

United States Support for Small Island Developing States and Territories Related to Obligations under CMM 2013-06 & 2013-07

This paper provides examples of relevant U.S. support for Small Island Developing States and territories during 2018. Additional support may have been provided for which data and information were not available at the time of preparation and submission of this report.

Selected Support for MCS and other Enforcement-Related Activities:

- U.S. Coast Guard cutters completed three patrols, totaling approximately 60 days, supporting shipriders from three WCPFC members that have bilateral agreements with the United States - the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau. During these patrols, 32 foreign fishing vessels were boarded and inspected. In addition, U.S. Coast Guard aircraft completed three patrols, totaling approximately 17 days, patrolling the EEZs of three WCPFC members that have bilateral shiprider agreements with the United States - the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Cook Islands.
- U.S. Navy ships with embarked U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement detachments completed two patrols, totaling approximately 78 days, supported shipriders from two WCPFC members that have bilateral agreements with the United States - the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. During these patrols, 35 foreign fishing vessels were boarded and inspected.
- U.S. shiprider agreements provide a critical mechanism for cooperation on combating IUU fishing and enhancing maritime law enforcement. The U.S. government had shiprider agreements with eleven PICs in 2018: the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Fiji.
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement travelled to New Caledonia and participated in the first Pacific Community (SPC) / Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Regional Port Monitoring Workshop. NOAA OLE was part of a working group that discussed and developed plans for enforcement, records improvement, and regulatory plans for WCPFC and other RFMOs. Recommendations were made to include addressing illegal unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing violations and developing standardized reporting requirements when IUU fishing is suspected and/or detected. Port State Measures Agreement training was also discussed in order to establish a uniform method of boarding's and Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) operations to combat IUU fishing.
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement conducted Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) Refresher Training for Conservation Officers from the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources in American Samoa. The training entailed review of current regulations, and requirements under the Port State Measures Agreement, and boarding procedures for PSMA inspections.

- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) and the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment Unit in American Samoa, traveled to Apia, Samoa and conducted training on Port State Measures Agreement regulations and USCG regulations for vessel agents of foreign fishing vessels who currently port in Samoa, and were planning on porting in Pago Pago in the future. NOAA OLE used this opportunity and conducted outreach efforts with foreign fishing vessel company representatives and their vessel masters who sought guidance on federal fishing and marine safety regulations applicable in American Samoa.
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement sent (2) two Investigative Support Technicians to the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and were assigned to the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Center (RFSC) in support FFA's Monitoring Control & Surveillance (MCS) Operation TUI MOANA (OPTM18).
- NOAA Office of Enforcement, during FFA MCS Operation TUI MOANA, conducted boardings and inspections of foreign and domestic fishing vessels that port in Pago Pago, American Samoa and in Guam. The results of the boardings were reported to the RFSC at FFA HQ in support of the MCS Operations mentioned above.
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement participated in the 40th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF) enforcement working group meeting in Pago Pago, American Samoa. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement briefed the working group on OLE's enforcement challenges in the Pacific and the need to strengthen working relationships with state, territorial and federal natural resource agencies. Attendees included CRTF members from the U.S. Territories including Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, CNMI and Guam.

Direct support to PICs for Observer Program and Port Monitoring Capacity Building Activities:

- The United States Department of State and NOAA Fisheries provided financial and logistical support for the FFA Observer Program under the Treaty on Fisheries between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America.
- NOAA Fisheries participated in and assisted with the facilitation of the 2018 Regional Observer Coordinator's Workshop and the joint FFA/SPC Port Monitoring Workshop to identify data needs and national port requirements.
- NOAA Fisheries provided support and training for observers employed through regional observer programs throughout the Pacific, including training to support ongoing biological tissue sampling throughout the Pacific.

Selected Direct Support to PICs on Projects of Interest:

- NOAA Fisheries provided approximately 20 free trainings in 2018 across Guam, CNMI, American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Wallis & Futuna, and Fiji, as part of a Coral Identification Training

Program. The purpose of the program is to increase capacity of coral reef monitoring efforts, enhance data on regional coral habitats, and promote effective conservation work across the region.

- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supports locally driven initiatives in fisheries and other sectors through the \$25 million Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM). USAID PACAM awarded a \$159,845 multi-year grant to support the protection of biodiversity and marine environments in Kimbe Bay, Papua New Guinea through outreach and education programs. The work of this program started in 2017 and is scheduled to end in 2019. The aim of the project is to improve understanding of and building capacity for biodiversity and conservation and sustainable use of coral reef resources in local communities. This award included youth outreach in local languages.
- NOAA Fisheries, through the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, provided \$250,000 to support a longline dock extension project in American Samoa. The dock extension project will contribute to the economy of American Samoa through support for both American Samoa based longline vessels and the local cannery.

Selected Development and Transfer of Fisheries Science and Technology:

- NOAA Fisheries Science Center provided assistance, training and upgrades for various IT and data collection systems for multiple fishery entities in American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI.
- NOAA Fisheries provided \$25,000 to support funding for science internships at the University of Guam for students of qualified projects from the Guam Island-wide Science Fair. This internship program will develop students' technical skills and knowledge of marine resources, and enhance their academic qualifications to pursue a career in fisheries science or related fields.
- NOAA Fisheries provided \$15,000 support an underwater surveying course through the American Samoa Community College. This training course will develop students' technical skills and knowledge of marine resources, enhance their academic qualifications, and increase their job competitiveness to pursue a career in fisheries science or related fields.

Selected Support for Data Collection, Reporting, Verification, Exchange, and Analysis:

- NOAA Fisheries provided \$216,000 to support exploratory research and data collection to determine the viability of developing a squid fishery in CNMI. The project will create an independent squid sampling design to collect data from the local fishery agencies and will train local fisherman in standard data collection methods.
- NOAA Fisheries provided \$165,000 to the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources to continue projects to assess and monitor fish catch in the U.S. EEZ

around American Samoa. This program will provide valuable fisheries data needed to develop, implement, and evaluate fishery-management plans for American Samoa.

- NOAA Fisheries provided \$15,000 to support funding for a Guam Pacific Fisheries Data Program to develop management and conservation plans for Guam's fisheries by monitoring and documenting transshipped species of fish that are offloaded by foreign longliners within Guam's commercial port
- NOAA Fisheries provided \$15,000 to CNMI's Division of Fish and Wildlife to fund data collection and entry for the management of fishery resources. This funding will assist in an effort to collect, process, and share important data during fishing tournaments for use in federal and local fisheries-management programs. This data will be the principal source of information for the analysis and management options for pelagic species.

Selected Capacity Building and Development, including Training and Related Efforts:

- USAID Oceans provided over \$120,000 to support the Women Leaders Forum (WLF) to build women's capacity in leading marine conservation and sustainability programs in six countries in the Coral Triangle Initiative, including Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands. This award was made as part of the \$20 million Ocean and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans) to promote collaboration among regional fisheries stakeholders.
- NOAA Fisheries provided \$165,000 to support the development and implementation of fisheries training for individuals in American Samoa, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on sustainable fishery development and management. The aim of the program is to improve fishing community resilience by enhancing the process and building capacity for local fisheries development, management, and science in the Pacific.
- NOAA Fisheries provided \$35,000 to the CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources to support continued nesting surveys, beach monitoring activities, and nearshore near-shore capture and tagging programs for green and hawksbill sea turtles populations throughout CNMI.
- NOAA Fisheries, through the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, provided \$250,000 to support a fishing demonstration and training program in CNMI. The goal of the program is to increase catch to meet expanding local demand through the enhancement of fishing skills and introduction of new fishing methods. The program will include training, demonstrations on fisheries techniques, fish handling, storage, and marketing.
- USAID PACAM awarded a \$1.6 million multi-year grant to improve economic resiliency and food security in the Republic of the Marshall Islands through aquaculture development. This program started in 2015 and ended in 2018, resulting in the manufacture of cost-efficient local fish feed that boosted local aquaculture, improved fish production through grow-out in open ocean cages, and trained the local workforce to establish small aquaculture farms to enhance livelihoods. This multi-year program in the

Marshall Islands is already producing enough fish to supply local markets and restaurants, including for export to Chinese Taipei and Hawaii.

- USAID PACAM awarded a \$262,450 multi-year grant to support women's participation in community decision making and marine resource management in coral reef and nearshore ecosystems in Papua New Guinea. The program started in 2017 and is scheduled to end in 2019.

Other Forms of Support for Pacific Island Fisheries:

- The U.S. government provided economic support funds to the FFA pursuant to an Economic Assistance Agreement related to the Treaty on Fisheries between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America. The funds are used by Pacific Island countries to support fisheries development projects and broader economic development in the region.
- The U.S. government provided \$30,000 for developing states through the WCPFC Special Requirements Fund for the purposes identified in Article 30 of the Convention.
- The U.S. government provided \$38,000 for in country support and assistance to relevant members, including developing state members, with existing E-reporting systems or E-reporting systems under development, to improve the adherence of reporting with WCPFC E-reporting standards.