

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION SUMMARY BY TOPIC: TRADITIONAL USES AND COMMUNITY-BASED MANAGEMENT

TOPIC SUMMARY

The topics of traditional uses and community-based management were discussed at the stakeholder meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, in a total of three breakout sessions. Traditional uses were discussed in two breakout sessions and community-based management in one.¹ From the three breakout groups the following themes surfaced:

Recognition of traditional uses and management systems is needed - Traditional practices and cultural values should be formally recognized in CZMA and incorporated into coastal zone management planning processes.

More education is needed - Policy-makers, tourists, general public, and students need more educational opportunities to learn about traditional practices and cultures.

More community input in resources management is needed - Local communities should be involved in the design, implementation, enforcement, and monitoring of coastal zone policies and programs.

OBSTACLES

Uses and Impacts

- Land degradation, changes in land ownership, and shifting uses of land and coastal resources challenges traditional uses in areas with finite resources.

Management and Decision-Making

- Policy-makers have a hard time accepting and using traditional observations and knowledge in their policy-making.
- Lack of understanding and willingness to learn about traditional uses by policy-makers and public
- Lack of legal authority by traditional communities over resources
- Too few mechanisms to get input from traditional uses and local community stakeholders on policy decisions

PARTICIPANT GENERATED SOLUTIONS

Management

- New CZMA should recognize, integrate, and facilitate traditional knowledge and customary practices and coastal management.
- CZMA should recognize the distinctiveness of the Pacific islands, and allow planning and management have to accommodate these differences.
- CZMA should enfranchise ecosystem-based management.

¹ Traditional use refers here to indigenous knowledge, culture, practices, and uses of natural resources, passed down through generations.

- Require agencies to consider cultural component into their policy assessments. Develop a checklist of considerations.
- Mandate the use of citizen advisory boards, including community members, fisheries, and representatives from Native communities, which would play formal roles in policy making at all levels of government
- Form a Native Advisory Committee to consult on ocean and coastal management
- Adopt a regional approach to oceans management.
- Encourage states and territories to develop and implement ocean resource management plans, through which they may address their cultural and traditional differences.
- Better coordination between National Parks Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and NOAA.

Education

- Create a federal program to educate and train policy makers, students, and the public in traditional cultures, practices, and resource management. Should be in addition to or part of National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERR). Provide scholarships to students who want to pursue this field of study.
- Develop campaign to educate tourist industry about traditional cultures and practices.
- Expand the NERR system to the pacific islands.