

Governors' Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership Establishment

The Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership (PROP) is a voluntary partnership amongst the Governors of the U.S. Pacific Islands Region.¹

MISSION:

To assist the U.S. Pacific Islands Region Governors of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (CNMI), Guam, and Hawai'i (hereinafter, "Pacific Islands Region" or "states") identify coastal and ocean management priorities that require a coordinated regional response and increased collaboration to effectively address these issues.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the PROP shall be to:

- Promote regional sustainability of resources that supports individual state requirements;
- Facilitate the implementation of the priority objectives of the President's Executive Order 13547 of July 19, 2010, which established the National Ocean Policy;
- Foster cooperation and collaboration on all aspects of ocean and coastal-related research and development, education, exploration and observation, and oceans management;
- Coordinate and communicate regional priorities;
- Facilitate the exchange of information, including reports, discussions, initiatives and plans which may be developed or considered;

¹ As defined in the Final Recommendations of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, p. 26, fn. 5 (July 19, 2010) and adopted in the National Ocean Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes (NOP), Exec. Order No. 13547 (July 19, 2010).

- Facilitate preservation of the historical, cultural, and social heritage of each state and the region;
- Identify opportunities for collaborative work in the ocean and coastal environment;
- Enhance current state, multi state, and federal governance and institutional mechanisms to manage ocean and coastal resources;
- Seek additional resources and funding opportunities to further the PROP's objectives; and
- Address related environmental issues.

These broad objectives shall be further defined through the development of the PROP Action Plan.

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING REGIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL JURISDICTIONAL INITIATIVES:

The PROP recognizes the value added of existing regional ocean, marine, and coastal initiatives in the Pacific Islands Region. These initiatives are currently engaged in addressing priorities and programs for the sub-regions. The PROP will collaborate and participate in the activities of these initiatives, where feasible, and add value to those issues shared in common among the initiatives.

ORGANIZATION:

The PROP structure is designed to promote maximum communication, coordination, action, and results. The PROP is designed to be state-led. The actions of the PROP will complement, and take advantage of, other ongoing regional efforts. Most importantly, the PROP will respect individual state policy making requirements. The structure is composed of an Executive Group, a Steering Group, Action Coordination Teams (ACTs), and Supporting Partners.

1. PROP Executive Group

Each Pacific Islands Region Governor, or designee, comprises the PROP Executive Group. The four Governors provide strategic vision and direction to the PROP Steering Group for developing and implementing plans of action. The PROP Executive Group will approve the PROP Action Plan. The Governors will use interstate executive ties to keep PROP activities connected with other state, regional, and national activities in a complementary manner.

2. PROP Steering Group

Each Governor will appoint one representative to the PROP Steering Group with the authority to represent the Governors. The Chair of the Steering Group will rotate amongst members every two years, or as agreed to among the members.

The PROP Steering Group is responsible for planning and organizing the activities of the PROP, as guided by the PROP Action Plan. The Steering Group will direct the development and tracking of action plans and PROP priorities.

3. Action Coordination Teams

The PROP Steering Group may establish ACTs to develop and implement issue area goals, objectives, strategies, and schedules to address priority issues within that particular area. Interested federal agencies and other partners may be invited to designate a liaison for each issue area to work directly with and support each ACT.

ACTs will develop the initiatives and related tasks/products to implement the action plan. ACTs integrate policy and science requirements by identifying opportunities (objectives) and actions that influence identified issues, produce solutions (products) of mutual use and multiple benefits, and result in regional outcomes.

4. Supporting Partners

The PROP Steering Group will identify Supporting Partners that may consist of, but are not limited to, federal, local, academic, International organizations and partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector entities. Supporting Partners bring resources (e.g., people, time, money, equipment, and technology) and technical and policy expertise to the PROP activities to complement issues of mutual interest. The partners also integrate PROP priorities into the complementary actions taken by their respective agencies.

a. Federal Agency Partnerships

The success of the PROP is enhanced by strong support from federal agency partners, who bring established experience from diverse areas of expertise and the ability to integrate multiple federal resources that contribute to the long-term environmental and economic sustainability of the Pacific Islands Region. The federal partners can advance federal collaboration in direct response to coastal and ocean issues identified by the PROP. These partners also possess the capability to explore innovative mechanisms for ecosystem management, integrating coastal and ocean observations, developing

decision-support systems based on policy and science, and emphasizing local, state and federal collaboration. Specifically, the benefits from federal partners' support may include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting Pacific Islands Region state leadership;
- Supporting and participating in the ACTs that can most effectively contribute to a federal response within each of the focus areas;
- Participating by leveraging resources;
- Identifying near-term deliverables and commitments that will increase the likelihood of long-term PROP success; and
- Assisting in, and providing input for, development and implementation of the PROP Action Plan.

b. NGO and Private Sector Supporting Partnerships

NGOs and the private sector likewise bring extensive experience and capabilities to further the goals of the PROP. NGOs, in particular, have a long history in the Pacific Islands Region cooperatively working with the states and federal and local agencies. Their unique ability to directly support and solicit action will complement PROP activities of mutual interest. As such, the PROP encourages active engagement from the NGO community.

The private sector is also key in supporting the goals of the PROP. Their knowledge of best business practices and industrial design can advance cooperative planning, public awareness of issues facing the Pacific Islands Region, and integrated solutions. Private sector partnerships can also be vehicles for introducing new technology, industrial practices, and opportunities for public/private ventures.

c. Local Partnerships

Local partner input and participation in PROP activities is essential to effective Pacific Islands Region coastal and marine sustainability. Local and municipal participation ensures complementary action to local efforts and ultimate regional success.

d. International Organizations and Partnerships

PROP recognizes the importance of collaboration and coordination with international organizations and partners in the Pacific Islands Region.

PROP ACTION PLAN:

The Executive Group will adopt a PROP Action Plan that will guide the activities of PROP. The action plan will focus on priority issue areas that all four member states identify as being of mutual interest and likely to benefit from regional collaboration. It will

be action-based, contain clear goals, measurable objectives, and integrated strategies for achievement. Public involvement will be encouraged and facilitated during the development of the regional plan and any individual state or other supporting plan. The PROP Action Plan will be made available to the public. This plan will be reviewed and updated every five years, or as directed by the Executive Group.

MEETINGS:

1. Annual Meeting

The PROP shall hold at least one general meeting each year at a time and place determined by consensus of the Steering Group and the availability of the Governors of each state. The Steering Group will report on accomplishments, challenges, and emerging issues. The group will also realign priorities as necessary.

2. Action Plan Implementation

The Steering Group will hold teleconferences, meetings and conferences as needed to complete activities assigned to them in the PROP Action Plan.

DECISIONS:

The PROP will function in a manner that optimizes the ability to develop and sustain an effective working relationship among the partners and results in mutual mission accomplishment and benefits. Specifically, partners will identify and act on opportunities for mutual gain. The PROP will be respectful of differences and individual state authorities, policies, and jurisdictions. Recognizing these differences will influence the issues and approaches undertaken by the PROP.

The PROP, and its Steering Group, will operate on a consensus basis. Members should be notified in advance of the meeting to encourage them to caucus and have appropriate representation at the meeting. All members must be available to participate in person, by proxy, or by other means.

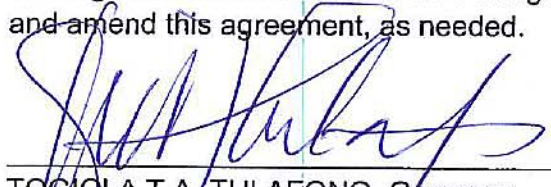
Participation by the Governors in any activity under this Partnership is voluntary.

SUPPORT:

The PROP will seek assistance with staffing and preparing meetings, recording action items and tasks, and other administrative tasks as needed. Administrative support should be shared by all PROP members.

DURATION:

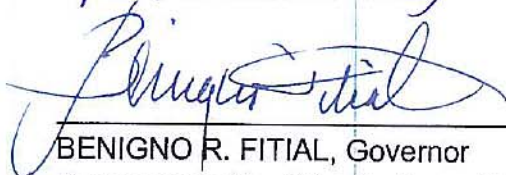
This agreement is intended to be a living document. The PROP Governors may review and amend this agreement, as needed.




TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO, Governor
Territory of American Samoa




DATE



BENIGNO R. FITIAL, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands




DATE



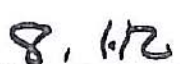
EDDIE BAZA CALVO, Governor
Territory of Guam



DATE



NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor
State of Hawaii



DATE