



OUR PROGRAMS

- Permitting
- Enforcement
- Coastal Planning
- Education & Outreach
- Coral Reef Initiative
 - Marine Monitoring
 - Watershed Management
 - Coral Restoration
- Climate Change Adaptation



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality

CITIZEN CENTRIC
REPORT
FY 2023

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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PERMITTING

DCRM's Permitting Section is responsible for permitting minor and major developments and/or projects that are situated within and around DCRM's designated Areas of Particular Concern (APCs), including developments that have the potential to cause significant adverse impacts to the CNMI's coastal resources. DCRM also receives and reviews One-Start Applications from BECQ's Division of Environmental Quality.

During FY 2023, DCRM Permitting Section:



received and reviewed
521 applications



approved/cleared
501 applications

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2023 IN REVIEW

MANGROVE NURSERY

Mangrove nursery constructed in August 2023, with CNMI extirpated species collected from Guam to reestablish and reforest on Saipan. The nursery was assembled and is being maintained in partnership with the National Park Service and Kupu interns. Currently, the nursery houses four species of mangroves and three mangrove associated species. The aim of this project is to provide trees for reforestation along the coastlines of Garapan and Achugao watersheds on Saipan.



FEDERAL CONSISTENCY

Federal consistency, a provision from Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, requires the federal government to coordinate with DCRM's Coastal Management Program for federal actions that are likely to affect coastal resources. As the CNMI is subject to numerous federal agency activities, federal licenses or permits, and federal assistance, DCRM reviews these projects to ensure that they are consistent with the program's enforceable policies. DCRM has recently strengthened its reviewing process by receiving approval from NOAA to incorporate a suite of new enforceable policies, and is currently updating the content of a Procedures Guide with design by a 2023 Summer Intern. DCRM works closely with other CNMI resource agencies and the BECO Legal Counsel to utilize their technical expertise in the reviewing process, and periodically post notices to invite public comments. DCRM continues to use this important tool as a voice to federal government support of the protection of the CNMI's coastal resources.



ECO-TO-BP COURSE

Since its launch in January 2023, the Eco-Tour Operator Best Practices Course (ECO-TO-BP) has engaged and trained eighteen (18) marine sports operator (MSO) companies at the DCRM Learning Center. DCRM staff from planning, permitting, and the coral restoration team instructed MSOs on sustainable best practices and DCRM's rules and regulations with the goal to minimize their impact on our marine resources. Certification from successful completion of this incentivized course is one requirement for MSOs to achieve the highest discount on the DCRM permit.



CNMI OCEAN MONTH

In an effort to raise awareness of our coastal resources, DCRM celebrates June as CNMI Ocean Month, in honor of World Ocean Day on June 8th. This year, DCRM hosted multiple events throughout the month including an Ocean Fair on Saipan and Tinian, a roadside waving, an Upcycling Workshop, educational movie nights, a Sand Castle Building Competition, and an ocean-themed Trivia Night.



SUMMER INTERNSHIP

The 2023 DCRM Summer Internship was held from June 12-August 18, 2023, with a total of 15 CNMI-based college, or college-bound, students. This year's cohort worked on conservation-specific projects including Coastal Planning, Shoreline Monitoring, Marine Monitoring, Education and Outreach, Environmental Surveillance Laboratory, Water Quality Management, Wildlife Habitat Management, Watershed Management, and Coral Restoration. In addition to their summer project, interns also published a news article, which you can find on the DCRM website.



REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

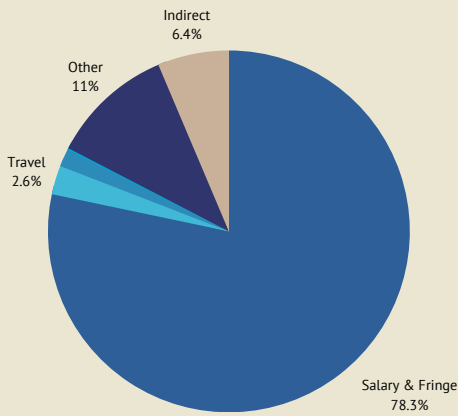
FEDERAL AWARDS

CFDA No.	Award No.
CFDA 11.419	NA22NOS4190158 - Year 1 \$ 1,167,000.00
CFDA 11.482	NA21NOS820015 - Years 1 & 2 \$ 1,219,160.00
CFDA 15.875	D21AP10205 \$ 113,290.00
CFDA 11.419	CZM Program Income <i>Total Revenue</i> \$ 36,643.00 <i>Enforcement Fines</i> \$ 3,400.00 <i>Permit Fees</i> \$ 33,243.00

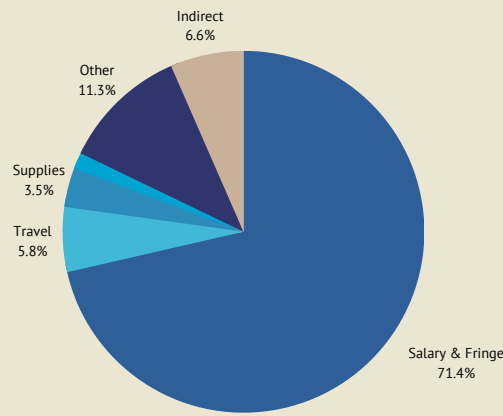
EXPENDITURES

	CFDA 11.419	CFDA 11.482	CFDA 15.875
Salary & Fringe	\$ 752,209.00	\$ 642,120.00	-
Travel	\$ 24,801.00	\$ 52,129.00	-
Equipment	-	-	\$ 35,105.00
Supplies	\$ 15,097.00	\$ 31,665.00	\$ 3,815.00
Contractual	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 12,790.00	-
Other	\$ 105,809.00	\$ 101,557.00	\$ 16,439.00
Indirect	\$ 61,261.00	\$ 58,966.00	\$ 615.00
Total	\$ 960,677.00	\$ 881,227.00	\$ 55,974.00

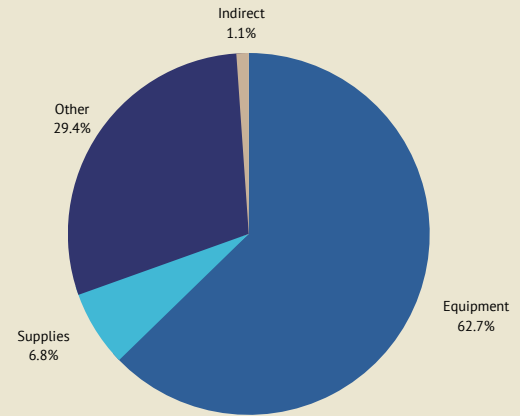
CFDA 11.419



CFDA 11.482



CFDA 15.875



MOVING FORWARD

PRIMO CONFERENCE

The Pacific Risk Management Ohana (PRiMO) is a coalition of people and organizations working towards common goals of addressing the natural and man-made challenges that we face in the Pacific. This effort sees participation from various groups, including emergency response organizations, nonprofits, government agencies, and universities to name a few. In February 2024, DCRM will be co-hosting the next PRiMO conference on Saipan. For more information about PRiMO, please contact primopartnership@gmail.com



WETLANDS DELINEATION

Wetland areas provide valuable habitat for unique freshwater plants and wildlife, while controlling population and flooding. Development pressure is one of the handful of threats facing this limited, fragile ecosystem. DCRM identified wetlands as a high priority enhancement area and will delineate sites on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Currently, DCRM is addressing the local and federal permitting requirements placed on the delineation activities. Once permitted, delineation will be actively pursued on these islands to gather qualitative and quantitative spatial data toward the outcome of an updated Wetlands APC after 2025.



ADDITIONAL FUNDING

DCRM successfully secured funding from NOAA and the Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs (DOI-OIA) through funds made available to the jurisdictions through both the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA and BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). With BIL funding through NOAA, DCRM will take the necessary steps to develop a feasibility study for private land acquisition in the CNMI, stakeholder engagement is intended to occur throughout the project's duration, and then it will culminate with the implementation of the recommendations listed in the report. In addition, IRA funds were secured through OIA to implement various projects that range from flood mitigation modeling, habitat restoration and public access enhancement, improvements to stormwater infrastructure, and adaptation practices for critical coastal areas.

