

Dear Pacific Island Academic Institution Affiliates,

As members of the Pacific Island Marine Protected Area Community (PIMPAC) we are writing to express our interest in developing partnerships with regional academic institutions that will foster improved marine resource management, specifically for marine protected areas (MPAs). PIMPAC is a regional effort to promote information sharing, capacity building for local students and resource management staff, and peer-to-peer learning around MPA management. PIMPAC supports local MPA initiatives (e.g. community engagement in resource management, monitoring of MPA effectiveness, management planning) and regional efforts (e.g.- the Micronesia Challenge: an effort to conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.)

PIMPAC is made up of representatives from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, The Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. It is the aim of PIMPAC to build partnerships of Pacific Islands MPA practitioners and strengthen MPA planning, management and evaluation efforts for the conservation of the marine resources of the Pacific Islands.

As a regional community of MPA managers we have identified the major challenges we face and our needs to overcome these challenges. Among our major challenges is an opportunity for local students (i.e. future managers) to gain adequate training and experience on marine resource management (including MPA management), through both coursework and applied experience. Another related challenge is the opportunity for existing natural resource management staff to access training and coursework on marine resource management that will eventually lead to degrees which are offered locally and do not require significant time off of work and or travel expense.

In response to these challenges, we see building partnerships with local academic institutions like yours, as critical to successful development and implementation of applied marine resource management and MPA management coursework. Together, as part of a long-term collaborative approach we can all begin to address the information and training needs of Pacific Island MPA managers.

As part of the PIMPAC year one work plan, we are identifying academic institutions that are interested in implementing curriculum and educational programs to support MPA management. There are several PIMPAC initiatives that your institution may be interested in to move forward this collaborative agenda:

- 1) Conduct a regional meeting in partnership with University of the South Pacific and the Locally Managed Marine Area Network to share existing materials and marine management program ideas. Also to identify gaps in material and some action items to begin to fill gaps.

2) Conduct an MPA management planning training for academic institution representatives, similar to a recent PIMPAC workshop in Chuuk for regional MPA managers. The goal would be to provide the information to the academic community to foster development of curriculum and/or short courses that can be offered periodically on their islands on MPA management planning.

3) Partner with the University of Guam Marine Lab coral management program happening in the summer of 2007. Contract the development and implementation of a one week “Intro to MPA Management” course to be implemented during the six week program.

These initiatives are still in the preliminary stage of development as we are seeking input from your institution to both refine them and offer other ideas on how your community’s needs for MPA management might best be served. Although PIMPAC can offer some limited financial resources to support these efforts, it has access to a wide variety of technical expertise and can support coordination services to assist gathering information from various MPA experts, and facilitating coursework development.

We hope this letter is received with interest from your program. Please respond to PIMPAC Coordinators, Meghan Gombos ([Meghan.Gombos@noaa.gov](mailto:Meghan.Gombos@noaa.gov)), and Willy Kostka ([mctdirector@mail.fm](mailto:mctdirector@mail.fm)), by **February 28, 2007**, as to your institution’s interest in further developing this initiative. We will then contact you to discuss how our partnership might be developed.

We sincerely thank you for your time and attention to partnering with us to foster improved marine resource management in the Pacific Islands

Sincerely,

PIMPAC members:

| <i>Name</i>          | <i>Affiliated Organization</i>             | <i>Location</i>   |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|
| Wayne Andrew         | Helen Reef Project                         | Republic of Palau |
| Mary Rose Nakayama   | Chuuk Conservation Society                 | Chuuk, FSM        |
| Vanessa Konno-Anisin | Chuuk Conservation Society                 | Chuuk, FSM        |
| Julita Albert        | Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency      | Chuuk, FSM        |
| Kerat Rikim          | Chuuk State Department of Marine Resources | Chuuk, FSM        |
| Innocente Penno      | College of Micronesia, Land Grant          | Chuuk, FSM        |

|                    |   |                |
|--------------------|---|----------------|
| Romio Osiena       | Chuuk State Department of Marine Resources                                    | Chuuk, FSM     |
| Risa Grace Oram    | Department of Marine And Wildlife Resources                                   | American Samoa |
| Trina Leberer      | The Nature Conservancy  | Guam           |
| Jay Gutierrez      | Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources                                    | Guam           |
| Debbie Gowensmith  | The Community Conservation Network  | Hawaii         |
| Scott Atkinson     | The Community Conservation Network  | Hawaii         |
| Michael Guilbeaux  | The Community Conservation Network  | Hawaii         |
| John Parks         | The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration<br>National Ocean Service | Hawaii         |
| Damien Kenison     | KUPA Community Organization   | Hawaii         |
| Aulani Wilhelm     | NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Monument      | Hawaii         |
| Charles Chieng     | YAP Community Action Program  | Yap, FSM       |
| Vanessa Fread      | YAP Community Action Program  | Yap, FSM       |
| Marion Henry       | FSM Department of Economic Affairs  | Pohnpei, FSM   |
| Alissa Takesy      | FSM Department of Economic Affairs  | Pohnpei, FSM   |
| Simpson Abraham    | Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority                                   | Kosrae, FSM    |
| Tony Abraham       | Department of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries                                 | Kosrae, FSM    |
| Reedson P. Abraham | Department of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries                                 | Kosrae, FSM    |
| Andy George        | Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization                                   | Kosrae, FSM    |

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|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Mr. Youser Anson   | Department of Land & Natural Resources        | Pohnpei, FSM     |
| Dave Mathias       | Department of Land & Natural Resources        | Pohnpei, FSM     |
| Lisa Ranahan Andon | Micronesia Conservation Trust                 | Pohnpei, FSM     |
| Donald David       | Marine Development Office of Economic Affairs | Pohnpei, FSM     |
| Albon Ishoda       | Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority    | Marshall Islands |
| Jason Philibotte   | NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service        | Hawaii           |
| Selaina Vaitautolu | Department of Marine And Wildlife Resources   | American Samoa   |
| Steve Why          | Marshall Islands Conservation Society         | Marshall Islands |
| Don Hess           | College of Marshall Islands                   | Marshall Islands |
| Gerry Davis        | NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service        | Hawaii           |
| Greg Moretti       | CNMI Department of Fish and Wildlife          | CNMI             |
| Athline Clark      | Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources          | Hawaii           |
| Mathew Ramsey      | Hawaii Department of Fish and Wildlife        | Hawaii           |