

# Hawai‘i Ocean Resources Management Plan Policy Group

## Meeting Summary

October 28th, 2010; 9:00-11:00.

NOAA Pacific Services Center, #1550

### **Members Present:**

Kathleen Ross Aoki (Maui Planning)  
Donna Brown (Marine & Coastal Zone Advocacy Council)  
Ian Costa (Kauai Planning)  
Gordon Grau (UH Sea Grant College Program)  
Heidi Guth (Office of Hawaiian Affairs)  
Kristina Kekuwa (NOAA Pacific Services Center)  
Laurance Lau (Dept. of Health)  
Todd Low, for Sandy Kunimoto (Dept. of Agriculture)  
Abbey Seth Mayer (Office of Planning), Chair  
Chris Ostrander, for Brian Taylor (UH School of Ocean & Earth Science & Technology)  
Kelley Sage, for Allen Tom (NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Pacific Island Region)  
April Surprenant, for Bobby Jean Leithead Todd (Hawai‘i Planning)  
Davis Yogi (Dept. of Transportation)

### **Others Present:**

Malia Chow (HIHWNMS); Jim Coon (MACZAC); Jeffrey Dack (Maui Planning); Steve Frano (NOAA OCRM); Zena Grecni (ICAP); Doug Harper (NOAA PSC); Melissa Iwamoto (OP/CZM); Jeff Kent (OHA); Mary Lou Kobayashi (OP); Darren Lerner (UH Sea Grant); Marnie Meyer (OP/CZM); Sandra Rossetter (DOT Harbors); Hudson Slay (EPA); Craig Tasaka (OP/GIS); Jean Tanimoto (NOAA PSC); Barry Usagawa (BWS)

### **New ORMP Policy Group Partners/Members**

The following new members of the ORMP were introduced:

- Kelley Sage (for Allen Tom) – NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Pacific Islands Region
- Kathleen Ross Aoki – new Director of Department of Planning, Maui County

### **Consent Agenda**

Three handouts were shared with the group previous to the meeting for review and approval:

1. ORMP Working Group report;
2. Information Paper: Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessment - USACE Planning Assistance to the States Program; and
3. Information Paper: USACE Honolulu District Silver Jackets Program.

There were no objections to any of the consent agenda items. Policy Group members identified points of contact from each entity (whether the Working Group member or others) in the areas of outreach, climate change, and regional ocean partnerships.

### **Regional Ocean Partnerships**

An overview of the competitive federal funding opportunity (FFO) released by NOAA to support the priorities of Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROP) was provided to the Policy Group. The FFO focuses on advancing effective coastal and ocean management through regional ocean governance and the goals for the National Ocean Policy (NOP), as stated in the *Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force* (July 2010). One of the nine priority recommendations is comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based CMSP.

There are two focus areas for funding: 1) *implementation* for existing, identified ROPs and 2) *development and governance support* for startup ROPs. Although Hawaii is grouped with the Pacific Islands Region (which also includes Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa), the ORMP is essentially a sub-regional (Hawaii Archipelago) ocean partnership, making us eligible for sub-regional implementation funds, as long as we pursue a larger Pacific ROP in the meantime. There is no match requirement.

The ORMP Working Group and partners are drafting a proposal to implement priorities of the ORMP and to design a CMSP process for the State. Integrated marine spatial planning will help Hawaii address user conflicts and bureaucratic and regulatory inefficiencies in order to improve the status of our coastal and marine resources. The Hawaii sub-regional project proposal will focus on activities that take place in the first two years of a five-year project (following the CMSP guiding principles, framework and essential elements laid out in the FFO and National Ocean Policy).

In addition to funding on-the-ground implementation of the ORMP, the ORMP group envisions the development of a multi-sectoral, CMS plan using an ecosystem-based management approach that includes state and federal waters for the State of Hawaii (including the NWHI) in order to balance the various uses of the ocean in a sustainable manner. The outcome of the two-year project will be the completion of a framework for a CMSP process in Hawaii (see Attachment A for proposed goals and objectives), including but not limited to:

1. Advance and strengthen the ongoing implementation of Hawaii's priorities as detailed in current plans and initiatives (e.g., ORMP).
2. Promote a balanced range of social, economic, environmental, and cultural uses in Hawaii's state and federal waters.
3. Ensure meaningful engagement and coordination of partners and the public throughout natural and cultural resource management in the islands.
4. Promote the use of ecosystem data and geospatial information to inform policy and decision-making.

*Discussion:*

Although the Policy Group did not object to the ORMP Group proceeding with submitting a proposal, some valid points were raised and discussed. They include the following:

- ORMP partner agencies, especially the counties, don't have the staff or time to dedicate to implementing projects, should they get funding to do so.
  - *ORMP Chair said he would look into the possibility of providing staffing to counties through this grant to do this work.*
- Ensure that Native Hawaiians and other cultural practitioners are engaged in the process.
  - *Native Hawaiians as well as other cultural practitioners will be included in the decision-making process; will make sure OHA has input into the proposal as well.*
- Ensure that performance measures are included for effectiveness.
- Ensure that current plans and initiatives are all aligned properly. Ensure consistency and clearly articulate how all efforts are connected. It is important to avoid duplication and to streamline efficiency.
  - *Several existing plans and ongoing planning processes have already engaged the public, which can be leveraged and expanded to enable a more holistic approach for creating a Hawaii CMSP process. The project will integrate and build upon these efforts in order to advance Hawaii as a whole and to avoid duplication or interference with ongoing efforts.*
- CMSP goal is unclear: is it information management or regulatory?
  - *Hawaii's CMSP process will commence by focusing on information management as well as a management tool for conducting a planning process for certain uses. Whether or not it is used*

*in future regulatory manners will depend on federal and state laws and user inclination. On the national level it is unclear as to the regulatory intent, if any.*

- Will the ORMP Policy Group oversee the partnership, or will a new group be formed? Who is appropriate, if not ORMP? There are too many coordinating committees already.
  - *There will need to be an oversight group – this will start with the ORMP Policy Group, and expand to other appropriate groups to be identified, if appropriate. Part of the scope of work will focus on organizational development, which will further explore these questions.*
  - *Project management staff to be hired for the duration of the project will coordinate with the Working Group and other partners, user groups, and the public, but would ultimately report to the expanded ORMP Policy Group.*
- Concern that not enough policy gets implemented at the end of a planning process.

### **Joint ORMP Strategic Planning Meeting Priority**

There was a discussion and overall agreement that everyone will need to work with their respective deputies, managers, Working Group members, and other appropriate (long-term) staff to ensure a smooth transition with a changing administration, to ensure the ORMP partnership remains a priority within agencies. Other ideas included:

- Educate new directors (who may not be aware of CZM/ORMP) on what we do; include a state and national CZM background section in the Transition/Orientation Packet.
- Include a section on the economic importance of Hawaii's coasts in the Transition Packet.
- Coordinate a legislative briefing on the ORMP in early December; other ORMP Policy Group members present to show the importance of it.
  - *ORMP Chair said he would look into this and get back to the group.*
  - *This task will need to be yielded to the incoming administration or another independently enabled body for organizing.*
- MACZAC is willing to facilitate, support, and/or advocate for ORMP.
  - *OP will continue to work with MACZAC to help support ORMP in any way we can.*

### **Next Steps**

The Policy Group made the following commitments to carry out next steps:

*Outreach:* Designated a point of contact from each entity for expanded ORMP outreach efforts.

*Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessment:* Policy Group committed to partner on the study and to provide in-kind support where practicable; Designated point of contact from each entity to assist with identifying potential in-kind support.

*Silver Jackets Initiative:* Policy Group committed to partner with the Silver Jackets Initiative.

*Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROP):* Policy Group committed to prepare and execute an ROP Development Agreement, should Hawaii be awarded funding. The Development Agreement would express commitment to work cooperatively to engage in a Hawaii ROP and develop a CMSP framework, identify regional planning body members, and define ground rules, roles, and responsibilities of the partners. Members also designated a point of contact from each entity for early ROP and CMSP efforts.

*Transitional Commitment:* Committed to working with Working Group members, deputies, managers, and appropriate staff in each department to encourage a smooth transition through the change in administration. Use the Transition/Orientation Packet being developed (which will be completed by Dec. 1).