

CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
 BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY



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DCRM PROGRAMS

PERMITTING
 ENFORCEMENT
 COASTAL PLANNING
 MARINE MONITORING

EDUCATION & OUTREACH
 CORAL REEF INITIATIVE
 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), organized under the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ), was established in 1983 to promote conservation and wise development around CNMI's coastal resources. DCRM consists of the Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP) and the Coral Reef Initiative (CRI), which work cooperatively to achieve complementary goals of the agency. While the CZMP works to promote wise use and conservation of the CNMI's resources through permitting and planning, the CRI program emphasizes the need to protect and preserve the CNMI's coral reefs, ensuring responsible management of these resources associated with those habitats.

OUR VISION

An informed CNMI actively protects and maintains a clean and healthy environment and makes decisions that balance cultural values, environmental integrity, and economic prosperity.

OUR MISSION

To protect and enhance the CNMI's coastal resources for residents and visitors through effective and adaptive resource management, inter-agency collaboration, and stakeholder engagement, in a manner that builds and sustains community resilience and well-being.



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Division of Coastal Resources Management



@GoingCoastal_CNMI
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2019 IN REVIEW

USER CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS OF PRIME TOURIST SITES

The objectives of Sustainable Sites are to understand influential tourist behaviors and tourists' willingness-to-pay, develop site-specific carrying plans based on tourism impact assessments, and provide legislators and resource managers with data driven recommendations. A study conducted in 2019 identified economically important areas of the Saipan Lagoon and East Side, which helped identify priority areas for UCAPTS and will be incorporated into future planning efforts. Additionally, surveying visitor use of prime sites began this past summer and will continue through the next fiscal year. Partnerships with the Division of Environmental Quality were formed to look at the correlation between water quality and human use of popular sites like the Grotto. *This project works towards DCRM's Strategic Plan Goal 1.2.2: Assess user capacity thresholds at priority sites and discuss potential mitigation measures with partner agencies.*

GARAPAN CLEAN WATER CAMPAIGN

Although Garapan is the heart and soul of tourism and business in the CNMI, visitors are often greeted with the sight of garbage and the smell of sewage, among others, in the street. Most of these problems are caused by non-point sources of pollution washing down through the watershed and accumulating in underground drainage which eventually fill up and pour the unappealing, untreated water out into the lagoon. The Garapan Clean Water Campaign works to protect our wetlands, ocean, and community from water pollution by focusing on two main programs: the Garapan Storm Drain Marking Program and the Ocean Friendly Partners Program. Fifteen (15) businesses in Garapan have become ocean friendly partners and over fifty (50) drains have been marked since July 2019. *This campaign works towards DCRM's Strategic Plan Goal 4.3.3: Conduct social marketing campaigns targeting specific behavior change related to land-based sources of pollution, coral reef restoration, water quality protection, and climate change.*

CORAL REEF PHOTOMOSAIC

Monitoring coral reefs typically involves tracking changes in biodiversity of corals, invertebrates, fish and algae. However, structural complexity is also an important trait to monitor reef health because the three-dimensional structure provides habitat for a multitude of species and protects the coastline from storm damage. It is vitally important to monitor reef structure to not only track changes in climate change impacts, but also to evaluate the success of conservation strategies that are implemented locally. In 2019, the long-term marine monitoring program implemented a new protocol for assessing reef structure using photomosaics. This technique stitches together thousands of photos to create a 3D model of the reef surface, where structural complexity, also known as rugosity, can be analyzed. This year we have implemented photomosaics with over 22,000 photos from 5 monitoring sites and a ship grounding. *This projects works towards DCRM's Strategic Plan Goal 3: Management of coastal resources are improved through monitoring and research.*

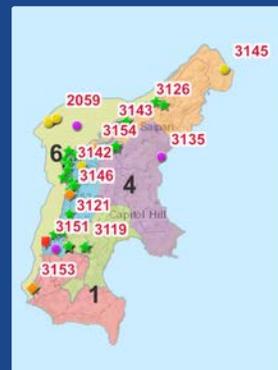
PUBLIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY MAP

The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) provides a number of useful tools and webmap applications to help organizations share and gather geospatial data with the public. The DCRM Public Enforcement Activity Map (<https://arcg.is/0yX40r>) has been updated to utilize a form of a webmap application known as the Dashboard App. This updated version is now more interactive while maintaining a user friendly navigation. When the webapp is opened, you are shown a map with all activities labeled with it's own unique "MapID". To the left shows more information about the individual enforcement activities, most with photos of the activity. Users can now filter what actions will be displayed whether it be by the Permit Status, Enforcement Status, or by the Enforcement ID. *This project works towards DCRM's Strategic Plan Goal 4.2: Maintain and enhance the permit and enforcement database and associated web mapping applications.*



INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

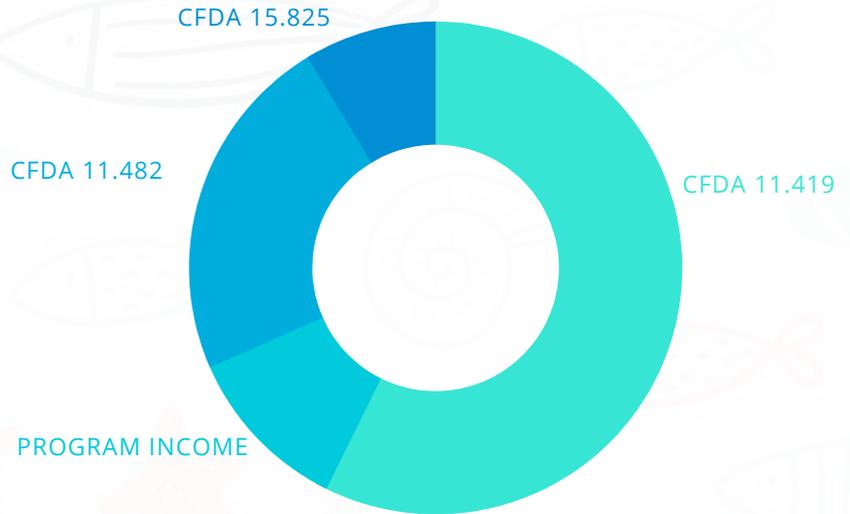
First started by the Ocean Conservancy over 30 years ago, the International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest single-day cleanup event where over 100 countries worldwide come together to collect and document the trash littering their coastlines and waterways. The two layers of science and community service is what distinguishes ICC from everyday cleanups. Data collection is crucial to solving the world's ocean pollution problem. Every year DCRM leads the ICC event in the CNMI. The 2019 ICC was held on Saturday, September 21st, where a total of 1,617 volunteers collected 9,427 pounds of trash across 76 different locations on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. *This project works towards DCRM's Strategic Plan Goal 4.3.2: Utilize local organizations, magazines, radio, social media platforms, and other venues to increase the reach of messages to all target audiences.*



REVENUES EXPENSES

FY 19 FEDERAL AWARDS

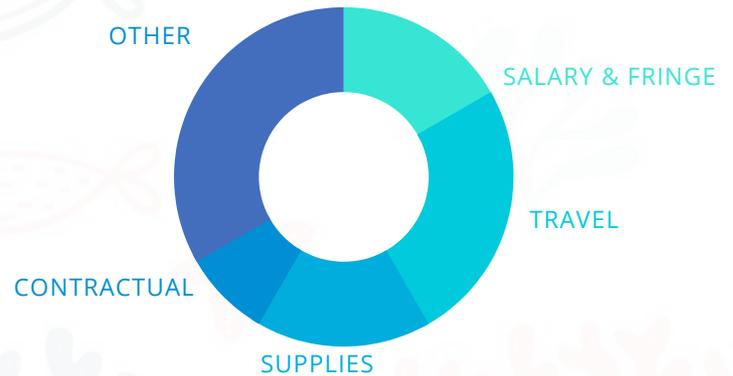
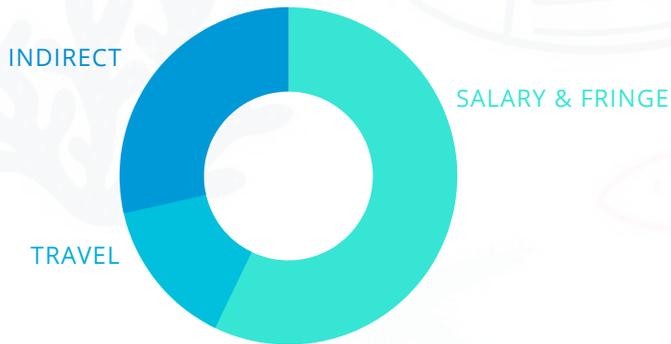
CFDA 11.419	Coastal Zone Management Administration Awards	\$ 1,100,000.00
CFDA 11.482	Coral Reef Conservation Program	\$ 440,000.00
CFDA 15.825	Economic, Social, and Political Development of the Territories (Coral Reef Initiative)	\$ 166,940.00



FY 19 EXPENDITURE

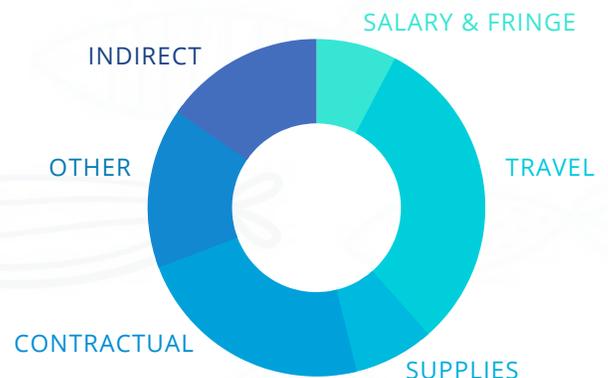
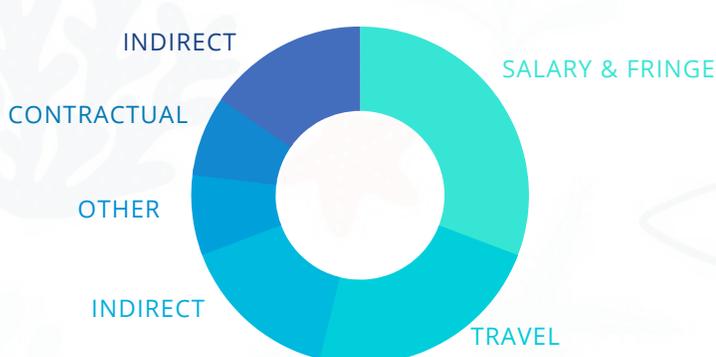
CFDA 11.419	Salary & Fringe	\$ 735,495.07
	Travel	\$ 6,602.67
	Indirect	\$ 25,038.00

PROGRAM INCOME	Salary & Fringe	\$ 19,702.06
	Travel	\$ 43,369.18
	Supplies	\$ 21,432.27
	Contractual	\$ 4,340.01
	Other	\$ 105,090.60



CFDA 11.482	Salary & Fringe	\$ 265,425.92
	Travel	\$ 46,345.50
	Supplies	\$ 12,432.27
	Contractual	\$ 1,381.50
	Other	\$ 4,500.85
	Indirect	\$ 31,275.00

CFDA 15.852	Salary & Fringe	\$ 4,833.05
	Travel	\$ 47,513.58
	Supplies	\$ 5,968.73
	Contractual	\$ 30,136.00
	Other	\$ 19,940.36
	Indirect	\$ 14,879.00



2020 MOVING FORWARD

USER CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS OF PRIME TOURIST SITES

A continued effort into fiscal year 2020, a survey will be conducted capturing visitor satisfaction and willingness-to-pay for Saipan's resources. The final product of the project will be an executive summary for how to appropriately manage the CNMI's most popular tourist destinations and a framework which informs resource managers and legislators about the findings of the UCAPTS project and how to implement project recommendations. *This project works towards DCRM's Strategic Plan Goal 1.2.2: Assess user capacity thresholds at priority sites and discuss potential mitigation measures with partner agencies.*

CORAL REEF RESTORATION

Although coral reef restoration is a relatively new idea in the CNMI, DCRM aims to expand reef restoration activities throughout the Marianas due to the declining health of our coral reefs. From the environmental perspective, the benefits of a healthy reef function provide residents with clean ocean water, visibly healthy coral and fish populations, and coastal protection from storm surge. DCRM has currently secured funding to, in cooperation with the the Division of Fish & Wildlife, install a coral nursery on Saipan, capable of housing 1,000 coral fragments until they are ready for out-planting onto damaged reefs. Funds to hire a restoration coordinator will be available in 2021 from NOAA which will further close gaps within local capacity. It is DCRM's hope that this program will expand, not just for conservation sake, but for the benefit of the community. *This project works towards DCRM's Strategic Plan Goal 3: Management of coastal resources are improved through monitoring and research.*

JEFFREY'S BEACH BOARDWALK PROJECT

Jeffrey's Beach is experiencing heavy visitor use as tourists explore some previously unnoticed areas on the eastern coastline of Saipan. Access to Jeffrey's Beach is via a heavily degraded road which frequently floods due to constant driving. These activities impact the fragile estuarine riverbed. In an effort to minimize and hopefully reduce these impacts, DCRM intends to construct an elevated walkway to prohibit vehicular traffic. The construction of the boardwalk would allow vegetation to recover and stabilize the degraded road which will reduce long-term sediment run-off. The boardwalk will be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines, it will improve water quality, provide an educational opportunity to its visitors, as well as other recreational amenities. *This project works towards DCRM's Strategic Plan Goal 1: Public access and use of coastal resources are enhanced, protected, and restored.*

SAIPAN LAGOON USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan (SLUMP) outlines a strategy from DCRM to follow as part of its mission to ensure sustainable use and protect the integrity of our lagoon. The SLUMP was first developed in 1985 and has gone through several rounds of updates to adapt to emerging threats to the resource. The document identifies priority issues, key goals, and specific management actions that the agency and its partners can pursue to improve the needs of a diverse set of users and stakeholders. In the years to come, DCRM will work to incorporate these management recommendations to update its regulations and policies. *This project works towards DCRM's Strategic Plan Goal 1.1.2: Continue to pursue management recommendations from the 2017 SLUMP update, actively engage stakeholders throughout the implementation process, and annually evaluate user conflict and other emerging issues.*

PLASTIC FREE MARIANAS

Plastic Free Marianas aims to address the CNMI's growing plastic pollution problem by educating schools, businesses, and community members about the environmental and public health impacts of single-use plastic pollution and the overarching social, environmental, and economic benefits of generating less waste. DCRM will provide tools, resources, and trainings for adopting a plastic-free lifestyle. Those who take the pledge will become part of the Plastic Free Marianas network, where they can avail of supplementary tools, trainings, and business marketing materials. It is our hope that the success of the campaign and growth of the network will result in the first "plastic-free places", paving the way for future socio-environmental causes. *This campaign works towards DCRM's Strategic Plan Goal 4.3.3: Conduct social marketing campaigns targeting specific behavior change related to land-based sources of pollution, coral reef conservation, water quality protection, and climate change.*

