

Select United States Assistance Provided to 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 the WCPFC and Small Island Developing States and territories during 2016. Additional support may have been provided for which data and information was not available at the time of preparation and submission of this report.

Selected Support for MCS and other Enforcement-Related Activities:

- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) conducted two separate comprehensive trainings on fisheries enforcement for the authorities from the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Both trainings focused on vessel boarding's, records management, interview techniques, investigative reports, and statement writing. Agency involvement included the Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority and the Marshall Islands Police Department Sea Patrol. NOAA OLE and U.S. Coast Guard officers presented a joint effort in one of the trainings, which also included at-sea boarding's of U.S. flagged purse seine vessels focusing on logbook/record reviews, and compliance with relevant U.S. laws and regulations and WCPFC CMMs. The second training session was conducted solely by NOAA OLE staff.
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement conducted capacity building training for Vanuatu Fisheries observers and other staff, as well as to Vanuatu's Marine Police. The training covered conducting interviews, gathering evidence, and vessel boarding related topics regarding illegal fishing.
- A NOAA Office of Law Enforcement VMS Enforcement Tech traveled to and was assigned on two (2) separate occasions to the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Center (RFSC) at the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Headquarters in Honiara, Solomon Islands. At the RFSC the OLE VMS Tech participated in and supported FFA's MCS Operations RAI BALANG, in April 2016, and the combined FFA MCS Operations TUI MOANA and ISLAND CHIEF in June 2016.
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, during the aforementioned FFA MCS Operations as well as FFA MCS Operation KURU KURU, conducted boarding's of foreign fishing vessels that came to port in Pago Pago, American Samoa and in Guam. The results of those boarding's were reported to the RFSC at FFA HQ in support of the MCS Operations listed above.
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement was identified as a subject matter expert for training and implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), which entered into force in June 2016. OLE subsequently created and executed PSMA training programs for territorial enforcement partners in Guam and American Samoa.
- U.S. Coast Guard cutters completed six deployments, totaling approximately 150 days, supporting shipriders from five of the WCPFC members that have related bilateral

agreements with the United States, including Cook Islands, Samoa, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, and Tuvalu. During these deployments, over sixty fishing vessel boardings were facilitated.

- U.S. Navy ships, with embarked U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement detachments, supported shipriders from six of the countries that have related bilateral agreements with the United States. These countries included the Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Palau, and Vanuatu. During these deployments, nearly fifty fishing vessel boardings were facilitated.
- The U.S. Coast Guard embarked a fisheries officer from the Cook Islands for an officer exchange while the cutter was patrolling the U.S. EEZ in vicinity of the main Hawaiian Islands.
- The U.S. Coast Guard International Training Division conducted two-week exportable boarding officer training in the Federated States of Micronesia with funding support from Australia's International Policy Division.
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and the U.S. Coast Guard supported advanced boarding training, including investigative techniques, in the Republic of Marshall Islands.
- 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 nine PICs as of the beginning of 2016: the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu. The United States signed a shiprider agreement with Vanuatu in late 2016 – which was the tenth U.S. shiprider agreement with Pacific Island countries – and is currently pursuing a new shiprider agreement with Fiji.

Direct support to PICs for Observer Program Capacity Building Activities:

- NOAA Fisheries provided training for recruits from the Solomon Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia on the skills and knowledge necessary to participate as a Tuna Transshipment Observer (TTO).
- NOAA Fisheries provided training at the SPC offices in Noumea to develop the skills of several observer trainers from many national programs. Ten observer program staff/trainers were in attendance, including trainers from the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands.

Selected Direct Support to PICs on Projects of Interest:

- The U.S. Department of the Interior announced over \$1 million in grant assistance under the Coral Reef Initiative to address the impacts of climate change and other threats to

coral reefs in the U.S. territories and freely associated states, including the Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands.

- NOAA Fisheries provided funding and support for a community-based marine capture-mark-recapture program for sea turtles to assess mixed stock foraging dynamics and build conservation management capacity in Fiji. The program will conduct studies on key Fijian foraging grounds during the nesting and non-nesting seasons, with the use of satellite-tracking data and flipper-tagging data, in part to examine potential links between green sea turtle stocks originating from American Samoa and the foraging grounds of Fiji.

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 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- NOAA Fisheries provided \$15,000 to support funding for Pacific Islander undergraduate students in fisheries science and other related fields at the American Samoa Community College to participate in an underwater-surveying course covering Quantitative Underwater Ecological Surveying Techniques. This 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.

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

- NOAA Fisheries provided almost \$250,000 to support the development of fish import and export data collection and monitoring systems in Guam and CNMI. This project will improve the quality and quantity of fishery information from U.S. Territories that can be used for establishing, enhancing, and monitoring Annual Catch Limits and ecosystem based information for fisheries management in Guam and CNMI.
- NOAA Fisheries provided almost \$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.
- NOAA Fisheries provided over \$160,000 to support funding for an American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources project to assess and monitor fish catch in the U.S. EEZ around American Samoa. This program will provide the fisheries information needed to develop, implement, and evaluate fishery-management plans for American Samoa.

- NOAA Fisheries provided almost \$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.

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

- The United States provided over \$500,000 to the Partnership for Advanced Marine and Environmental Science Training for Pacific Islanders, divided between projects in FSM, RMI, and Palau.
- The United States awarded a \$200,000 grant to the Coral Reef Alliance for marine protected area management capacity building in Fiji, and a \$245,000 grant to the Wildlife Conservation Society for marine protected area management capacity building in Papua New Guinea.
- NOAA Fisheries provided \$200,000 to support funding nesting surveys, beach monitoring activities, stranding programs, and educational outreach through conservation-education and public awareness to provide a strong foundation for science-based conservation and management of sea turtle populations throughout Guam, American Samoa, and CNMI.
- NOAA Fisheries provided almost \$190,000 to support a project to improve and expand fisheries and economic opportunities in the Federated States of Micronesia. This project will focus on promoting sustainable fishing practices and expanding marketing opportunities.
- NOAA Fisheries provided almost \$300,000 to support a project which will collect and integrate data on the capacity of fishing communities to address and adapt to potential climate change impacts on local economies and fisheries resources in the Federated States of Micronesia. This project will be one of the first examples of how to integrate social and ecological data to support the resilience of fisheries and fishing communities in Micronesia.