

PROCEEDINGS:
The 2nd Micronesia MPA Compliance and Enforcement
Training Workshop:
Surveillance and Enforcement in Remote Coral Reef
Settings

Colonia, Yap State, FSM
June 19-25, 2011

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OVERVIEW

The 2nd *Micronesia MPA Compliance and Enforcement Training Workshop* allowed resource management practitioners from across the region to share ideas, approaches, and experiences related to compliance, surveillance, and enforcement of remote coral reef Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Held in Colonia, Yap, FSM, from June 19-25, 2011 and hosted by the Yap Community Action Program (YapCAP) and the Ngulu Atoll community, the training workshop provided an opportunity for those dealing with remote reef management issues to learn new skills, consult with each other and experts, and plan ways to improve the management of these important areas. With the purpose of informing, building consensus, and strategizing on methods of resource owners, MPA managers, enforcement experts, and technology specialists joined together to share lessons and observations, provide guidance and advice, gain topic-specific training, and begin devising site-specific plans for MPA surveillance and enforcement.

Participants

The Workshop was hosted by the Yap Community Action Program (YapCAP) and the Ngulu Atoll Marine Managed Area Program. Attendees included representatives from across Palau and Ngulu Atoll, Yap. Outside advisors included representatives from the FSM National Maritime Enforcement, the Guam Department of Agriculture Division of Wildlife Resources of Guam, the US Coast Guard, and OneReef. [For full list of attendees see *Participant List*.]

Event Summary

Day 1: Opening session, participant's expectations, workshop objectives, and discussion of general topics, issues and concerns for protecting MPAs. Responses showcased the varied range of existing programs' development; some wanted to learn how to arrest and apprehend violators of MPA laws, while others wanted to simply learn how to begin the process of planning for and establishing a surveillance and enforcement system. Others, still, were interested in bridging efforts between communities and governments. [For full list of topics, issues and concerns for the day, see the "Feedback" section in *Minutes* in the Notes.]

Speaker: **Sgt Mark Aguon**, Div. of Wildlife Resources, Guam, "Marine Law Enforcement 101: A Review of Key Training for 1st MPA Enforcement Workshop held in Palau"

Speaker: **Cpt David Marar**, FSM National Maritime Enforcement, “FSM Maritime Enforcement: Program and Experiences”

Speaker: **Cpt Dana Rupprecht**, US Coast Guard, Guam, “The Role of the US Coast Guard in FSM and Palau”

Speakers: **COs Stalin Stanley, Erwin Moses, and Hercules Emilio** of Hatohobei State, Palau, “Surveillance and Enforcement at Helen Reef Conservation Area, Palau”

Speaker: **CO Stanley Magholyahlor**, Koror State, Palau “Koror State Government Department of Conservation & Law Enforcement and the Ngemelis Action Plan”

[For full list of speaking points see “Day 1” in *Minutes*.]

Day 2:

Speaker: **Laura Ierago**, Merir, Sonsorol State, Palau, “History of protection efforts and challenges in Sonsorol, Palau.” Discussed legislative initiatives, community efforts, and opportunities for support and cooperation.

Speaker: **Hadley Renguul**, Northern Lagoon Management program, Ngarchelong State, Outline of existing laws in Ngarchelong and breakdown of Program by staff and budget. Discussed current patrolling efforts, goals and challenges. Discussed “what works” for working with communities, touching on “traditional vs. democratic” approaches.

Speaker: **Hilton Kendall**, Rongelap Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands, gave overview of his municipality; history from 1954 nuclear fallout impact to present; goals for a future, populated area and management of the municipalities three atolls.

[For full list of speaking points see “Day 1” in *Minutes*.]

Exercise: Small group break-out discussion of issues/problems related to coral reef management in remote locations. Participants broke into 3 groups for discussion and presented back to larger group.

Day 3:

Participants undertook a field trip to Ngulu Atoll for a site visit to a remote radar installation. The project was being undertaken by the local community with the assistance of partner organization, Yap CAP. During the site visit participants took a tour of the island and met with local residents to discuss their motives and interest in establishing an MPA at Ngulu, some of their management goals and objectives, and intentions in installing the radar tower on the island. Then, participants visited the radar facility and communications room adjacent to the radar tower to view and operate the equipment. Demonstrations were provided on: 1) how the solar panels are setup and operated and 2) the radar in operation. The exchange visit presented the opportunity to test the range and sensitivity of the radar in detecting vessels in the area using the ship they arrived on, and documents some of the installations benefits and limitations.

Day 4:

Returning from the field trip to Ngulu Atoll, participants reconvened in small groups to discuss a process for enforcement planning and then continued with the drafting of site-specific Enforcement Plans. Each team had a chance to develop initial ideas on their own, followed by consultation with resource persons to explain and refine some of their ideas, followed by a discussion of how to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for their respective programs.

Day 5:

For the last day of the workshop, small group breakouts resumed working on their draft enforcement plans with the assistance of resource persons. After, small groups presented back and discussed the following topics:

- Findings of working with the enforcement planning process and draft guide
- How the development of Standard Operating Procedures fit into their enforcement plan and site-specific training needs
- How best to assess the status and impact of enforcement programs
- Current training needs, opportunities, and next steps

After the completion of the workshop, participants took a tour of Yap Island and visited community sites to observe some of the community-based management strategies currently being undertaken. Especially relevant to the topic of surveillance and enforcement, was the visit to the Kaday and Okaw communities where they had established a floating ranger station within the Nimpal Channel conservation area. The floating platform there had been built to serve as a surveillance station for members of the local communities to monitor activity within the conservation area and around adjacent reef areas. It was discussed how community members organized teams and shifts to watch over their managed area. This concept was well received by many of the workshop participants, especially by those from Palau and Guam, who expressed an eagerness to pilot some of the same ideas for their marine areas back home. Following the site visits there was a dinner reception to thank all of the participants and allow for members of the Ngulu community to describe and discuss aspects of their marine resource management program.

Findings

The workshop participants learned that there was an immense value in being able to discuss real, specific situations regarding enforcement of marine laws in remote locations face-to-face with peers, resource persons, and professional law enforcement officers. In no other setting in the region has this topic been previously described and deliberated at such a level of detail. It was noted that establishing effective enforcement of marine laws in remote locations of the Pacific is most often overlooked and/or disregarded, because it is probably some of the most logistically challenging and difficult to sustain – however, as identified, can lead to significant and unique benefits in terms of coral reef conservation in the region. Small group discussion lead to many findings and recommendations regarding what was possible and what could be

done amongst the group. Many technological tools and solutions were explored and suggested as ways to begin to address some of the problems and challenges faced, as well as the recommendations on the importance of capacity building and training of staff, sufficient planning, and the need for adequate funding and technical support. While some of these approaches are appropriate and technically sound for island settings, many challenges related to the difficulty of setting up, operating and maintaining of technology were documented. Additionally, through site visit, demonstrations, and continuing discussions, new opportunities for implementation, training, partnering and networking were identified and next steps planned.

Workshop travel and other support was provided by the US-based National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Micronesia Conservation Trust, and the Pacific Island Managed and Protected Area Community.

Appendix 1. WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

2nd Micronesia MPA Compliance and Enforcement Workshop

Location: Colonia, Yap, Federated States of Micronesia

Dates: June 19-25, 2011

Hosts: Yap Community Action Program (YapCAP) and the Ngulu Atoll Marine Managed Area Program

Unauthorized fishing at hard to observe reef areas is a common problem to coral reefs and the marine resources they support. Poachers rely on a lack of surveillance and enforcement in remote, unobservable areas to access resources with minimal chances of being observed and apprehended. Intending poachers usually target valuable marine species or use destructive or unsustainable fishing practices that are potentially harmful to coral reefs and their resources. Numerous distant reef areas and atolls in the Pacific Region have similar management problems as those described above.

A training workshop is being planned to address some of these issues and build further capacity for compliance, enforcement and surveillance in the region. The purpose of this workshop is to bring together resource owners, MPA managers, enforcement experts, and technology specialists to share lessons learned in MPA surveillance and enforcement, provide guidance and advice to each other, gain training in specific topics, and to initiate site-specific surveillance and enforcement plans

Workshop activities include:

- A mini-course in MPA enforcement provided by experienced Marine Law Enforcement Officers to provide introductory or refresher training in enforcement skills (including officer safety, appropriate use of force, citation procedures, record keeping, etc.)
- Sessions by specialists to introduce participants and provide guidance on the latest available surveillance technology being used at MPA sites in the region
- Sharing and advice from MPA managers and resource owners on enforcement efforts based on their personal experience

The workshop will conclude with participants assisting each other in developing interim or reviewing existing compliance, surveillance and enforcement plans to further implement at their home sites.

Workshop travel and other support provided by the US-based National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Micronesia Conservation Trust, and NOAA's Pacific Island Marine Protected Area Community.

Appendix 2. PARTICIPANT LIST

Yap Enforcement Workshop Participant List
Micronesia Remote Reef Enforcement Workshop
Yap, FSM
June 19-25, 2011

1. Hilton Kendall, Rongelap Atoll, RMI
2. Stalin Nilatz Stanley, Hatohobei State, Palau
3. Erwin Moses, Hatohobei State, Palau
4. Hercules Emilio, Hatohobei State, Palau
5. Laura Ierago, Sonsorol State, Palau
6. Hadley Renguul, Ngerchelong State, Palau
7. Lorzeno Ngiramolau, Ngerchelong State, Palau
8. Stanley Magholyahlor, Koror State, Palau
9. Alvin Sogaw, Ngulu Atoll, Yap
10. Henry Lyerang, Ngulu Atoll, Yap
11. John Pekalpal, Ngulu Atoll, Yap
12. Peter Falruw, Ngulu Atoll, Yap
13. Lawrence Tachee, Ngulu Atoll, Yap
14. Charles Sogon, Ngulu Atoll, Yap
15. Dominic Tiliwebug, Ngulu Atoll, Yap
16. Mario Mangar, Ngulu Atoll, Yap
17. Isaac Hthiy, Ngulu Atoll, Yap
18. Vanessa Fread, YapCAP, YAP
19. Lorenti Sariekmal, YapCAP, YAP
20. Javez Mooteb, YapCAP, YAP
21. Cpt David Marar, FSM National Maritime Enforcement Wing, Pohnpei, FSM
22. Sgt Mark Aguon, Department of Agriculture, Division of Wildlife Resources, Guam
23. Cpt Dana Rupprecht, US Coast Guard, Guam
24. Mike Guilbeaux, Honolulu, Hawaii
25. Chris LaFranchi, OneReef, Santa Cruz, California

Appendix 3. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND AGENDA

2nd MICRONESIA MPA COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT WORKSHOP
Yap, JUNE 20-25, 2011

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES and DRAFT TIMELINE AND AGENDA

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

- 1) **Share and exchange knowledge and experience** with others in Micronesia and the wider Pacific on approaches to Marine Protected Area compliance and enforcement in remote settings, along with common success and challenges;
- 2) Learn about **important surveillance, compliance and enforcement strategies, tools, technologies, opportunities and skills**, and;
- 3) Assist practitioners, sites, and programs in developing or refining **Compliance and Enforcement Plans** and **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** in order to achieve site compliance and enforcement goals.

DRAFT WORKSHOP TIMELINE AND AGENDA:

Date	Day	Time	Session	Expected Results/Outputs	Comments/Detail
18-JUN	SAT		Participants traveling to Yap depart Guam		
19-JUN	SUN	00:10	Participants Traveling from or through Guam Arrive Yap	Hilton, Mark, Dana arrive Yap	
		03:50	Palau Participants Arrive Yap	Laura, Hadley, Lorenzo, Stalin, Hercules, Erwin, Stanley arrive Yap	
		15:00 – 17:00	Optional Session on Introduction to Workshop agenda: workshop purpose, objectives, and outcomes. *Optional: Primarily for Maritime Enforcement staff, yet open to any interested participants.		
		14:00 – 14:30	Refreshments (30min)		
		14:30 – 15:30	Discussion of early, obvious opportunities and constraints in addressing the problem of unauthorized pelagic fisheries incursions in marine protected and/or coral reef areas.		
		18:00 – ?	Restaurant Tables Reserved Tables for all. Location TBD.		
20-JUN	MON	06:30 – 07:30	Optional: Morning Exercise		
		8:30 – 10:00	Workshop opening, welcome and introductions, review of workshop agenda, workshop Expectations and Objectives, and logistics.	Confirmed Workshop Objectives List of Expectations Noted Expected Outcomes	
		10:00	Refreshments (30 min)		
		10:30 – 12noon	Background on compliance and enforcement in the region, especially at remote locations, review of pervious Palau workshop. Discussion of key issues and solutions that seem practical.		

		12noon	Lunch (1hr)		
		13:00 – 14:30	Site Presentations and Sharing: Session 1 (Guam DAWR, USCG, FSM Nat Police, Helen Reef) Followed by question/answer discussion.	Sharing and exchange of approaches, successes and challenges.	DAWR, FSM Patrol Boat, USCG
		14:30	Refreshments (30 min)		
		15:00 – 16:30	Site Presentations and Sharing: Session 2: (Merir, Ngarchelong, Koror, Rongelap). Followed by question/answer discussion.	Sharing and exchange of approaches, successes and challenges (continued).	Helen Reef, Koror
		14:30 – 18:30	Break (2hr)		
		18:30 – Closing time	Opening Reception Dinner, Marina Restaurant (Ngulu Presentation)		
21-JUN	TUE	06:30 – 07:30	Optional: Morning Exercise		
		08:30 – 10:00	Review of Previous Day Daily Report Writing Assignment Discussion: Making the “Coast Watch” model work in remote settings: from detection, observation, documentation, reporting, case development, to prosecution”		Presentations from Merir, Ngarchelong, and Rongelap
		10:00	Refreshments (30 min)		
		10:30 – 12noon	Discussion: using the “Coast Watch” model and other actions to improve inter-agency cooperation		
		12noon	Lunch		
		13:00 – 14:30	Enforcement Training Needs and Opportunities		Problems or Issues Small Group Break out and Presentation back Discussion
		14:30	Refreshments (30 min)		
		15:00 – 16:00	OPEN/OPTIONAL: Any additional topics relative to USCG and partner agencies related to Maritime Security, Illegal Unauthorized and Unreported Fishing, and Marine Conservation in the region.		
		17:00	Depart for Ngulu Atoll		
22-JUN	WED	02:35am	Dana departs for Guam		
		AM	Arrive Ngulu Atoll		
		09:00 – 12noon	Daily Report Writing Assignment Radar and PV System Demonstration		
		12noon	Lunch		
		13:00 – 14:30	Scenario Exercise		
		15:00 – 16:30	Scenario Exercise Conclusion and Debrief		
		17:00	Depart for Yap		
23-JUN	THU	12noon	Lunch		

		13:00 – 14:30	Site Enforcement Plans: Review and Continuation		Problems and Issues: Group Discussion and Suggestions
		14:30	Refreshments (30 min)		
		15:00 – 16:30	Site Enforcement Plans: Cont.	Revised Draft Enforcement Plans for Participating Sites	Site Enforcement Plans: Review and Continuation
24-JUN	FRI	06:30 – 07:30	Optional: Morning Exercise		
		08:30 – 10:00	Daily Report Writing Assignment Site SOPs: review and discussion	Revised SOP for sites and programs	Site Enforcement Plans: Cont.
		10:00	Refreshments (30 min)		
		10:30 – 12noon	Training Needs and Opportunities	Training Plans for sites and programs; Opportunities identified	Training Needs and Opportunities
		12noon	Lunch		
		13:00 – 14:30	Next Steps and Activity Planning	Action Plan for Network and Participants; proposal concepts identified	Next Steps and Activity Planning
		14:30	Refreshments (30 min)		
		15:00 – 16:30	Next Steps and Activity Planning (cont.)	proposal concepts fleshed-out	Evaluation
25-JUN	SAT	6:30 – 7:30	Optional: Morning Exercise		
			FREE DAY – Additional Activities TBD		
		18:30	Closing Dinner, Marina Restaurant		
26-JUN	SUN	00:55 am	Participants depart for Palau	Laura, Hadley, Lorenzo, Stalin, Hercules, Erwin, Stanley	
		04:30 am	Participants depart for Guam	Mark, David, and Hilton	

Appendix 4. PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

**Expectations listed by participants at the beginning of the Yap Enforcement Workshop
Second Micronesia MPA compliance and Enforcement Workshop
Colonia, Yap; June 19-25, 2011**

Funding

- 1) Help locating funding
- 2) Want to achieve source of funds, partners, to strengthen our management and enforcement

Program Planning

- 3) To better understand priorities, duration, sequencing and phasing when developing programs such as this.
- 4) To select most relevant approaches for our site, and concentrate and focus in on those
- 5) Learn how to sustain and improve management efforts
- 6) How to help communities protect their resources

Safety / Approaching Violators:

- 7) What I need the most is to ask sergeant mark how to we can learn how to protect ourselves when there is a poaching ship there
- 8) I want to learn how to be safe from violators
- 9) I want to learn how to approach poachers

Identifying Challenges / Solutions

- 10) Identify challenges to each island/atoll

Training

- 11) Identify what training or materials are needed to combat challenges for various areas/islands/atolls
- 12) I would like you to let us join more trainings or workshops
- 13) Identify program shortcomings/weaknesses to help develop training and other plans to address them
- 14) More training to learn how to protect our MPAs and marine resources

Partnerships/Networking

- 15) See if we can tie current regional operations and training evolutions to these needs (eg linking up groups w our current contacts/partners on-island)
- 16) Acquaint with others so that we will be able to work with each other as a group
- 17) Establish Friendships, partnerships with participants
- 18) Start Developing a strategy on how national, regional and enforcement organizations can better work together to assist communities with resource management in Yap and the region with their enforcement programs

Deputation:

- 19) Assistance with deputation
- 20) I want to be deputized

Share and Learn from other sites:

- 21) We want new methods of enforcement learned from the other sites
- 22) We want to exchange ideas and learn from each other on how to improve our enforcement program
- 23) Share MPA experiences for those that have worked and those that have not
- 24) Explore and brainstorm on ideas that are relevant to conservation management
- 25) Share ideas and experiences in order to identify common problems so that we can better address them
- 26) To share ideas from each different MPA/program or conservation sites on what and how they do their work
- 27) Learn about MPA policies and regulations from other MPA sites
- 28) I want us to share about our work and how to better manage our resources or MPAs

Deterrence

- 29) I want to learn about the ways to provide an effective deterrent for illegal fishermen

Technologies

- 30) Learn about technologies that can help with surveillance
- 31) Learn our weakness and help improve “communication”

Enforcement Plans

- 32) Would like assistance on completing enforcement plans
- 33) Develop Enforcement Action Plans
- 34) To set up surveillance within the conservation area boundary

Application/Implementation

- 35) I want to apply what I will learn from this workshop when we work in our area

SOPs

- 36) To have some general ideas how to develop SOPs

Remote specific/appropriate techniques and/or approaches

- 37) At the end of the workshop have some ideas on appropriate enforcement techniques for the remote islands
- 38) What works and what doesn't in different sites

Fitness/Readiness

- 39) Attend all morning PTs hopefully shedding some lbs
- 40) To be prepared to deal with those relevant issues with regards to MPAs

Site Visit

- 41) Learn from and enjoy the site visit to Ngulu

Appendix 5. WORKSHOP MINUTES

Second Micronesia MPA compliance and Enforcement Workshop
Colonia, Yap
June 19-25, 2011

Monday, Day 1

WELCOMING, OPENING TALKS, REVIEW, OF WORKSHOPS OBJECTIVES

Opening by, YapCAP Executive Director and Board Member

- Relation to Coral reef protection
- Continuation of food security issues
- Yap CAP function as community engagement and organizer

Mike G.

- Come to workshop to share experiences and ideas
- Try to focus on needs and issues of enforcement and surveillance at remote locations
- Many have tried local solutions to address the problem of foreign fishing. ... that can be destructive, common occurrence in some locations, over last decade have seen rise in incidence of unauthorized take of marine resources
- Now here to think about new things, new tech, ways of collaboration that will help address this problem, some sites have lots of experience, some are just starting, some only considering, so sharing is the objective here
- We will also be discussing training opportunities, what agencies are doing, including the USCG and FSM patrol boat, etc. that might help communities received assistance and become more proactive in protecting their reefs.

INTRODUCTION of PARTICIPANTS

- Vanessa of Yap CAP
- David Mara: FSM National, Div of marine surveillance, 25 years, captain for 13 years, have schedule for visiting FSM islands, want to establish coast watch program
- Isaac from Ngulu
- Dana Rupert: Sector Guam, US Coast Guard, commanding officer of Washington, patrol boat
- Hilton: RMI representative, starting conservation program
- Lorenti: working with YapCAP
- Lorenzo: have a large conservation area, now all northern reefs protected under management plan, study why we make conservation, why? Here to hear your part

- Hadely: Also from Northern reefs, Palau, do not have same issues of unauthorized fishing pressure
- Javez Marine Tech, Yap CAP: First time to such a workshop, want to help Ngulu, gain experience
- Helen Reef crew, Hercules, Irwin, Stanly from Koror State conservation and law enforcement, I'm from Ulithi, first time to attend such a workshop, want to share and hear from all of you, learn something
- Ngulu team: John, etc., could not hear all names!
- Laura, From Merrir, no MPA yet, still in infancy stage, talking about management plan, working on a draft to manage our resources, happy to be part of this group
- Stalin Stanley, conservation officer at Helen: here to learn more (from Mark, etc.) apply back at my place, also from Ulithi
- Mark, Guam, for 20 years, been doing this workshop with NOAA PIMPAC (started out) at CNMI in Rota, found by Mike. ... Eager to share experience, in Guam have a lot of violators, difficult to enforce, conflicts with modern day life, hard to incorporate with traditional aspects of this. ... Take pride in what you still have, difficult to get it back when it's gone! Training in Palau was eye-opener for students and me, safety and otherwise, being in law enforcement more about educational outreach, not about enforcement, get community to back up, being a deterrent very important!
- Leong, Ngulu management team, started in 2005, long project, lots of meetings, have completed a management plan. With assistance from people from outside, thankful for that, want to continue learning...
- John M: happy to see all come together, want to help in any possible

Mike

Dealing with foreign fishing incursions is a relatively new development in the islands and for islanders. In dealing with increase of foreigner fishing boats coming into their waters, need the resources and authority to address the problem that is damaging to our resources and well being... We want this to be the start of a journey, special opportunity for us to identify what we can DO, together, to take the next steps, we are group of friends here at this training workshop, keep the meeting informal, working in small groups, talking and thinking, workshop is for YOU, let's review agenda and please tell me if we're on the right track. As we learned at the Palau workshop, it is best if we can: "identify, adapt and overcome!"

Mike: read through objectives and addenda to get feedback from participants:

Participants were then asked about some of their previous exchange experiences:

- Learn about strategies, tools, tech, skills, etc.
- Assist to develop compliance and enforcement plans, plus SOP

Mark: the SOP is the bible for your work, followed by all, used to assess performance of all officers and even enforcement heads, also needed if cases reach a courtroom, to make legal action defensible.

Short exercise administered by Mike: write on post-it the key things you want to learn, do, achieve ... or share, etc. particular issues related to enforcement, training, etc. we can use this as feedback to see that we're meeting your needs. Please write down your expectations for this workshop.

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK ON WORKSHOP EXPECTATIONS (summarized list included above):

- Learn from different places
- Better understanding of the challenges
- Develop strategy better assist communities and government, regional organizations.
- Learn how best to do it, what is feasible
- Achieve, solidify strategy and move forward
- Set goals and figure out how to work together to achieve them
- Group to work together, figure out how to get deputized,
- Identify training methods, ties with current Coast Guard operations
- Work with community issues
- Learn how to arrest and enforce on MPAs,
- Want to BEGIN! (the process)
- Find way to find the resources we need!
- What are we going to DO next,
- Our job can be dangerous, want to learn how to operate safely without harm coming to us when we enforce
- How to get the authority we need?!
- How to deal with violators
- Establish friendships with all participants
- Be able to learn from the other sides, policies, regulations that could be included in management plans,
- Attend all physical exercises led by Sergeant Mark!
- Knowledge from training, share with partners back home
- Provide assistance without giving answers
- Hear what have people done since the last training (where appropriate)
- Identify shortcoming of existing operations
- Identify short-term plans
- Know who we can host and train!
- Know how we can monitor outcomes of training!
- Know where to focus our energy
- Learn from experience of the group
- Improve idea of how to sustain management effort
- Share ideas and experience, flesh out common and uncommon problems, and figure out where to go from here
- Outcome: smart plan! New path as a group toward successful resource management
- Visit Ngulu Atoll!
- Know how we will tie all these things together, how to share issues and problems with our communities and governments
- Adapt and overcome
- Coast watch model: eyes and ears out to watch for coastal violations,

- Other actions that can help inter-agency cooperation
- Scenario exercises: illustrative and big hit during Palau training
- Review site enforcement plans

Introductory Presentation: History and State of Remote Reef Management and Surveillance in Micronesia

Discussion of vessel monitoring systems, such as VMS, noting the limitations of some of the existing systems and that they may not be helpful under some circumstances, e.g., Helen Reef, which is affected by unauthorized fishing by Pilipino and Indonesian vessels that do not operate VMS transmissions.

Recounted history of development of enforcement capacity at remote locations.

Talked about example on Tubataha in the Philippines, inspiration for work at Helen Reef, now being replicated at Ngulu. Relate enforcement to big conservation efforts like Micronesia Challenge (MC); need good enforcement in place at sites to meet MC goals.

Convergence of themes: pelagic fishing impacting local fishing and coral reef ecosystems; interest of local jurisdictions to protect reefs. Some efforts have worked well, some haven't. One of our goals here is to explore and share some of these experiences so that we can learn from each other and gain ideas about what might assist or help in improving surveillance and enforcement in our particular areas.

Speaker 1, Sgt Mark Aguon reviewed 1st MPA Enforcement Training Workshop in Palau:

Condensed all subjects below into one week training workshop:

- Basic enforcement skills
- Officer survival
- ID key SOP
- Improve relations between key community members and officers
- Geared toward making your case
- Issuing citations
- Why important for marine management
- Developing and testing the SOP
- Creating individual sops for different places
- Must know why MPAs are needed! Preserve stock needed for reproduction
- Stop and frisk: Distinguish between stop and frisk and arrest
- Stationhouse detention and fingerprinting
- Case briefs
- Role of reasonable suspicion
- Arrest procedures
- Determining probable cause
- Evidence collection and processing
- Transportation documentation, who cuffs whom, etc.

- Issuing citations
- Education and outreach
- Public perception
- Handle delicate situations
- Dealing with bribes, etc.
- Public outreach, e.g., class presentations, press releases

Mark: I tend to relieve stress with jokes, but super serious when job calls

Speaker 2, Cpt David Marar, FSM national police, maritime wing

- 3 million km² water vs. 7,000 km² land!
- 54 staff \$1million annual budget
- Mission, law enforcement, rescue
- Sea rider program; FSM police officer on board US CG
- Coast watch program, provide supporting equipment
- Air support, us cg and navy, royal NZ too
- Apprehensions: misreporting and targeting sharks, bribery, unauthorized zones, etc.
- Illegal fishing spotted by locals, reported, vessel apprehended
- Worthless vessel, fishermen sent back to China
- Idea: purchase time series of space-borne images, use to characterize vessel use patterns, inform enforcement and management plan

Speaker 3: Dana Rupprecht, USCG, Guam

- US Coast Guard; Captain of the US Washington, 110 feet
- Area of responsibility includes FSM and Palau
- No aircraft based in Guam
- Missions, various: Safety, security, national defense, protection of natural resources, maritime mobility
- Assets:
 - Washington, Sequoia (Cutter), Sector Guam, rescue sub center
 - Station Apra Harbor, all small boats in Guam
 - C130 based in Honolulu, partnership with navel helicopter squad on Guam
- Multitude of networking and partnerships, e.g. gov of Guam, CNMI, FSM, Palau
- Plus US Marshall and other Fed agencies
- Out motto is "Semper paratus"- always ready
- Exercise sea guardian every year

International training program - US Dept of State to come out and do training

Example: resident training and deployable teams. (See [U.S. Coast Guard. International Training Handbook. Ed. 13](#) for additional information.)

Speaker 4: Hercules, Stalin, and Erwin; Helen Reef

- Helen Reef is traditionally owned by all of the Tobian community, represented today by Hatohobei State and relied upon the rich populations of giant clams, trochus, sea cucumbers, turtles, and large reef fish at Helen Reef.
- Helen Reef has been the target of unsustainable fishing practices, both legal and illegal, in search of valuable marine commodities in recent decades.
- Pillaged by numerous fishermen from countries nearby, such as the Philippines and Indonesia, and distant countries, such Taiwan and Korea, Helen Reef has been impacted by unsustainable local harvesting, leaving some of the Atoll's key resources and habitats exploited or over harvested.
- The community realized the need to better manage and protect the reef and introduced some training programs and new modern technology in order to realize their conservation goals.
- With few financial or programmatic resources to effectively deal with illegal plundering from quick-moving business ventures, improving surveillance and enforcement was the top priority.
- The first attempt by Hatohobei State to deter and enforce against poaching was the year round placement of community members and surveillance staff on Helen Island.
- Despite more people living on the atoll improved communication, insufficient funding hampered the response to calls from Helen Reef, and although documented, poaching continued.
- While the Palau National Patrol Boat included Helen Reef on its monitoring cycle, patrols occur infrequently and are not sufficient to protect the reef from foreign poachers.
- At the time, staff that were stationed at Helen Reef had no enforcement authority, adequate training, or sufficient defense to protect themselves in possibly dangerous situations that would sometime arise.
- Since then we have worked with partners to plan, purchase necessary equipment, receive training and install infrastructure on the island to address these problems.
- At this time we installed a commercial radar to help detect foreign fishing boats and to help save fuel on surveillance patrols by boat.
- Since 2004 with the full program in operation, our year-round enforcement presence has achieved almost complete protection of Helen Reef. Only a handful of illegal fishing instances have occurred and legal overharvest has been curtailed.
- Currently, the site has a management plan that allows limited subsistence level fishing in about 30% of the reef – the rest is a no-take zone protected from all harvesting.
- The success that the Helen Reef project has achieved is a result of the high level of community involvement, supporting partnerships, and funding the project has received. But there still a lot of needs, including ongoing training, management improvement, better resource and programmatic monitoring, and working for sustainable financing.
- Through the collective efforts of the community and its partners, the site has gone from a condition of ongoing resource depletion and degradation, to recovery and ongoing conservation.

Speaker 5: Stanley, Koror State, Palau

- Department Background, History
 - Map of Rock Islands Southern Lagoon
- Size & Geographical Information
Site as a multiple-use area
Permits required
- Issues & Challenges
 - New Ngemelis Action Plan to develop additional infrastructure to facilitate enforcement at remote southern boundary of Koror State
 - Other Ongoing & Pending Projects

Tuesday, Day 2:

Feedback from previous day:

Laura: time well spent, enjoyed being informed by yesterday's talks

Lorenzo: we do not need radar in the Rock Islands, binoculars do the job

Dana: even though we have a wide variety of challenges, we are doing well by working with what we have ... solving your own problems by learning as we go, good to see, encouraging

Isaac: learned from patrol boats about general operations, e.g., movements and patrols, etc.

Important/key topics identified from previous day included:

- Importance of community engagement
- Need for security and officer safety
- Patrolling large areas with few assets
- Use of small boats
- Tech assistance
- Funding
- Enforcement skills
- Training, capacity
- Supplies, e.g., radios
- Enforcement under difficult situation, e.g., involving leaders or relatives

Speaker 6: Laura, Merrir, Sonsorol State, Palau

- 1.5 x1 mile, Small island with fringing reef without channels
- In the past had 1,100 people, now 1
 - Typhoon 1905 devastating for the people, many relocated from Merir to Koror, Palau;
- Known for its Green turtle nesting
 - 1992 REA, abundant marine life
 - Overharvesting by locals of sensitive species

- Sometimes foreign boats come around looking for things to harvest...
- Usual remote location issues
- Evidence of shoreline erosion, probably due to sea level rise
- Challenges: many!
 - No champion
 - Financing, leadership, transportation, etc.
- Turtle monitoring program initiated in 2003
- Seasonal harvest of coconut crab
- Proposed a new Conservation zone at southern end of island
- All conservation efforts initiated without legislative initiative
- Del Andrew introduced concept of management to leaders, secured blessing
- Management planning team est. 2009
- Merrir first, then other islands, Fanna, Pulo Anna and Sonsorol
- Conducted series of community meetings and socio-economic surveys
- Compiled all available info and data, to inform plan
- Legislation: draft resolution? for Sonsorol State to adopt, with management? authority, eligibility for PAN
- Wish list:
 - enough funds for REA for Merrir marine managed area to operate
 - Scholarship, greater awareness in law enforcement, exchange program involving regional MPA and conservation sites
 - Some support received from MCT
 - Additional help from Del. Wayne Andrew and Mike Guilbeaux
- Short-term threats:
 - Land erosion, swamp and mangroves, soil erosion near mangrove areas, Flat Island
 - Poaching
- Thinking that some people might move back if basic management (and infrastructure?) in place?

Speaker 7: Hadley, Northern Lagoon Management program, Ngarchelong State, Palau

- Mengallakl declaration, 2008, state assembly resolution
- No take areas, MPA and larger management area
- Stated management goal statement, in relation to subsistence, small commercial fishery, and non-extractive tourism
- A man objective is to reduce illegal activities within MMA to negligible levels
- Four field staff, \$80k annual budget, got half this year
- Observation from elevated lighthouse, stationary binoculars
- Night patrols in Ebiil MPA to prevent illegal fishing, deterrence
- This month is trochus season ... will have to be concerned with enforcement and safety of residents who collect
- Challenges: large area, communications, need more staff, better facilities, sustainable financing

- Learned: how to better work with public, communicating importance with community, need to record daily info, data forms and citations
- Issue raised of traditional vs. democratic approach
- Traditional institutions have broken down in some areas ...
- Night vision challenge ... Mark: anyone can buy, but 3rd generation is mainly for law enforcement /military and quite expensive \$2-4k

Speaker 8: Hilton, Rongelap Atoll, RMI

- One of 24 municipalities in the Marshal Islands.
- Rongelap Municipality: Very remote, about 600 nm away from Majuro
- Three atolls in municipality: Rongelap, Rongerik and Ailinginae atolls
- Population currently concentrated in Majuro
- 1954 nuclear fallout impact
- Building houses for resettlement
- Pop is about 50 on Rongelap now
- Power plant, reverse osmosis, school, hospital, church
- Now deemed safe, but some people worried, cannot eat too much of local food
- Second largest lagoon in RMI, Kwaj biggest
- Seeking world heritage status
- People now in Kwajalein or Majuro
- Want conservation and management plans in place before people move back, also perform outreach
- Pearl farming, made about 37k after several years
- Marine environment not affected as much as terrestrial environment
- DOE office assisting
- Survey in 2008, an Australian univ., Maria Haws, check Andre Seale, artesub.com
- Little or now knowledge of poaching
- Maritime enforcement in RMI?: Just stories of seeing fishing vessels offshore (by locals)
- Would like to consider some of the technology being used by others or currently available to assist in detecting and alerting to possible incursions by foreign fishing vessels
- Want MPAs to protect areas when people move back, want to develop as tourist destination, have four bungalows now,
- Send a ship every three or four months, airline unreliable, Air Marshall Islands
- Bikini was dive destination, but people being stranded ...
- About \$500 roundtrip by air

Small Group Exercise: Discussion of issues/problems related to coral reef management in remote locations

For the exercise, participants were divided into small groups and asked to consider various issues and/or problems related to coral reef management in remote locations. The following key points were shared in following a plenary session.

Instructions:

Small Group Breakout Session: “Issues and/or problems related to coral reef management in remote locations”

1) In your small group, answer the question: “*What are the common/key problems or issues related to surveillance and enforcement at remote coral reef locations that you have experienced or learned about (both dealing with small scale and pelagic fisheries) during the previous discussions and presentations?*”

2) Next Step: React to and discuss these issues as a group; develop advice or recommendations to others for site implementation or regional application...

Summary of Outputs:

1. TOPIC: EROSION AFFECTING CORAL REEF

Problem/Issue:

1. Erosion and other land-based pollution and how to deal with (through, example enforcing) soil erosion and silt washing into or affecting MPA areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Understand local/national laws
 - If current laws are insufficient or non-existent, propose and advocate for revisions
 - Work with legal advisors to maximize effectiveness
 - Work with partners to learn how to collect information (evidence of violations, events, impacts) that can be submitted to relevant authorities for enforcement actions
 - Monitor site/suspected violations until resolution
 - Don't give up... erosion issues may take a long time to address adequately
-

2. TOPIC: EQUIPMENT

Problem/Issue:

1. Lack of equipment
2. Difficulty in purchasing acquiring (the right/best) equipment

Example: many staff undertaking law enforcement actions have sub-par/sub-standard or non-existent equipment. Good equipment is out there, often times many people just don't know about them, or how to (cost-effectively) purchase.

Issue: Suitability for the job, simple as possible, yet effective; cost of operation and maintenance is reasonable.

Issue: "How can we ensure that programs/projects have access to the right and best equipment for the job...?"

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Get good technical advice before purchasing products, to make sure they will work for you and that they can be set up/installed correctly
- If necessary, get assistance from partners with purchasing equipment (eg when purchasing over internet often a credit card is necessary)
- Learn from other remote others (e.g. in the S Pacific) that using a particular technology, like using SSB radios, a modem, and software for accessing the internet, may be cheaper and more sustainable than the ones installed in Palau. Lorenti explained that in the FSM they have used systems already in place like PeaceSat for communications with remote locations. Important point to think through the manageability and suitability. For example, you can use SSB HF radio and a modem to connect to others or the internet in some locations (Sheet F7, Managing Marine and Coastal Protected Areas: A TOOLKIT for South Asia).

3. TOPIC: COMMUNICATION (equipment)

Problem/Issue:

1. Some sites need good/better radios
2. Poor transmission quality of VHF radios; don't have other radios to carry the communications well enough
3. Lack of secure channel for safety and security – only 3 channels and feel that the poachers are able to get on those channels and know that they are coming

Question from **Hadley**: need better radio system. **Mark**: a HF 150ft tower. Contact Sgt Mark and can hook you up with a vendor. You have to know your situation... let him tell you the spec for needing to go to 45-50 miles and how to buy your equipment. We need 45 miles, but you ask for 50, and hold them to it. Need a system that in bad weather it still work. For example, in Guam there is I-connect available through the mobile phone service - it's a two-way radio and cell phone in one... unlimited \$1/day.

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Need to research secure solutions and more power/repeater solutions: consider system upgrades When you request grant, think about what else you need to use to add on.
- When you apply for a grant, add technical advise for selection and purchasing
- Guam Police add a 5 year service plan that can help with maintenance.

- Secure communication: to address leaks in security could partner with other agencies to cover
- Discussion of movement of “Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated” (IUU) fishing in coordination at Helen with movement of Patrol boat. When Patrol boat leaves Koror, the illegal boats move out; Patrol boat goes for dry dock, IUU boats come in.
- Set another frequency; ask for secure channel options when you purchase radios.
- Keep them guessing; randomize schedule; mess their thoughts up.
- Officers sometimes have their own signals. Use scramblers to code/secure messages. Watch out for “moles” in the operation or administration.... Be careful who receives sensitive information. E.g.: Who is giving the ops orders. Field activities should be handled at the field or ops level and not much higher.
- Can try Satellite phone systems. They are secure and direct.
- Sometimes officers as a strategy can make fake communication for hours at a time, before going out in the field.

4. TOPIC: TECHNICAL HELP

Problem/Issue:

1. How to get the right technical assistance, before and during a project

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Make sure technical help is paid for in the appropriate way or from the appropriate source. Example: For data collection activities, ensure that costs are paid for or at least shared by those who will be using the data.
- Project specific training on specific activity... related to needs of plan, when and what you need help and/or assistance. Whatever time you specify. Be open, honest, brave and bold to what comes your way and how to ask for it. Key is mostly about the right thing at the right time.
- There are programs set up to provide technical help...for example the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Area Community, and many others... that can be approached for help and assistance.

5. TOPIC: FUNDING

Problem/Issue:

1. Lack of funding / insufficient Funding for Programs and Equipment
2. Costs associated with surveillance: fuel/staff
3. Best practices for use of radar surveillance and monitoring funds, especially for big reef area

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Need to prioritize needs, in the development of a management, enforcement, or fundraising plan.
- Develop proposals (Q: is it easy to write a proposal? Depends. Sometimes Yes, sometimes No. Q: Do you need to write proposals? Yes, need to prepare proposals. Can get help from ideas that people share that might apply (with some adaptation) to your area. If you have a management plan already developed, you can use these ideas straight from management plans into funding proposals.
- Key constraints of many programs are: Capacity, materials and supplies, funding, community outreach and support
- Work to develop a track record for achievement and the use of funds is important. Start slow, and small, before going big. Plan out way to general sustainability, efficient operation, and diverse sources of funds.
- Some possible solutions: share resources, collaborate not just with other MPA initiatives but also with government agencies
- This about what is most needed next in the development of the project? Example: Ngulu needs reliable transportation
- Find a feasible place to start (that can be funded and supported by existing capacity and community support)
- Using funds efficiently... Prioritize activities; can be flexible and start with the less expensive ones.

In summary: 1) ID needs, be efficient, develop strategy for sustainable funding; 2) show that you have or can develop the capacity to undertake the planned activities, 3) get to know funders, and what they need to achieve their goals 4) provide information about your projects, help others tell your story, and 5) be sure to manage expectations, making sure that funding doesn't cause problems within the community.

6. TOPIC: EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Problem/Issue:

1. Lack of educated and aware people
2. People do not understand key concepts of marine awareness: eg: People do not understand (the purpose and rules of) the MPA and how they are supposed to work (either in a biological/ecological way and/or administratively)

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Important to be able to adequately educate and raise the awareness of people living on remote islands
- Could include local media in activities; they can assist in developing radios shows, newspapers, leaflets, etc. to help communicate the message and help educate.
- Organize community meetings and community exchanges. Help community members to become involved. If so, they will learn more of the why and the how.... and will hopefully do right thing.

- Make special efforts with leaders /government, because sometimes they are easily threatened and can upset efforts with political interference
- Start with the young with education and outreach; and “use” the young. Try interesting programs with youth: e.g. “Turtle is my friend” Campaign in Guam... daughter was crying in front of the parents. Helps give the youth the responsibility look after the resource.

7. TOPIC: NEED INCREASED SECURITY FOR OFFICERS

Problem/Issue:

1. More Officer Survival Skills needed and/or need for someone to be there – with authority or as backup for officer safety
2. More training and certification in unarmed self-defense and “less than lethal” arms training (firearms training with the proper authority following deputization)
3. Getting enough staff / manpower

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Cross training between state police and national agencies, get to know everyone and other agencies, show them what you do, and identify the dangers (e.g. getting on boat and clearing a boat and then do the wildlife thing).
- Practice, practice, practice... “If you are not working, you are training; if you are not training, you are working!” Have to be dedicated to the job, you raise you hand and swore -- if cant than quit. If you are by yourself, do your job.
- Number 1 Rule as a Conservation Officer: “You will always go home”
- Ask one of us (Guam Conservation Police) or other similar agencies to come out and do training with you all. Officer survival is very important and should be central to your job. There are usually national police academies that provide some training and a growing interest in a Conservation Academy to be offered by Guam Community College that could be of assistance in this area.
- Deterrence through education and awareness and interacting positively with your community and stakeholders makes your job easier and possibly less dangerous.

8. TOPIC: COST EFFECTIVENESS

Problem/Issue:

1. Cost verses effectiveness/efficiency of surveillance as applicable to the different MPAs, areas, and jurisdictions.

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- “Spending money where you know it is going to produce for you.”
- Research and plan before you implement or do it.
- Find the right tools for the right job...
- Spend money where you will get the most impact. Resist spending money on things that wont produce the most significant outcome or that are to technical to maintain

- Example: doing observation on a hill, instead of going out on patrol all the time and using gas/time, etc.
 - Always be looking for cost effective alternative/measures. Review your success in your management efforts / plans in comparison with expenses and adapt where possible. For example, if your fuel budget will be short this quarter, where would you cut on your patrols/activities?
-

9. TOPIC: PATROLLING AND COVERAGE

Problem/Issue:

1. Covering large areas with limited assets
2. High cost of fuel and equipment for surveillance and monitoring
3. Need effective and safe speed boats for enforcement (at least faster than boats that are poaching)

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Make a schedule and route that covers the most important/likely areas for violations. Use your best judgment – but always keep your mind open to new developments or unknown activities. Randomize patrols so that violators can not predict your movements.
 - Explore the use of “commercial, off-the-shelf” (COTS) radars/ hill level surveillance / Coast Watch programs where communities assist with observation. These types of strategies can vastly improve coverage of an area with moderate costs. Several here have attempted these strategies, but some are difficult to achieve/maintain and require significant technical inputs given the distance/remoteness involved.
 - Decide if the goal to deter or catch them? Depends on the situation... many examples given. If you can not arrest or bring them easily in to be processed or brought to court (for example at a remote location without a large enough patrol boat) then deterrence (by simple presence/interaction) might be the most cost/effective approach.
 - From Topic 9 above: Always be looking for cost effective alternative/measures. Review your success in your management efforts / plans in comparison with expenses and adapt where possible.
-

10. TOPIC: STAFFING

Problem/Issue:

1. Short of manpower; Need more staff

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Hire people who are truly interested in this line of job

- Once have good staff, work hard to keep them. Develop and offer incentives for them to stay with the program... as good, highly skilled officers will be attractive to other agencies/departments, etc.
 - Solving this issue comes back to funding; need enough funding to adequately hire and keep staff.
 - Make sure they are the right staff; qualifications and training. Just don't hire all relatives
 - Do not over staff with costly employees, for example some that are hired politically. The need, interest, qualifications and commitment comes first. Resist political hires
 - Employment through the merit system; No more backdoor selection.
-

11. TOPIC: TRANSPORTATION

Problem/Issue:

1. Need efficient and reliable transportation to remote locations

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Work on developing long-term funding options: sustainable and reliable funding from government or other sources that might be available for site management. These may be able to support transportation required for management (supplying, rotating staff, monitoring activities, etc.)
 - Start Transportation Commission to explore options and interact with government.
 - Find other/alternative forms of transportation, eg sailboat charters (but not so reliable... only when weather is good for sailing.)
-

12. TOPIC: FACILITIES

Problem/Issue:

1. Many sites/programs have lack of facilities
2. Others have facilities that need to be rebuild or renovated to be functional

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Think about and discuss what kind of facilities you need or would help your better achieve your management goals.
 - Asking partners (governments, NGOs, community groups) to chip in for the cost of or provide labor for certain items and/or construction
 - Work to secure funding or commitments from matching sources, through detailed proposals (for justification/demonstration of need) and plans descriptions/plans of the proposed facilities, usually through local or national government agencies
 - Make sure the design is how you want. Work with contractors/architect to ensure it will be functional for your purposes and uses.
-

13. TOPIC: TRAINING

Problem/Issue:

1. Conservation Officers don't have the training and/or authority to enforce in MPA (also listed in Authority Section)
2. Need more training in enforcement
3. Shortage of trained manpower/staff (similar to Topic 10 above)

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Organize local and national trainings for skill development and deputization; much can be done if you take the approach of taking your training seriously (even if its training/practicing by yourself) and/or making sure you as an Conservation Officer have the skills and training you need to perform your duties safely and effectively. Take personal ownership of making sure this happens and create opportunities for you and others to gain needed training.
 - Participate in national police academies or join other "conservation academy" training programs.
 - Identify training needs; depends on need of area or jurisdiction (hard to answer here because its on a case by case basis). If you currently don't have the authority to enforce management rules and/or laws, first get the required training and then work with your supervisors and local leadership to take the steps to provide for authorization (eg. create law enforcement division/unit, transfer authority for enforcing laws to Conservation Officers, deputize officers). See Topic 18 for more information.
 - Identify sources of training and source of funding – be proactive! Inform your supervisors of the training and how it fits into your management/enforcement plan and why its needed.
 - Ask for assistance from USFWS or other related agencies. We call them for assistance in training, operations, prosecution and the like. Mark: that should not happen anymore because we (Guam Conservation Police) will try to provide it for the region when and where we can: certification and training, and advocating for the authority, etc.
-

14. TOPIC: ENFORCING IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

Problem/Issue:

1. What about enforcing MPA when Uncle who is Chief has traditional and is customary right and even acts as poacher.
2. Enforcing rules in difficult situations (disadvantage or dangerous situations)

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- In small communities, it is difficult. We need to work on preventative measures as a priority. Working with traditional leaders, working with elected officials, working with members of the church and community groups. Come up with creative solutions for deterrence and punishments like make violators do community service. Have other speak to the violators...this kind of thing.

- Use common sense or new/unique approaches to make it easier for the bad guys to understand and follow the rules. If the tough guy gets pissed off or angry; then the next time you meet up with him you are in danger. Make the first time a warning and explain to the guy, so that he understands the situation.
- Over time, enact stiffer fines and stiffer penalties (1st time, \$400; 2nd time \$800 time; 3rd time, and forfeiture, etc.). But don't make rough the first time, sometimes it is appropriate to provide a warning on the first offense. Must treat everyone as a human being; unless the suspect is asking badly.
- Deterrence through education and awareness and interacting positively with your community and stakeholders makes your job easier and possibly less dangerous. (See also TOPIC 7 above.)

15. TOPIC: MAXIMIZING RATE for Successful PROSECUTION

Problem/Issue:

1. Maximize arrests/convictions as a means to deter other possible violators
2. Prosecuting Violators (either unable to document or catch violators)
3. Ensuring that arrests/citations lead to prosecution

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Document – “if its not in black and white; consider that it never happened”
- Reporting – again.... “if its not in black and white; consider that it never happened”
- Photograph – waterproof digital cameras are cheap and readily available. Take photographs of the violation, violators, evidence and surroundings, including reading on GPS unit if available with recognizable scene in the background.
- Training – practice proper field and reporting procedures and court appearance.
- Record Keeping
- Case Analysis training

16. TOPIC: EFFECTIVE SOPs

Problem/Issue:

1. Simple SOPs for each site (MMA)

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Identify needs and start suggesting SOPs
- Talk to experts about what works for them in general and specific situations
- Adapt from other similar SOPs
- Make an SOP that fits situation; make it as simple and applicable as possible.
- Start with requirements (laws) and then work on what's best for your given context/setting/program.

- Train in and follow the SOP
 - Have SOPs printed in the same format and stored in easy to access binders
 - Write them in simple English
 - Have pictures and operation manuals for equipment included
-

17. TOPIC: MAKING GOOD RULES AND REGULATIONS

Problem/Issue:

1. For example: would like to create a regulation requiring that tour guide from tour agency be certified in proper tourism behavior/management.
2. Improving existing regulations

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Can include in Management Plan: implement activities around national and state laws... have to have those in place. Be sure that these management plans are then adopted/endorsees or that the specific recommended regulations become embodied in laws.
 - Always be ready to provide input on how effective laws are or how easy or difficult they are to enforcement. Other input is useful as well; for example: What you need to do to help you do your job (eg. stiffer fines). if a specific law is no good; tell them how to fix it.
 - Always have an officer at legislative sessions there to answer questions to applicability and enforceability.
 - Make sure that laws are realistic and enforceable.
-

18. TOPIC: AUTHORITY

Problem/Issue:

1. Conservation Officers don't have the training and/or authority to enforce in MPA (also listed in Training Section)

RECOMMENDATIONS on how to improve:

- Training and receiving the authority from the government and councils.
- Provide documented activities (date and time: incident reports; year by year)
- Involve the chiefs and traditional leaders in the process.
- If you have the authority to confiscate vessels and bring in a big fine then, they should be more willing.
- Explain that if you have authority I will be able to do a better job, not just chase away.
- Make all these guys under one umbrella ... all of them all wildlife conservation officer they are deputized and have the authority to enforce the law. Recommend regulations that everyone can enforce

- Why does a certain national agency in one country feel that they are better than State? Because they have better training and certification... It really shouldn't be that way – they are the same and they are enforcing the same laws. It is better to work together supporting partner agencies.
 - Provide more training; try to certify in specific skills and deputize as fully authorized Conservation Officers.
 - Involve bosses and directors in the training, so they know the capabilities and the dangers and the reasons.
 - Send parents and children to discuss issues of safety and officer survival with law makers and supervisors – this is serious stuff. Even through these officers enforcing conservation rules and are in operating in Micronesia, they are in potentially life-threatening situations.
 - Continue to work on education outreach, community engagement.
-

Wednesday, Day 3:

Participants on the field trip to Ngulu Atoll arrived at the island in the morning. The crossing was rough in bad, rainy weather. During the site visit participants took a tour of the island and met with local residents to discuss their motives and interest in establishing an MPA and radar tower at Ngulu. Participants then visited the radar facility and communications room adjacent to the radar tower to view and operate the equipment. Demonstrations were provided on: 1) how the solar panels are setup and operated and 2) the radar in operation. The exchange visit presented the opportunity to test the range and sensitivity of the radar in detecting vessels in the area using the ship they arrived on, and documents some of the installations benefits and limitations. It was learned that the installed radar, while effective a short distances, cannot “see” northern portion of Ngulu atoll, near the two northern islands, especially when vessels constructed of wood or fiberglass (Isaac). Also the suggestion was made to develop SOP for recording information about vessel observations and spatial use patterns.

Thursday, Day 4:

The fourth day included time to review key elements of the site visit. Participants then continued the second day's presentation and group discussion of *problems/issues* of remote coral reef management and *suggested solutions/recommendations*. Next the workshop participants arranged in site-based groups to discuss a process for enforcement planning and then continued with the drafting of site-specific Enforcement Plans. This was followed by consultation with resource persons to explain and refine some of their ideas, followed by a discussion and recommendations of how to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for their respective programs.

Friday, Day 5:

Day 5 of the workshop commenced with small groups working on aspects of their site enforcement plans. This was followed by a discussion of the FSM Marine Law Enforcement Unit's Coast Watch Program, which promotes awareness and reporting by remote island communities within FSM's jurisdiction. A review of developing Standard Operating Procedures and site-specific training needs followed, with some of the below needs identified:

- Training needs, prosecution, education and awareness, enforcing rules in difficult situations
- Need qualifications,
- Need to be trained to raise funds ... e.g., how to write and prepare annual reports
- Officer survival
- Firearm training
- Water safety
- Identifying violations
- SOP, understanding rules
- Case analysis, filing, report writing
- Education and awareness, work on all levels, need support, use public broadcasting
- Community engagement, focus on youth, boy and girl scouts, clubs, etc.
- Firearms, less than lethal, unarmed survival, come from Guam DAWR
- Growth and regulation
- Provide input to legislatures and incorporate community input

The workshop closed with a discussion of how to measure the status and impact of enforcement programs and upcoming training opportunities and next steps for the group..

Evaluations:

Appendix 6. WORKSHOP SUMMARY AND PHOTO



June 28, 2011

Hi All,

I trust that everyone has had a safe trip home and has been able to get in a few days rest.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone and their home agencies and institutions for their participation in the recent enforcement workshop in Yap. The purpose of the workshop, as you know, was to share examples and ideas from various perspectives on how to improve resource management and enforcement at remote coral reef locations in the region. I feel that as a group, we did an excellent job at identifying the key issues and constraints of this topic, as well as lessons and ways each of us can work in our own areas to take specific steps or help others. While certainly there is much more to be accomplished in order to see the reduction of threats at remote locations, this gathering will help us coordinate future activities and partnerships that can help us to address some of the major issues at hand.

I am especially encouraged that the group has decided to continue to work on building the capacity of their programs by suggesting further training and pursuing the completion of site enforcement plans and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for their staff. It is additionally motivating that the group has suggested to continue to build on the network of Micronesian conservation officers to help to coordinate among other sites and programs.

I along with others will be working on disseminating a workshop report, that will include reference to presentations, summaries of discussions, and some photos shortly.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of all participants in this workshop. I would also like to thank our hosts, Yap CAP and the Ngulu community, and all others for their effort in ensuring that the workshop and after hour events were productive and enjoyable, and that we were able to visit to Ngulu Atoll to see an actual coastal surveillance system in use.

Hope to see or speak with everyone again soon!

Mike