

CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

FISCAL YEAR 2024



ABOUT DCRM

@CNMIDCRM

P.O. Box 501304 | Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-8300

@GoingCoastal_CNMI

www.dcrm.gov.mp



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.

OUR PROGRAMS



Permitting



Enforcement



Coastal Planning



Education & Outreach



Coral Reef Initiative



Climate Change Adaptation

BOARD MEMBERS

Division of Coastal Resources Management

Agnes M. Sablan
Acting Director
Board Chair

Division of Environmental Quality

Sabrina S. Cruz
Director
Rep: Merrill Ayuyu

Department of Lands and Natural Resources

Sylvan O. Igisomar
Secretary
Rep: Henry Fandel

Department of Commerce

Remedio C. Mafnas
Secretary
Rep: Kioshi Cody

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Kevin O. Watson
Executive Director
Rep: Larry Manacop

Department of Public Works

Ray N. Yumul
Secretary
Rep: Daniel Buniag

Historic Preservation Office

Mertie T. Kani
Historic Preservation Officer
Rep: John Palacios

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 FY24, DCRM's Permitting Section:



received and reviewed

383 applications



approved/cleared

375 applications



conducted **146** site inspections

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YEAR IN REVIEW

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JEFFREY'S BEACH HABITAT RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS ENHANCEMENT

DCRM has secured funding from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to build an elevated boardwalk and permeable parking lot at Jeffrey's Beach, Talofofo, Saipan, that complies with the American Disabilities Act. These enhancements will address safety and environmental concerns related to the deteriorating road, enhance public accessibility, improve the water quality of the nearby Talofofo stream, encourage walking and healthy lifestyles, and conserve natural resources. Informational signs will highlight the cultural and ecological significance of this estuary. DCRM is collaborating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and OIA to ensure compliance with local and federal environmental regulations. The project is projected to be completed around 2027.

CORAL REEF INITIATIVE'S RIDGE-TO-REEF ECO CAMP

The Ridge-to-Reef Eco Camp was created to engage 6th grade students on Tinian and Rota in immersive, place-based natural science lessons focused on the unique ecosystems of the CNMI. In collaboration with Sinapalo Elementary School and Tinian Middle-High School, DCRM successfully conducted the camp in April 2024. Throughout the Eco Camp, students explored topics including coral reef health and vitality, the effects of marine debris, and the significance of native and endemic species, among others. The Eco Camp provided a valuable platform for hands-on learning and fostered a deeper appreciation for the CNMI's rich biodiversity.



PACIFIC RISK MANAGEMENT 'OHANA (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 co-hosted the PRIMO conference at the Crowne Plaza Resort on Saipan. Approximately 180 participants attended the conference, including off-island guests from Guam, Hawaii, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, U.S. Virgin Islands, and other states across the U.S.



3rd ANNUAL CNMI OCEAN MONTH

To raise awareness of our coastal and marine resources, DCRM designates June as CNMI Ocean Month in honor of World Ocean Day, celebrated on June 8th. This year, DCRM organized a series of events throughout the month, including a proclamation signing ceremony, a roadside awareness campaign, a recycling workshop, an ocean-themed trivia night, several movie screenings, a beach cleanup, and a sand sculpting competition. Furthermore, DCRM hosted an educational fair on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, featuring a variety of activities and outreach booths designed to engage the community.



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EXPENDITURE

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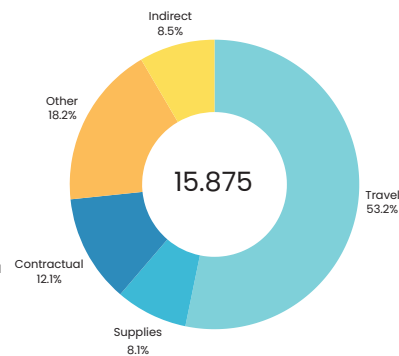
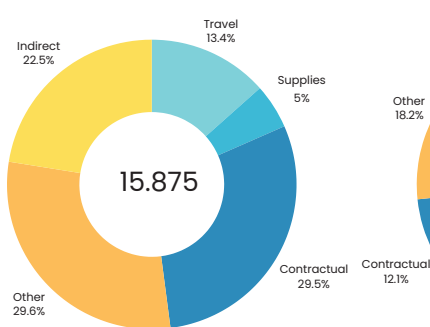
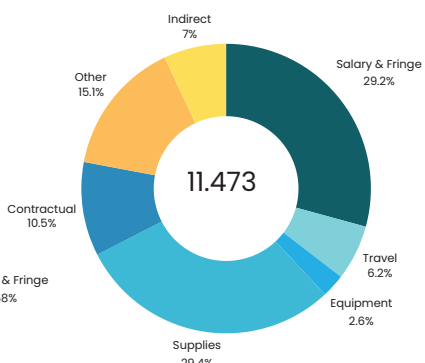
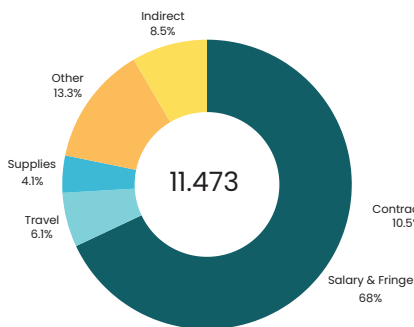
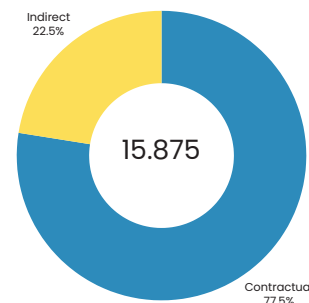
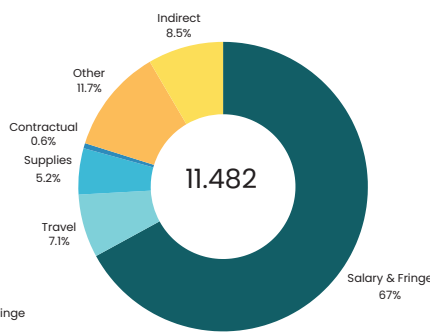
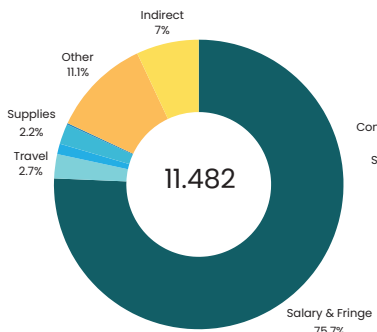
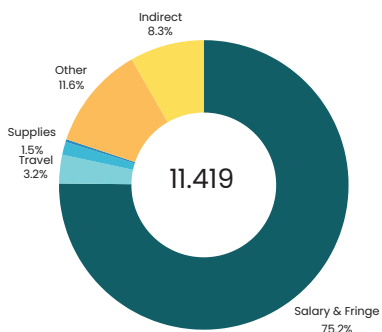
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FEDERAL AWARDS

CFDA NO.	AWARD NO.	AWARD ENDING	AWARD AMOUNT	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE
11.419	NA22NOS4190158 Years 1 & 2	03/30/2025	\$ 2,360,000.00	\$ 2,001,322.00	\$ 358,678.00
11.482	NA23NOS4820134 Year 1	09/30/2025	\$ 512,426.00	\$ 346,113.00	\$ 166,313.00
11.482	NA21NOS4820015 Years 1 & 2	09/30/2024	\$ 1,219,160.00	\$ 881,227.00	\$ 337,933.00
15.875	D23AP00117 (OIA-IRA)	09/30/2027	\$ 1,676,536.00	-	\$ 1,676,536.00
11.473	NA23NOS4730014 (NOAA-IIJA-BIL)	11/30/2025	\$ 398,399.00	-	\$ 398,399.00
11.473	NA23NOS4730014 (NOAA-IIJA-BIL)	11/30/2025	\$ 133,174.00	\$ 15,659.82	\$ 117,514.18
15.875	D23AP00245 (CRNR-2023-7)	09/30/2027	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 31,865.00	\$ 88,135.00
15.875	D22AP00303 (CRNR-2022-2)	09/30/2025	\$ 124,223.00	\$ 27,843.92	\$ 96,379.08
11.419	CZM Program Income		Total Revenue: \$ 45,907.25		



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MOVING FORWARD

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49th U.S. CORAL REEF TASK FORCE MEETING

The USCRTF was established in 1998 to lead U.S. efforts to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems. Meetings are held in Washington, D.C., in the spring and in a member jurisdiction in the fall. These meetings provide a venue to report on the status of ongoing coral reef initiatives in local areas, an opportunity to discuss resolutions and that status of past resolutions, and allow for public participation regarding coral reefs and their conservation. In November 2024, the CNMI will host the USCRTF Meeting for the first time since 2016.



UPDATE OF DCRM'S 5-YEAR STRATEGIC AND COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

DCRM's Strategic Plan identifies key priorities that align with DCRM's values and further DCRM's mission and vision. Each priority is supported by strategic actions and milestones, which together provide a roadmap for progress within a defined time frame. In FY 2025, DCRM's leadership and staff will work collaboratively to update the agency's 5-Year Strategic Plan. This document will serve as a guiding framework for DCRM's actions and priorities over the next five years, 2025-2029, facilitating the tracking and measurement of strategic outcomes.



UPDATE OF DCRM'S MARINE SPORTS RULES AND REGULATIONS

Water sports and recreational activities play a vital role in the CNMI's tourism industry. Among marine sports, SCUBA diving is the most popular, while parasailing and banana boat activities are the leading motorized water sports in the CNMI. In response to the growing demand for parasailing, and with a commitment to ensuring public safety, the Division of Coastal Resources Management is proposing an increase in the number of parasailing permits from 12 to 20 per fiscal year. DCRM will work closely with the Office of the Governor, the CNMI Registry, and the Attorney General's Office, and other key stakeholders, to make such changes to DCRM's Rules and Regulations.