farming organization participation
- Dialogue among numerous partners
- Forums will continue on a regular basis to promote discussion and to share information





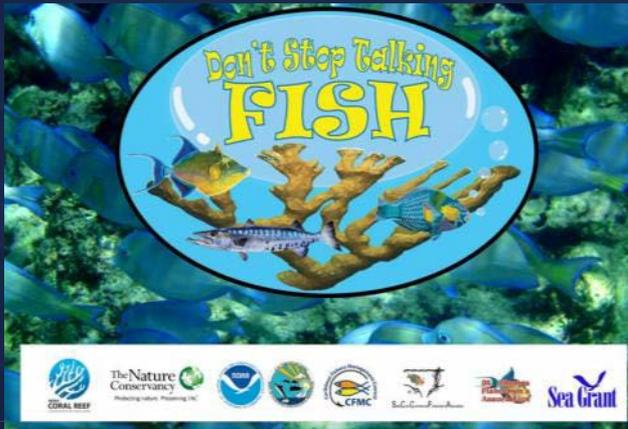
U.S. Virgin Islands AIC Member

- **Improving Enforcement Capacity**
 - Professional development and training opportunities
 - LBSP and fisheries training for officers and rangers
 - Partnership with NOAA Fisheries; support from NOAA CRCP
- **Watershed Management Efforts**
 - STEER contaminant work
 - Coral Bay sediment mitigation
 - STX East End rain gardens, Adam's Gut project





U.S. Virgin Islands cont.



- **Don't Stop Talking Fish**
 - Led by USVI Fisheries Mgmt. liaison
 - Initiative designed to celebrate and communicate the cultural significance of USVI fishing industry
- **St. Croix East End Marine Park (STXEEMP) Watershed Stewardship Group**
 - Led by Coral Fellow
 - Raise awareness of LBSP and effects on waters
 - Assist in implementation of mgmt. plan recommendations

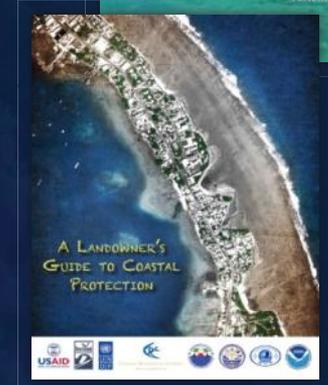
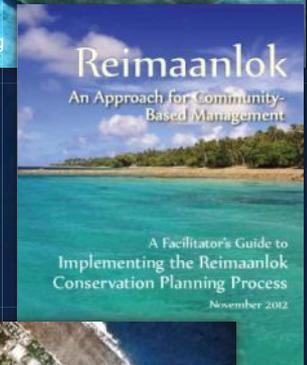




Republic of the Marshall Islands

AIC Affiliate Member

- **“Facilitator’s Guide to Implementing the Reimaanlok Conservation Planning Process”** – Published and available online
- **4th Marine Conservation Certificate Program** – 21 graduates; building local capacity
- **“Landowner’s Guide to Coastal Protection”** – Published and available
- **Protected Area Network (PAN) Legislation** – Drafted
- **New Climate Change Certificate Program @ College of the Marshall Islands** – Being piloted; for elementary school teachers and resource managers





The AIC...

- USCRTF and NOAA - continue to communicate and engage re: proposed ESA listing of 66 coral species;
- Governors and USCRTF - support the reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000;
 - definitions for *coral* and *coral reef*, capacity and authority for emergency response, and ratification of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force
 - NOAA – work with AIC in defining a common path forward
- USCRTF - continued support of the watershed partnerships and
- USCRTF - continue support for the watershed partnerships over the long term
- USCRTF - support the jurisdictions in capacity building, particularly in restoring a Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program



Acknowledgements

- Governor de Jongh, Jr., and agencies and partners in the U.S. Virgin Islands, for hosting this Task Force meeting.
- All Governors and Lt. Governor for their continued support of coral reef conservation and management.
- NOAA and DOI for their support and partnership.
- USFWS and DOI/OIA for funding and hosting the 2013 Governor Sunia Summer Internships.

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The scene is dimly lit, with a dark blue background. In the foreground, there are several types of coral, including branching corals and some with small, bright spots. The overall tone is serene and natural.

Regional Ocean Partnerships and Regional Planning Body

Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership



- **Established:** August, 2012
- **Main Objectives:**
 - Identify Coastal and Ocean Management Priorities
 - Promote regional sustainability of resources
 - Enhance mechanisms to manage ocean and coastal resources
- **2-day Regional ESA Workshop**, July 9-10; engaged Federal partners
- **All PROP Members sit on Pacific RPB**



PROP

- **University of Hawai‘i Regional Ocean Partnership (ROP) III proposal** – funded by NOAA
- **Next Steps:**
 - Regional disaster response training workshop; launch website, and implementing other priorities in the action plan.
- **“LIKE” us on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/PacificROP>
- **Steering Committee Members**
 - Jesse Souki – Chair (HI)
 - Fran Castro – Vice Chair (CNMI)
 - Joseph Cameron – (Guam)
 - Dr. Ruth Matagi-Tofiga (AS)





Hawaii Ocean Partnership Status

November 2013

Policy Group will meet to adopt governance agreement, formalizing the Partnership

May 2013

Policy Group briefed on using a governance agreement to formalize the partnership

November 2012

Staff hired to develop the Partnership

Formalized

In progress

Not yet started

December 2013

Action Teams form to focus on ORMP goals

July- Sept 2013

Agency staff and Office of Planning drafted agreement

July 2013

Ocean Resources Management Plan updated

January 2013

Policy Group meets to discuss concept and timeline to formalize the Partnership

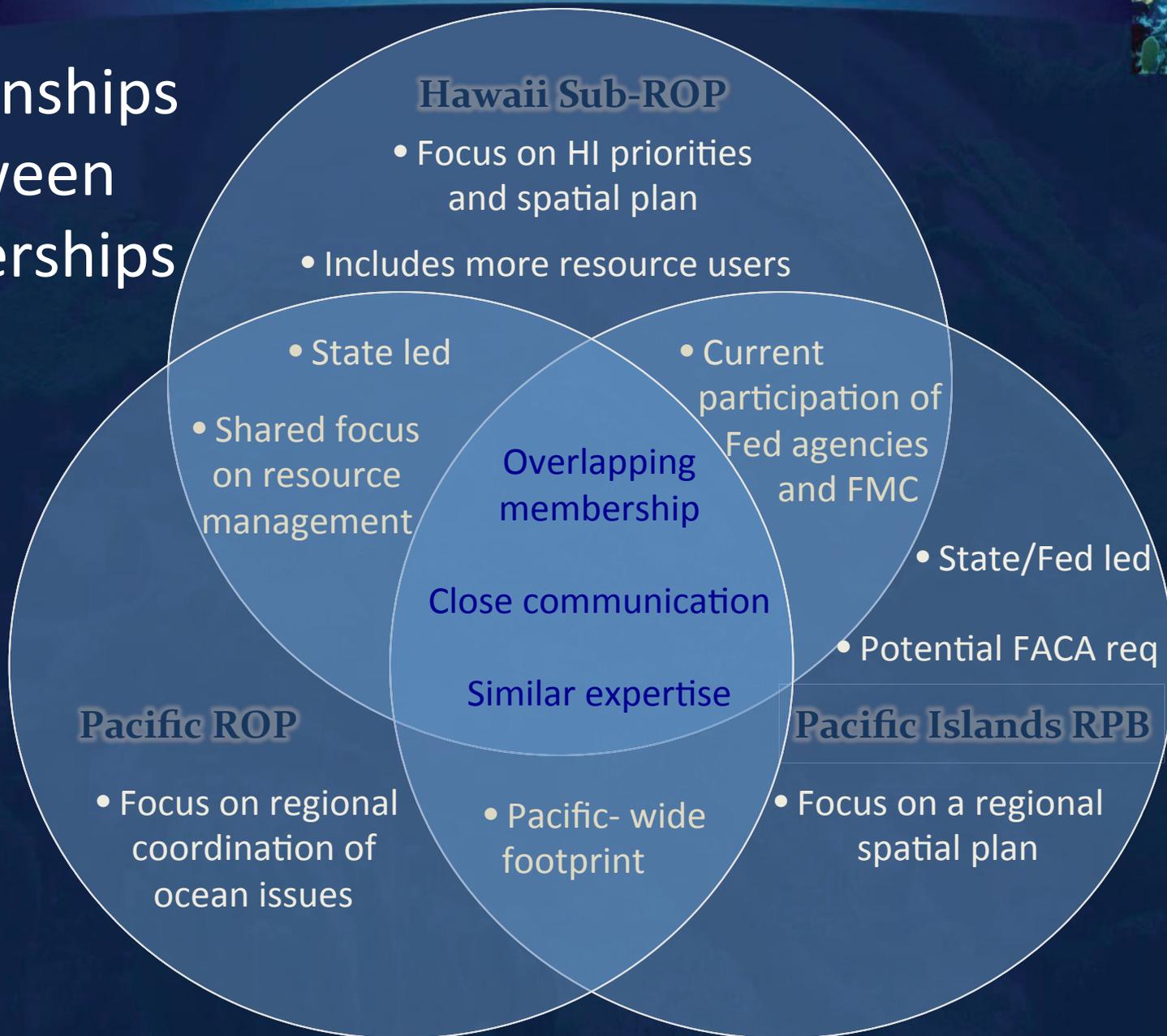
Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body

- **Inaugural Meeting:** July 11 and 12, 2013 (Honolulu)
- **Co-Chairs:** Michael Tosatto (NOAA) and Jesse Souki (HI)
- **Members:** 8 federal; 8 non-federal; 1 fishery council
- **Charter:** In Draft
- **Mission**
- **Website:** <http://pacificislandsrpb.org/>
- **PIRPB Identifier:** selected
- **Next Steps:**
 - Form a data work group
 - Finalize goals and objectives



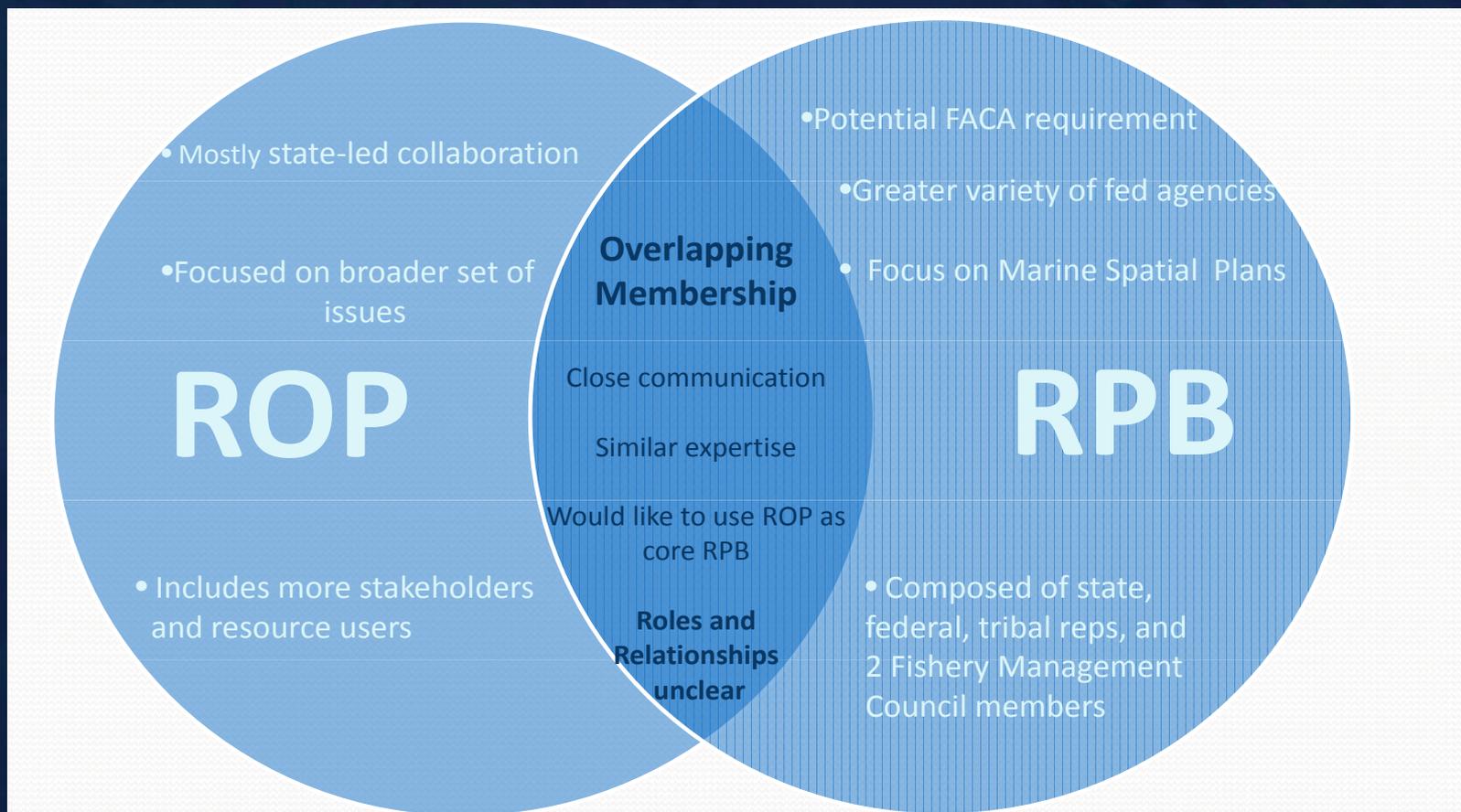


Relationships Between Partnerships





Regional Ocean Partnership and Regional Planning Body Relationship





ROP and RPB Opportunities and Benefits

- Collaboration at all levels of government (efficiencies)
- Leveraging resources, knowledge and expertise
- Developing a regional marine spatial plan
- Collaborating on regional issues
- Increasing science and data development
- Enhance data accessibility to benefit multiple users

Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership

- Very active – meetings, CMSP training, etc.
- Data Portal – Under construction; also in process of creating spatial data where limited
- \$358K secured for this upcoming year for continued CROP support
- Hope to begin human uses mapping in the upcoming year

Caribbean Regional Planning Body

- First meeting held during Task Force; however we have been working closely with federal partners within the region
- See as an opportunity where CROP can provide information on local needs



Questions?

