A National perspective: Engaging Stakeholders on Seabed Minerals in the Cook Islands

Alex Herman, Seabed Minerals Commissioner
Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority
Stakeholder Engagement Goals

• Seabed Minerals (SBM) is fledgling industry – only exploration activities, no exploitation.

• Different types of resources, with different environmental, legal, social and financial considerations.

• Most Cook Islanders do not have a good understanding of SBM issues.

• Authority consultations in the Cook Islands intended to raise awareness and provide information on:
  • SBM generally, and Cook Islands nodules
  • Cook Islands SBM regime
  • Cook Islands current SBM activities – Exploration only
Cook Islands Stakeholder Mapping

**Government**
- Members of Parliament
- Government Agencies
- Island Councils

**Community**
- Advisory Committee
- NGOs
- Uniform Code (Girl Guides, Boys Brigade etc)
- Schools
- Pa Enua

**Traditional**
- House of Ariki
- Koutu Nui
- Aronga Mana

**Religious**
- Religious Advisory Group
- Churches
- Takamoia Theological College
Stakeholder Engagement 2021

The voice of all our people are of great importance to us
Government leaders
Traditional leaders

House of Ariki – Our Tribal Chiefs
Religious Advisory Council, Rarotonga
SBM Advisory Committee
Community Consults

Photo above: Arorangi Uniform codes

Photo below: T & M Heather (Construction Company)
Primary & Secondary schools

- Arorangi Primary School
- Mangaia School
Pa Enua – Southern Group

Mangaia

Mauke & Mitiaro
Pa Enua – Northern Group

Manihiki

Rakahanga
2021 to date:
26 community consults
408 Surveys
Takeaway Points

• Different levels of engagement depending on the stakeholder group

• SBM a complex issue

• Stakeholder Engagement Planning – be clear about Who, What, Why, How, When

• Integrating stakeholder feedback into decision-making and planning
  • Authority policy
  • SBM Act 2019 mechanisms – Advisory Committee, public input on licence applications
MEITAKI MAATA