

ABOUT BLUE PROSPERITY MICRONESIA

Blue Prosperity Micronesia (BPM) is a government-led program to support the sustainable growth of marine resources in the FSM. BPM adopts a holistic approach based on best available science and stakeholder participation to build a healthier marine environment that will benefit future generations. **Our progress this quarter – between April 1 and June 30, 2023 – is summarized below.**

WORLD OCEAN DAY: Celebrating our deep cultural connection to the ocean

In honor of World Ocean Day, Blue Prosperity Micronesia celebrated our deep cultural connection to the ocean and the need to protect it. BPM interviewed ocean leaders across all four states, who are stepping forward as advocates for marine protection and stewardship, in a video that premiered on World Ocean Day. **You can watch the video**, produced by Micronesian filmmakers Soused Productions, **on BPM's Facebook page** (@blueprosperitymicronesia).

Several organizations across states helped premiere the BPM video by screening it at several events, including at Yap Catholic High School's summer Marine Island Ecology Course, at a learning exchange hosted by the Micronesia Conservancy Trust, The Nature Conservancy and Rare for women's groups in Pohnpei, and as part of Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority's Environment and Ocean days celebrations.



Four of the seven ocean leaders featured in the BPM video. From left to right, Dr. Nicole Yamase (BPM Science Advisor), Anthony Yalon (Yap Department of Resources & Development), Bruno Ned (Kosrae Department of Resources and Economic Affairs), and Enjoy Rain (Chuuk Department of Marine Resources).

BPM produced a short video celebrating the deep cultural connection between Micronesians and the ocean while highlighting FSM's marine environments.



National Geographic x Blue Prosperity Micronesia Expedition: Exploring FSM's underwater environments

BPM is gearing up to embark on an **unprecedented ocean science expedition in collaboration with National Geographic Pristine Seas**. This initiative will combine archipelago-wide research, filmmaking and community events to fill knowledge gaps, inform decision-making and showcase FSM's rich underwater environments and deep cultural ties to the ocean. Scientists and divers from across the FSM will participate in this groundbreaking research expedition. The expedition will kick off in Kosrae in early October and will wrap up in Yap in late November 2023. BPM is working hand-in-hand with our state partners on developing science and media plans for the expedition.

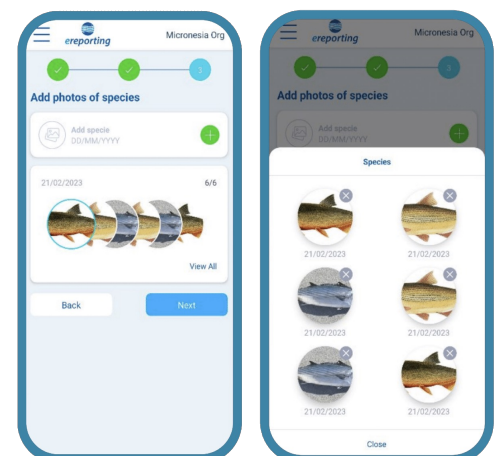
The expedition will be conducted onboard the E/V Argo across all four states.



Sustainable Fisheries: Deploying a smartphone app to bridge gaps in nearshore fisheries data collection

BPM works to support fisheries management and monitoring by strengthening nearshore fisheries data collection, management and reporting systems to improve informed decision-making. BPM has partnered with Shellcatch to develop an **e-monitoring app and accompanying online dashboard to customize nearshore fisheries data collection**. The app can be used offline on portable devices and data can be uploaded to the cloud once connectivity is available.

BPM will be piloting these new monitoring tools in Chuuk between August and October 2023. In piloting the app, BPM is partnering with Oneisomw Environmental Conservation Management Association (OECMA) and will work closely with Chuuk's Department of Marine Resources (DMR), fishers and fish markets.



Mobile fisheries app developed in partnership with Shellcatch.



Marine Spatial Planning: Wrapping up the Ocean Use Survey in Kosrae

BPM and partners, including Kosrae Island Resources Management Authority, the Division of Fisheries & Marine Resources, and the Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization, wrapped up the Ocean Use Survey (OUS) in Kosrae. The OUS is a participatory mapping survey that asks respondents to identify areas in their coastal marine environment that they value or use.

Kosrae partners shared survey results with state leaders, mayors, village council reps, resource management committee reps in early June. More than **1,600 individuals** were represented in survey results. **The results of the Ocean Use Survey provide insight into how Kosraens use and value the ocean, which will inform development of Kosrae’s Marine Spatial Plan.** Great participation in the Ocean Use Survey in Kosrae will help ensure that the planning for the future of Kosrae’s ocean is inclusive and representative of many citizens, across municipalities and sectors of interest. Ocean Use Surveys will be replicated in the other states as well.



1,600+ Kosraens are represented in the Ocean Use Survey.

Blue Economy: Exploring revenue-generating opportunities leveraging FSM’s unique marine assets

Based on consultations with **40+ stakeholders**, the Blue Economy Working Group developed a roadmap that explores investment opportunities related to fisheries, infrastructure, tourism, and human capital to help strengthen marine industries. In December, BPM launched two economic analyses to assess the feasibility of developing a portside fisheries hub and expanding FSM's sustainable tourism industry. The consultants have identified opportunities for intervention and BPM will be reviewing results of the analyses with the Blue Economy Working Group.



BPM is exploring ways to leverage FSM’s unique marine assets, such as Nan Madol, to generate revenue through sustainable tourism.

Program Management: We are hiring!

BPM is hiring for a Technical Coordinator! Keep a look out for the advertisement from FSM Personnel. If you would like to apply, or know anyone who would be a good fit for this role, reach out to BPM Program Coordinator, Yolanda Joab-Mori at yjmori@rd.gov.fm.