

Mariana Archipelago Sea Turtle Workshop

On Jan. 25 to 27, 2011, the Council held the Marianas Archipelago Sea Turtle Workshop in Saipan, CNMI, to strengthen international collaborations with areas with known common green turtle stocks. The Council's Indigenous Program was able to include cultural participants and navigators from CNMI, Guam, Hawai'i, American Samoa, Japan and the Philippines to identify the cultural needs and traditions associated with green turtles in order to develop methods to integrate such needs into green turtle conservation activities in the CNMI and Guam.

This was the first time that sea turtle science allowed cultural practitioners to provide traditional knowledge on the importance and significance of sea turtles to the indigenous people and create a dialogue to balance cultural needs and modern-day conservation. Some of the knowledge shared by the practitioners, including sea turtle migratory paths, have been confirmed through modern turtle-tracking research.



Traditional resource managers sharing their knowledge of sea turtles.

First Stewards Symposia on Climate Change and Coastal Peoples

Recognizing that climate change will have a larger impact on indigenous peoples, the Council worked collaboratively with the coastal indigenous peoples of North America in hopes of advancing climate change strategies that secure indigenous cultures. The first symposium was held in 2012 at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, to cultivate sustainable projects and education opportunities for indigenous communities that address climate change and its associated impacts. A second symposium was held in Washington, DC, in 2014, to address sustainability, cultural and food security, and traditional resource management practices.

For both symposia, the Council organized and led the Pacific Islands group. It also created a short video

Little Changes Have Big Impacts on Little Islands, held high school student photo-essay contests on the symposia's themes throughout the Western Pacific Region and supported the winner from each island area to the symposia to showcase their winning entries. For the 2014 symposium, the Council commissioned the American Samoa Community College's Samoan Studies Institute students to study similarities in the traditional stories about climate and fisheries throughout the Pacific Islands and brought a group of the students to the symposium to share their findings.

Together, these symposia provided a louder, unified voice for indigenous peoples to call upon the US government to formally acknowledge indigenous peoples as the nation's first stewards, to recognize their expertise and to consult with them on policies that affect their way of life.



Uniting indigenous voices on climate change.

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ACRONYMS

AP	Advisory Panel
CBFMP	Community-based Fishery Management Plan
CDP	Community Development Program
CDPP	Community Demonstration Projects Program
CMSP	Coastal And Marine Spatial Planning
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FRIP	Fishery Rights of Indigenous People
MET	Marine Education and Training
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NWHI	Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
PIAFA	Pacific Insular Area Fishery Agreements
PRIAs	Pacific Island Remote Island Areas
SFA	Sustainable Fisheries Act
TKK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
WPEPP	Western Pacific Educational Partnership Program



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