

Regional Ocean Partnerships

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Federal Funding Opportunity – FY2011

Fall of 2010, NOAA's Coastal Services Center released a federal funding opportunity (FFO) for Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs) to advance coastal and ocean management through regional ocean governance partnerships and the goals for National Ocean Policy (NOP) set out in the July 2010 *Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force*. The FFO included two focus areas for funding:

1. *Implement* activities that contribute to achieving priorities by ROPs while also advancing Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) as envisioned in the national CMSP framework; and
2. To provide ROP *development and governance support* for the administration of existing and fledgling ROPs.

Hawai'i Funds Eligibility

- Hawai'i is included in the Pacific Islands Region, which is defined by the NOP to include Hawai'i, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa;
- Unlike many of the other regions defined within the NOP, no official ROP currently exists for the Pacific Islands Region;
- The National Ocean Policy outlines how CMSP may be conducted at the sub-regional level and NOAA recognizes the important collaborative partnership of the Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan Policy and Working Groups; therefore,
- Hawai'i is eligible for implementation funds under this FFO as a sub-region.

Hawai'i Proposals

The Office of Planning (OP) submitted two proposals on behalf of the Hawaii ORMP working group and external partners that collaborated in the drafting process.

1. \$3.5M to implement priorities of the ORMP that also align with the National Ocean Policy by means of two complementary tracks:
 - a. Two major on-the-ground projects that implement ORMP perspectives:
 - i. Two-year *mauka to makai* mapping and ecosystem restoration project in He'eia, O'ahu; and
 - ii. Mapping the spatial range and intensity of key human uses in coastal areas and near shore waters on Maui and Hawai'i islands.
 - b. Develop a **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Framework** for Hawai'i, based on robust stakeholder and public input. The framework is envisioned to be a description of an agreed-upon process for developing coastal and marine spatial plans in Hawai'i.
2. \$472,181 for administrative support to formalize and further develop the ORMP partnership to increase efficacy and success, including potential financial mechanisms.

Pacific Islands Proposal

At the request of the other Pacific Island jurisdictions, the University of Hawaii Social Science Research Institute developed and submitted a proposal for administrative support to develop a Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership (PROP). The proposal requests \$493,866 for administrative and travel support to develop a Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership that addresses critical gaps in regional collaborations on issues affecting those living in oceanic environments.

All proposals complement each other, as partners cited the importance of both efforts.