

Pohnpei FSM, Conservation Enforcement Training of Trainers And Annual MPA Cross site Gathering Sept. 27- Oct. 10, 2019

Background

Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia has established a network of protected areas and annually the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) with other local partners facilitate a gathering of the local communities that manage these protected areas with the aim of sharing lessons learned from each community and developing work plans for the coming year. This year, the annual meeting was held at Nihco Marine Park from Sept. 27-28, 2019 and was hosted by the community of the Palikir Marine Protected Area (MPA). Palikir MPA is the most recent protected area to be legislated and added to the Pohnpei Network and by far the largest and most complex that includes mangroves, sea grass, patch reefs, inner reef, channel complexes and outer reefs.

CSP requested follow up assistance from PIMPAC on conservation enforcement to support the community efforts in Pohnpei and Mr. Wayne Andrew was contracted to provide this assistance. This assistance was requested to be conducted after the Pohnpei annual cross site meeting to allow Mr. Andrew the opportunity to participate and share lessons learned in the annual cross site meeting and to work with community leaders to understand challenges in enforcement to guide the development of the enforcement training agenda for the week after the MPA meeting. The goal is to work with a group of community, municipal and state officers to form a team that can be confident and capable of delivering surveillance and enforcement training that can increase their capacity over time.

Annual MPA cross site visit

The annual MPA Cross site visit was held at Nihco Marine Park in Sokehs Municipality and was attended by about 500 people from the different Marine Protected Area (MPA) communities as well as the partners organizations. The Conservation Society of Pohnpei led the facilitation and secretariat role at the two day event. The first day was full of introductions and reporting progress of each MPA community on their progress against their work plans. This includes the highlight of challenges and successes. Each local partners such as CSP and Division of Fish and Wildlife gave progress updates. Below is a short bullet list of the site updates:

1. Takaïou

- Increased the number of their Community Conservation Officer by recruiting and training more community members.
- Increased the number of days and times conducting surveillance of their MPA.

- Work closely with U Municipal Office and Officers to respond to violations.

2. Nathik

- Rebuild Guard House and was damaged from king tide so the community rebuilt again this time higher with concrete and drums and riprap.
- There is continued incident of poaching and getting fewer since the community rebuilt the guard house.
- Need to lobby policy makers to include Peniou Island as an MPA too. They have been requesting this for too long and still no action from Legislature. Need for all MPA communities to unite voice and ask for support for Peniou.

3. Nanwap

- The Community is not as organized and united as before.
- Community needs support to motivate their team, which has led to weak enforcement.
- Management Plan has lapsed and pending review and update including the regulations.
- MK or fishermen advisory group is in its early stages of establishment.

4. Palikir

- Management Plan completed and endorsed.
- Support from OneReef and CSP to move forward on management actions in their plan.
- Secured funding from MCT for Outreach and Awareness Campaign.
- Started regular surveillance of MPA with some training from DFW.
- Surveillance ongoing and regular.
- Purchased basic surveillance equipments through support from OneReef.
- Need to secure a 23 footer boat for surveillance.

5. Pakin

- Community Conservation Officers feel discouraged because of lack of support and much poaching from outsiders (mainly from Kitti)
- Need help in enforcement training
- Need support for awareness and campaign in Kitti to help reduce the number of poaching at Pakin.
- Need supplies and equipment and funding.

6. Lenger

- Need help on fund to build floating surveillance platform.
- Need help in outreach and awareness.
- MPA is easy to patrol.
- Need help in training CCO's.

7. Peniou

- Still pending in legislature the request to formalize into an MPA.
- Management needs the site to be legally recognized.
- The people of Section 1 in Kitti Municipality respects Peniou as a managed area.

8. Peidie

- Peidie is a legislated Protected Area in Sokehs that is a mangrove forest

- Sokehs has put in place an ordinance to legally protect this area and has also funding allocation.
- \$3.5K is allocated for coastal cleanup.
- Funding also has been secured for community house and a basketball court.
- Congressman Perman allocation of 200K + 35K for bridge.

This list is recorded for follow up in their annual work plan on the last day. The first day concluded with a beautiful Sakau ceremony. The second day started with a presentation with MCT then followed by breakout groups by site to develop their annual work plans. After the completion of their work plans, the site presented their work plan for feedback and input from all the communities. Wayne Andrew presented on his observation of the progress and challenges in Pohnpei over the last six years. Mr. Andrew highlights the role of PIMPAC and Onereef in helping Pohnpei and the FSM reach its Micronesia challenge goals. The annual cross site gathering was concluded with the closing remark from Eugene Joseph, Director of Conservation Society of Pohnpei.

During the breaks at the cross site, Mr. Andrew was able to meet with each community to identify their representatives to the training of trainers workshop on surveillance and enforcement. Mr. Andrew also discussed and identified the challenges its site needs training in to improve their surveillance. Topics include importance of MPA, education and outreach, SOP, communication and coordination, report writing, evidence collection, case processing, officer safety and survivor, and vessel boarding.

Training of Trainers

Angel Jonathan opened the training with prayer and gave the opening remarks. Wayne Andrew then presented the PIMPAC presentation and allowed for questions and answer from the participants. After this Mr. Andrew asked Angel to facilitate an introduction and expectations session. The participants then reviewed the conservation law enforcement training that was put together by Lt. Mark Aguon and have used to train officers in the region. The participants then broke out in two groups of 4 with each group assigned 4 topics to review, revise, translate, prepare, and practice to deliver to local participants. The participants spent the rest of the day working on their presentations with support and input from Wayne Andrew and Angel Jonathan. The next day the Teams presented their topics with long feedback and comments from the whole Team. The participants of the training of trainers are really good mixture of community conservation officers with Municipal Police and State Officers from Division of Fish and Wildlife.



Group presentations of vessel boarding approach.

Training of U Municipal Officers and CCO's



Day 1 Training U Municipal Officers and Community Conservation Officers / Classroom PPT.



Day 2 Vessel Boarding and Communication Coordination Practical.

Training of Sokehs Municipal Officers and CCO's



Participants' classroom training for Sokehs Municipality.

Training of Kitti Municipal Officers and CCO's



Day 1 Training for the Kitti Municipal and Community Officers / Classroom PPT.



Day 2 Vessel Boarding and Communication Coordination Practical Exercise.

Debriefing of Trainers plan for next steps



Trainers' last day meeting to debrief on success and challenges and lessons from 3 municipal trainings.

Feedback and next steps from trainers

PLUS:

- ❖ Training was so successful, trainers were able to learn from communities
- ❖ Participants especially CCO's were able to learn what they can and cannot do
- ❖ Participants also learn the laws towards the MPA's
- ❖ Having Patterson Lawrence and James Artui as part of the team makes the training so successful
- ❖ Team was able to present the topics very well
- ❖ Participants were able to learn the safety tips on approaching violators
- ❖ Clear roles and responsibilities of officers and CCO's
- ❖ Participation
- ❖ Local officers were able to learn evidence collection and processing
- ❖ Collaboration is the key to success in our trainings
- ❖ A communication protocol was developed

Delta:

- ❖ Not so many CCO's and local officers showed up at the trainings
- ❖ Need to include other relevant agencies to be part of the team
- ❖ Need to translate presentation into local vernacular
- ❖ Local officers have to fully present during trainings
- ❖ Need to focus more on practical evidence collection and report writing
- ❖ Overlooked priorities
- ❖ Need to improve coordination
- ❖ Lack of funding

Next Steps:

- ❖ Identify the most active fishing communities to target out awareness and outreach effort
- ❖ Compile existing municipal ordinances and state laws
- ❖ Hire a new Natural Resource Coordinator for Kittu
- ❖ Work with other municipalities to develop Municipal Fisheries Plans

- ❖ To have an enforcement binders that has all the national, state and local laws that can be used within the team
- ❖ Make a list of what should be in the binders
- ❖ First step is to compile the laws and necessary documents for the binder
- ❖ To try and include women in the team
- ❖ Next meeting October 22nd will confirm venue

List of materials that needs to be compiled and developed into training modules

- ❖ National, State and Local MPA laws
- ❖ Work-plans
- ❖ SOP's
- ❖ Fisheries act national and state
- ❖ Regulations
- ❖ Education & Outreach plans
- ❖ MOU's
- ❖ Joint Law Agreement
- ❖ Reports