

PACIFIC ISLANDS MPA COMMUNITY (PIMPAC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Background: The Pacific Islands Marine Protected Area Community (PIMPAC) is a collaboration of Marine Protected Area (MPA) Managers, non-governmental organizations, Federal, and State agencies, local communities, and other stakeholders to enhance the effective use and management of MPAs in the U.S. Pacific Islands and US Freely Associated States.

The PIMPAC initiative is intended to help overcome several of the challenges faced by MPAs in the Pacific today. The first step is to better understand the strengths as well as the most pressing needs of MPAs in the region by reviewing previous MPA assessments and consulting with current MPA practitioners. Once we have collated this information, we will hold a workshop to design the activities that PIMPAC will pursue. We plan to hold this workshop in August of 2005. Through the assessment and workshop, PIMPAC will work collectively with MPA practitioners and other key stakeholders to design a program to help meet MPA needs in the region. While the specific activities will be developed together, some of the initiatives that PIMPAC may pursue include:

- Strengthening the capacity of individual MPAs by providing focused skills building trainings, increasing access to experts, and hosting exchange visits.
- Fostering home-based MPA management capacity by developing MPA management courses with academic institutions in the region
- Enhancing the exchange of knowledge, skills, lessons, and experiences by creating a regional learning network. The focus of such a network will be on peer to peer learning. This approach has proven successful in other parts of the Pacific particularly through the experience of the Locally Managed Marine Area Network (www.lmma.org).

The PIMPAC STEERING COMMITTEE

In August of 2005, the first PIMPAC workshop was held in Guam. This meeting brought together 52 MPA practitioners from Pacific Islands related to the United States including: Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Palau, Fiji, and the Federated States of Micronesia including Pohnpei, Yap, Chuck, and Kosrae (see the full workshop report).

This workshop had four main objectives:

Objective One: To inventory and understand the strengths (resources) and needs of MPA management in the Pacific, both individual and collective (organizational/island) efforts:

Objective Two: To prioritize opportunities and needs relating to a possible MPA community.

Objective Three: To generate a possible set of strategic responses/actions that the possible MPA community could take to meet the opportunities and needs

Objective Four: To initiate planning for leadership, coordination, communication, governance, and securing/committee human and financial resources for the possible MPA community.

During the workshop participants concluded that forming an MPA community would be beneficial to them in their efforts to improve MPA practice and management. The participants also concluded that PIMPAC should remain an informal network but that a representative temporary Steering Committee was needed to help guide the development of the community. On the final day of the workshop several participants from across the region were nominated and confirmed as temporary steering Committee Members to oversee the Community's next steps and follow up activities.

In subsequent meetings at the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting in Palau, there was much discussion about whether or not PIMPAC could simultaneously remain an informal network if it was to elect to have a formal steering committee. After long consideration, several PIMPAC participants indicated their belief that a Steering Committee is needed to help ensure that PIMPAC moves forward effectively and also to assist the PIMPAC Coordinators with strategic direction. However, it was not decided how the PIMPAC Steering Committee members should be chosen.

PIMPAC Steering Committee Selection Process:

It subsequent discussions, the PIMPAC coordinator, island representatives from the PIMPAC meeting in Yap, and advisors from NOAA and CCN, and, have developed a proposed process for choosing Steering Committee Members:

1. The Steering Committee will be made up of one member from each island jurisdiction (plus one from FSM national government), to make a total of eleven Steering Committee members.
2. PIMPAC participants should review the Criteria, Roles, and Responsibilities for Steering Committee members outlined below
3. PIMPAC participants will each be asked to nominate Steering Committee members that they feel will best be able to meet these criteria, roles, and responsibilities. The individuals nominated can be from Government, NGOs, or other entities and should be those individuals that the participants feel are best equipped to meet the criteria and responsibilities outlined below.
4. Steering Committee members will be held responsible for consulting with key PIMPAC participants in each jurisdiction and helping to represent their interests in PIMPAC design and implementation. As a result, it is important that the Steering Committee members have a regional perspective and sufficient experience to assist all jurisdictions to benefit from PIMPAC (see criteria and responsibilities below).

****It is proposed that Steering Committee members hold two year terms. PIMPAC members are asked to review their SC representation annually and provide feedback to their SC members on PIMPAC activity. At the end of two years, we propose that SC membership should change

unless PIMPAC members request to maintain their current SC representative. The first “two year term” will end on January, 2008.

Since we are half way through the first year, we propose to maintain the existing SC membership. We encourage existing SC members to review this document and assess their ability and commitment to carry out this role. If for some reason they are not comfortable with this role, please let us know by July 15, 2006 and we can request a new SC member from that jurisdiction. We will be in touch with island members to re-confirm existing SC representation.

Current SC members are: (1) Mr. Marion Henry (FSM), (2) Robert Jackson (Kosrae), (3) Mr. Noah Idechong (Palau), (4) Mr. Terry Keju (RMI), (5) Ms. Athline Clark (Hawaii), and (6) Ms. Laina Vaitaulolu (American Samoa). Willy Kostka previously held the SC membership for Pohnpei, however as his role is developing into PIMPAC co-coordinator, we will ask Pohnpei to nominate a new representative.

We will also work to identify members from islands who have not already been identified (Guam, CNMI, Yap, Pohnpei, and Chuuk) by August 1, 2006.

Steering Committee Member Criteria and Responsibilities

Criteria:

Steering Committee Members should be:

1. Experienced in MPA design and implementation in the U.S. Pacific
2. Recognized in the region as a spokesperson for MPAs
3. Able to represent the interests and needs of MPA practitioners throughout the region
4. Able to devote sufficient time to advise and oversee PIMPAC development and implementation.

Responsibilities:

Steering Committee Members will:

1. Oversee the development of the PIMPAC work plan including activities to be carried out by the PIMPAC Coordinators. Once the work plan has been developed and agreed to by the PIMPAC Steering Committee members, the Coordinators will support carrying out activities of the work plan. Should the Coordinators feel the need to deviate significantly from the work plan, they should seek Steering Committee approval.
2. Be available and responsive to the PIMPAC Coordinator should they have questions or need advice in the development and implementation of PIMPAC. PIMPAC Steering Committee members must have sufficient time to respond to all requests from the Coordinators within a minimum of one week of the time of the request. If at any point, they will not be available to review requests (due to travel etc.) they should inform the Coordinators of this unavailability so they can plan accordingly.

3. Seek input from PIMPAC participating agencies and organizations both in their jurisdiction and in other jurisdictions as assigned to them by the Committee.
4. Represent the interest of all PIMPAC participating jurisdictions.
5. Advise when necessary on how to move forward with PIMPAC activities, how to carry out workplan, and other elements of PIMPAC. Decisions will be made by group consensus.
6. Be available to meet by phone at least once per six months and more often if necessary.
7. When there is an opportunity to meet in person at conferences or workshop, be willing to meet as a group.
8. Review the progress of the PIMPAC Coordinators relative to the PIMPAC work plan
9. Provide advice on how the Coordinators may improve the PIMPAC initiative overall and alert the Coordinator to any opportunities whereby the implementation of PIMPAC may be improved
10. Assist with Fundraising for the PIMPAC initiative.
11. Work as an advocate for the PIMPAC initiative by informing important decision makers, donors, and potential beneficiaries about PIMPAC and its importance
12. Be willing to facilitate one or more sub-committees for specific task as necessary. Sub-committees may include Fundraising, Education and Outreach, Planning, Logistics, and others as necessary.

Responsibilities of the Coordinators:

The Coordinators will:

1. Have the main responsibility for day to day implementation of the PIMPAC initiative
2. Coordinate the development of the PIMPAC work plan
3. Coordinate all PIMPAC logistics to ensure timely and effective implementation of the PIMPAC initiative.
4. Recommend activities in a one year work plan to all the PIMPAC members for approval by the Steering Committee
5. Identify and pursue opportunities to benefit the PIMPAC initiative.
6. Maintain a regular dialogue with MPA practitioners in the PIMPAC jurisdictions
7. Organize and record meetings of the PIMPAC Steering Committee
8. Seek advice of the PIMPAC members/Steering Committee/ and other expert advisors as necessary to effectively carry out the PIMPAC initiative.