

CNMI Coastal Resources Management Office

Compiled Recommendations for the Ocean Policy Commission

Funding

Funding and support for enforcement, capacity building and public outreach is needed for the development and control of Sport Fishing, Commercial fishing, and Marine Protected Areas. The Division of Fish and Wildlife is tasked locally and by the federal government to develop the economic potential of the CNMI's marine resources, ensure that those resources are managed and conserved properly, while enforcing applicable laws and regulations. The lack of funding or restrictions on existing funds hampers these activities. The rules and regulations governing the use of federal and local funds should be analyzed for inconsistencies and gaps in support.

Pollution Control and Public Awareness

Land based and marine pollution has significant effects on reefs and coastal marine resources, and on the industries that are dependent on those resources. Assistance in managing and controlling the pollution is needed. Public education programs need to be developed and disseminated so that every citizen, business establishment and government agency can participate in mitigating the negative environmental impact of pollution

Restoration of Wetlands

Development and natural hazards such as typhoons have affected wetland wildlife breeding habitats and marine ecosystems. Federal or regional assistance with studies and restoration programs are needed for these fragile areas to become productive again.