



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Debris Emergency Response Guide: Field Reference Guide

NOAA Marine Debris Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This *Field Reference Guide* condenses information contained in the *Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Marine Debris Emergency Response Guide: Comprehensive Guidance Document (Guide)* to facilitate use during emergency response operations. While the *Comprehensive Guide* serves as a complete reference for marine debris response in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), the *Field Reference Guide* includes organization contacts and the most pertinent information for quick reference in the field and during times of crisis. Both documents and subsequent versions will be posted on the NOAA Marine Debris Program website at <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/our-work/emergency-response>.

The purpose of these documents is to improve preparedness for response and recovery following a disaster that generates marine debris in the CNMI. The *Comprehensive Guidance Document* and complementary *Field Reference Guide* outline existing response structures at the local, commonwealth, and federal levels to facilitate a coordinated, well-managed, and immediate response to marine debris. Organization roles and responsibilities are presented in a consolidated one-page [flowchart](#) which functions as a decision tree for marine debris response. Organization jurisdictions are presented in a [map](#), with a dynamic version available [online](#). Additionally, permitting and compliance requirements for marine debris removal have been synthesized in a one-page reference [handout](#).

1.2 Scope of *Guide*

The *Guide* addresses both natural and anthropogenic marine debris incidents affecting the CNMI. In 33 U.S.C. § 1956(3), marine debris is defined as any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or Great Lakes. Although vegetative debris is not included in the legal definition for marine debris, stakeholders have identified it as a common debris stream of concern following natural disasters. Therefore, in this document, the term marine debris is used more generally and also includes vegetative material and debris that could be exposed to or release oil, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants that enters a waterway following an acute

incident and poses a threat to the natural or built environment. This also includes shoreline and wetland debris and debris in some inland, non-tidal waterways.

2 CNMI Marine Debris Response Flowchart

The “CNMI Marine Debris Response Flowchart” on the following page provides a visual one-page representation of organization roles and responsibilities. The flowchart functions as a decision tree for marine debris response with color-coded endpoints. Yellow endpoints represent response to marine debris that is hazardous or could be exposed to or release oil or hazardous substances. Blue endpoints represent response to marine debris that is not exposed to and does not have the potential to release oil or hazardous substances. Endpoints within the green shaded area indicate that response may occur under Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) authorities and/or funding.

CNMI Marine Debris Response Flowchart

Purpose

The flowchart functions as a decision tree for marine debris response with color-coded endpoints. It is designed to inform response to debris in waterways and along shorelines after disasters.

BECQ – Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
 CNMI – Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 DCRM – BECQ Division of Coastal Resources Management
 DEQ – BECQ Division of Environmental Quality
 DLNR – Department of Lands and Natural Resources
 EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

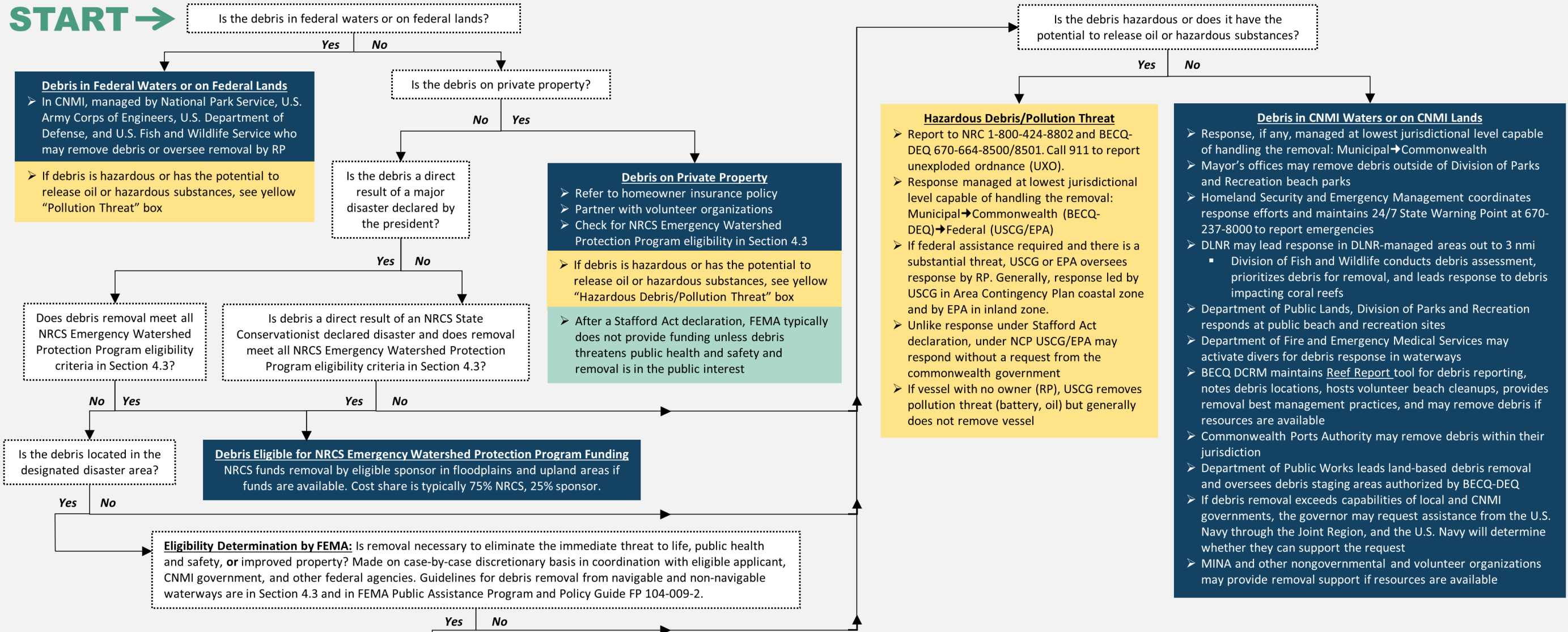
ESF – Emergency support function
 FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
 GAR – Governor’s Authorized Representative
 MINA – Mariana Islands Nature Alliance
 NCP – National Oil & Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan

NRC – National Response Center
 NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
 RP – Responsible party
 USCG – U.S. Coast Guard
 UXO – Unexploded ordnance

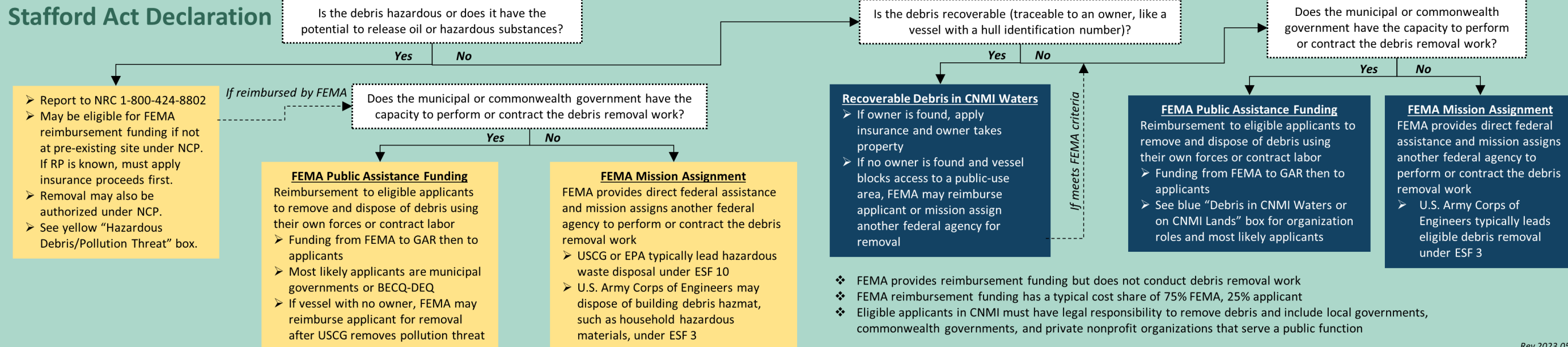
Flowchart Key

- Response to debris that is not exposed to and does not have the potential to release oil or hazardous substances
- Response to debris that is hazardous or has the potential to release oil or hazardous substances
- Response under Stafford Act authorities and/or funds

START →



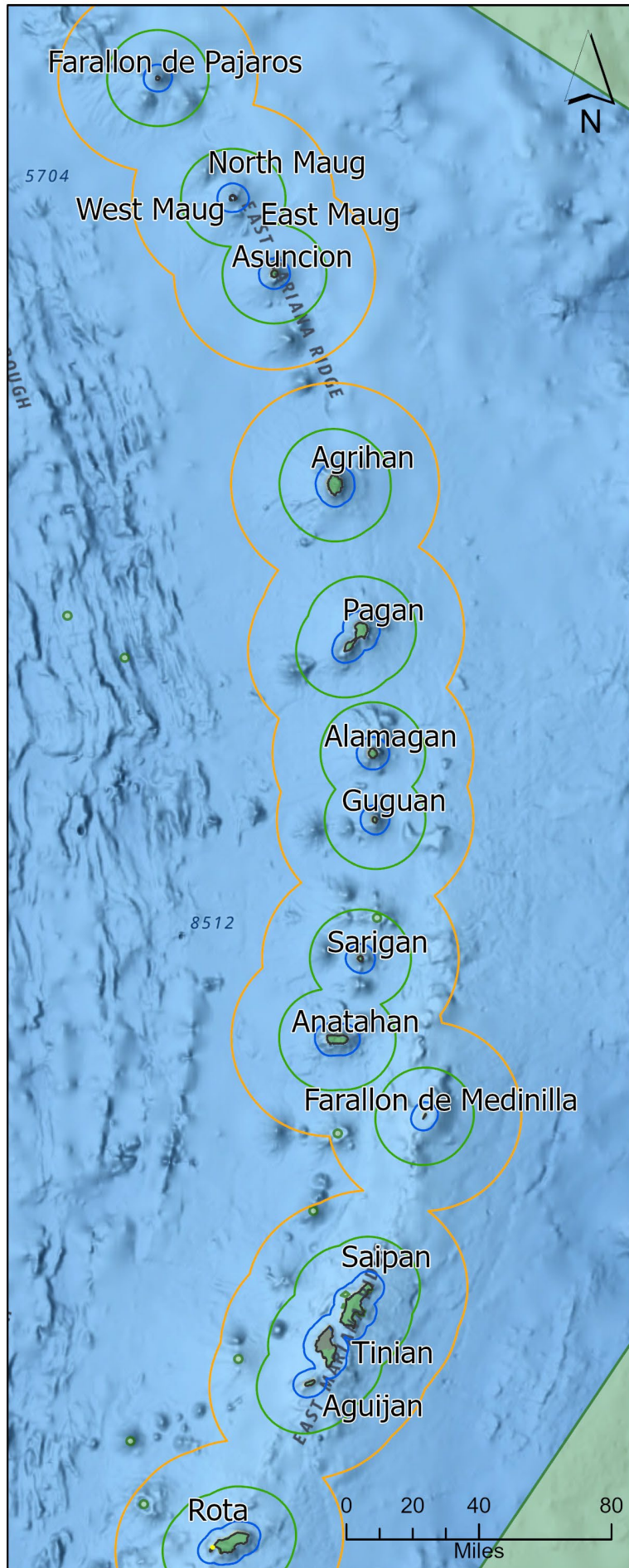
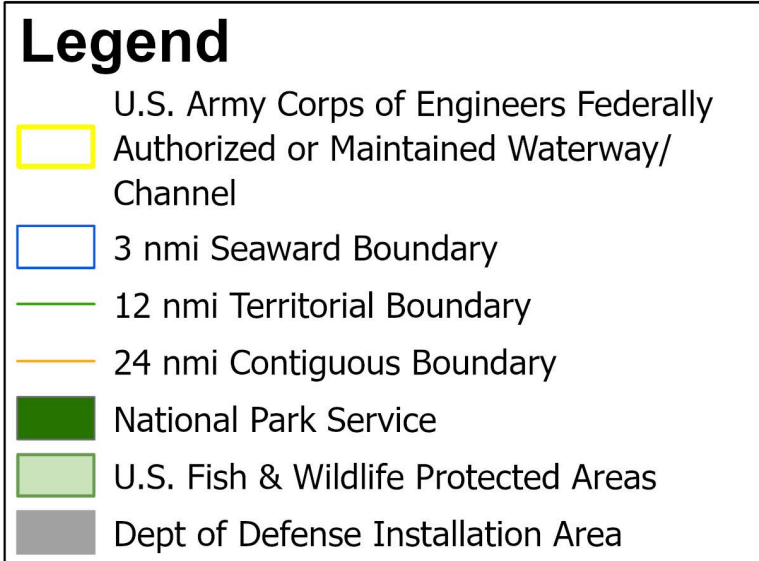
Stafford Act Declaration



3 CNMI Marine Debris Response Map

The “CNMI Marine Debris Response Map” displays relevant organization jurisdiction boundaries. After a marine debris incident, the agency (or agencies) with jurisdiction and authority for removing debris will vary depending on where the debris is located. This map includes information that stakeholders identified as important in determining jurisdiction within the commonwealth. A dynamic version of the response map is also available [online](#) in the Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Marine Debris Response Map

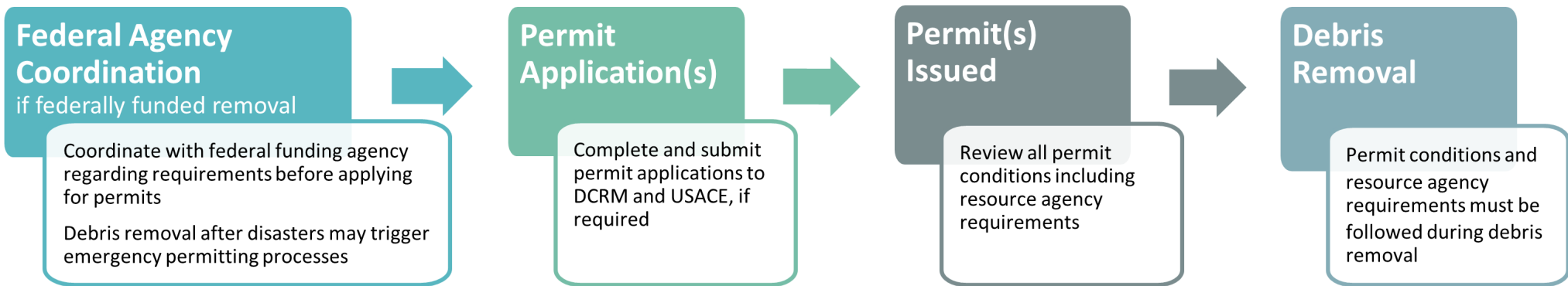


4 Environmental Compliance During Marine Debris Removal in CNMI Handout

The “Environmental Compliance During Marine Debris Removal in CNMI” handout on the following page synthesizes permitting and compliance requirements that must be met before debris removal operations begin. The top portion of the handout outlines the process to follow to stay in compliance, while the bottom portion highlights specific agency requirements with general contact information.

Environmental Compliance During Marine Debris Removal in CNMI

- A Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit may be required for debris removal within waterways, wetlands, and areas of particular concern. The **organization or individual removing debris** is responsible for obtaining permits from DCRM and USACE.
- Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the **lead federal agency** must assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions before making decisions and is responsible for consulting with resource agencies listed below.



Primary Agency Requirements and Contact Information

<p>Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) DCRM: 670-664-8300 DEQ: 670-664-8500</p>	<p>Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) reviews actions for consistency with policies and issues three types of permits for activities which may affect coastal resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area of particular concern (APC) permit for activities occurring within a designated APC ▪ Temporary permit for emergency repairs after disasters ▪ Major siting permit for large scale activities that could cause significant impacts <p>Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulates solid and hazardous waste management, issues emergency permits for debris staging areas, and issues water quality certifications</p>	<p>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Honolulu District 808-835-4303 Guam Field Office 671-339-2108 CEPOH-RO@usace.army.mil</p>	<p>USACE permit may be required for debris removal within waterways and wetlands if the activity involves dredging, excavation, or impacts the navigability of a waterway. Some permits that may be required for debris removal in waterways and wetlands are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NWP-3 Maintenance for removal/maintenance of culverts, sediments or debris accumulated around outfalls, bridges, etc. ▪ NWP-22 Removal of Vessels for removal of wrecked, abandoned, or disabled vessels or other man-made obstructions to navigation
<p>Historic Preservation Office (HPO) 670-664-2120</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issues clearances and ensures compliance with Commonwealth Historic Preservation Act and National Historic Preservation Act ▪ Federal agencies must consult with HPO to determine if project will affect historic properties 	<p>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) NOAA Fisheries ESA: 808-725-5140 EFH: 670-234-0004 EFHESAconsult@noaa.gov</p>	<p>Consultation required if marine debris removal involves federal permits and/or funding (USACE permit, FEMA funding, etc.) to comply with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Endangered Species Act (ESA) to ensure actions do not jeopardize listed endangered or threatened marine species or designated critical habitat ▪ Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act to ensure actions do not adversely affect essential fish habitat (EFH)
<p>Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) DFW: 670-664-6000</p>	<p>Projects that may impact an endangered species and/or their critical habitat must have clearance from DLNR Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) before a project can proceed</p>	<p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 671-787-6094</p>	<p>Consultation required if marine debris removal involves federal permits and/or funding (USACE permit, FEMA funding, etc.) to comply with Endangered Species Act (ESA) to ensure actions do not jeopardize listed endangered or threatened land or freshwater species or designated critical habitat</p>

5 Contact Information

Note: Contact information is only included for organizations who have provided and/or approved information in the following tables.

Local Government

Agency	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
Municipality of Rota	Planning and coordination	Mayor Efraim Atalig	670-532-9451	-
Municipality of Saipan	Planning and coordination	Mayor David Apatang	670-234-6208	saipanmayor@mos.gov.mp
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan	Planning and coordination	Mayor Edwin Aldan	670-433-1800	frontofficemot@gmail.com
		Allen Perez, Chief of Staff	670-433-1800	allen_perez@hotmail.com

Commonwealth Agencies

Agency	Division	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)	Port of Saipan	All inquiries	General contact	670-664-3550	-
	Port of Tinian			670-433-9296	-
	Port of Rota			670-532-9489	-
CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ)	-	Planning and coordination	Eli Cabrera, BECQ Administrator	-	eli.cabrera@becq.gov.mp
	Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM)	Planning and coordination	Richard Salas, DCRM Director	670-664-8319	rsalas@dcrm.gov.mp
			Colleen Flores, CZ Communications	670-664-8316	cflores@dcrm.gov.mp
		Permitting and enforcement	General contact	670-664-8300	-
			Sam Sablan, Permitting and Compliance Chief	-	ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp
	Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	All inquiries	General contact	670-664-8500	-
		Reporting violations, spills, concerns	General contact	670-664-8500/8501	-
		Reporting violations, spills, concerns (HSEM after hours)	General contact	670-322-8002	-
		Planning and coordination	Zabrina Shai, Acting DEQ Director	-	zabrina.shai@becq.gov.mp
		Hazardous waste management	Tom Pangelinan, Toxic Waste Management Manager	-	tom.pangelinan@becq.gov.mp
Solid waste management		Greg Reyes, Solid Waste Management Manager	-	greg.reyes@becq.gov.mp	
CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs	Historic Preservation Office (HPO)	Historic preservation compliance	Rita Chong-Dela Cruz, State Historic Preservation Officer	670-664-2120	rchong.cnmihpo@gmail.com

Commonwealth Agencies Continued

Agency	Division	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)	-	Planning and coordination	Chief Jesse Mesa, Acting Commissioner	-	jcmesa@dfemscnmi.com
			Juan Pua, Division Chief of Operations	-	japua@dfemscnmi.com
CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR)	Division of Fish and Wildlife	Planning and coordination	Anthony Benavente, DLNR Secretary	-	tonytbenavente@gmail.com
		Planning and coordination	Manny Pangelinan, DFW Director	-	mpangelinan.cnmidfw@gmail.com
		Clearance for projects that may impact an endangered species and/or their critical habitat	General contact	670-664-6000	-
CNMI Department of Public Lands (DPL)	Saipan	All inquiries	General contact	670-234-3751	dpl@dpl.gov.mp
	Tinian			670-433-9245	dpptiq@dpl.gov.mp
	Rota			670-532-9431	dplrota@dpl.gov.mp
CNMI Department of Public Safety (DPS)	-	All inquiries	DPS Operator	670-664-9000	contact@dps.gov.mp
		24 Hours contact	24 Hours Operations Center	670-664-9001	-
CNMI Department of Public Works (DPW)	-	Planning and coordination	James Ada, DPW Secretary	-	james.dpwsecretary@gmail.com
CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)	-	Reporting emergencies	24/7 EOC State Warning Point	670-237-8000	-
		Reporting violations, spills, concerns (HSEM after hours)	-	670-322-8002	-
		Planning and coordination	Dennis Mendiola, Special Assistant	-	djcmendiola@cnmihsem.gov.mp
CNMI Office of Planning and Development (OPD)	-	Planning and coordination	Gerald Guerrero, Deputy Special Assistant	670-664-2216	gerald.guerrero@cnmihsem.gov.mp
			Kodep Uludong-Ogumoro, OPD Director	-	kodep.uludong@opd.gov.mp
			Erin Derrington, Lead Planner	-	erin.derrington@opd.gov.mp

Federal Agencies

Agency	Division	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	Plant Protection and Quarantine Program	Plant debris movement from CNMI to other U.S. states or territories	Hawai'i State Plant Health Director	808-838-2780	-
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) <i>Continued on next page</i>	Region 9	Debris expertise	Mark Wingate, Critical Infrastructure and Planning Branch Chief	-	mark.wingate@fema.dhs.gov
		Environment and Historic Preservation	Mary Johnson	-	mary.johnson@fema.dhs.gov
		Public Assistance	Daniel Markey, Supervisory Emergency Management Specialist, PA Disaster Team 1 lead	202-710-8312	daniel.markey@fema.dhs.gov

Federal Agencies Continued

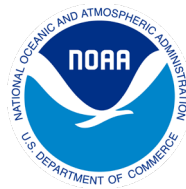
Agency	Division	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
<i>Continued from previous page</i> Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Region 9	Recovery Office	Wayne Clayton, Recovery Office Director	-	wayne.clayton@fema.dhs.gov
			Luis Camacho Jr., Public Assistance Lead/ Acting Operations Section Chief	-	luis.camachojr@fema.dhs.gov
			Miranda Ross, Emergency Management Specialist, FEMA Program Delivery Manager Public Assistance	-	miranda.ross@fema.dhs.gov
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS or NOAA Fisheries)	EFH/ESA coordination	General contact	-	EFHESAconsult@noaa.gov
		EFH information	Steve McKagan, Fisheries Biologist	670-234-0004	steven.mckagan@noaa.gov
		ESA information	General contact, Pacific Islands Region	808-725-5140	nmfs.pir.esa.info@noaa.gov
			Ron Dean	-	ron.dean@noaa.gov
	National Ocean Service, Office of Coast Survey	Navigation preparation and response	LCDR Hadley Owen, Navigation Manager Alaska and Pacific Islands	907-231-7112	hadley.a.owen@noaa.gov
	National Ocean Service, Office of Response and Restoration	Potential to release oil or hazardous substance	Ruth Yender, Scientific Support Coordinator	206-849-9926	ruth.yender@noaa.gov
		Planning and coordination for marine debris issues	Mark Manuel, Pacific Islands Regional Coordinator	808-342-5770 (C)	mark.manuel@noaa.gov
	National Ocean Service, National Geodetic Survey, Remote Sensing Division	Remote sensing aerial imagery	Ed Carlson, Pacific Regional Geodetic Advisor	-	ed.carlson@noaa.gov
Mike Aslaksen, Chief Remote Sensing Division			240-533-9576	mike.aslaksen@noaa.gov	
National Park Service	American Memorial Park	Response on National Park Service lands	Timothy Clark, Cultural and Natural Resources Manager	671-688-9783 (C)	timothy_clark@nps.gov
			Brooke Nevitt, Lead Ranger	670-234-7207 x 2020	brooke_nevitt@nps.gov
			Jayson Tinney, Chief Ranger	670-234-7207 ext. 2009 (O) 670-483-7252 (C)	jayson_tinney@nps.gov
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Saipan Field Office	Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program	Pamela M. Sablan, District Conservationist	670-233-3415	pamela.sablan@usda.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) <i>Continued on next page</i>	Emergency Management, Pacific Ocean Division	Planning and coordination	Sean Dowling, Deputy Chief Readiness and Contingency Operations	808-835-4721	sean.p.dowling@usace.army.mil

Federal Agencies Continued

Agency	Division	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
<i>Continued from previous page</i> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Regulatory Section, Honolulu District	Compliance and permitting	Guam Field Office	671-339-2108	CEPOH-RO@usace.army.mil
			Honolulu Office	808-835-4303	CEPOH-RO@usace.army.mil
			Albert Williams, Regulatory Project Manager, Nationwide Permitting Coordinator	-	albert.p.williams@usace.army.mil
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)	-	Report potential to release oil or hazardous substance	National Response Center (NRC)	800-424-8802	-
	Sector Guam, MSD Saipan	Planning and coordination	24/7 Command Center	671-355-4821	-
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	-	Report potential to release oil or hazardous substance	National Response Center (NRC)	800-424-8802	-
	Region 9	Planning and coordination	Bill Jones, Oceania Regional Response Team (ORRT) Coordinator	-	jones.bill@epa.gov
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Mariana Refuges and Monument Complex	Response in National Wildlife Refuges and Marine National Monument	Laura Beauregard, Pacific Islands Emergency Coordinator	808-342-8792	laura_beauregard@fws.gov
			Jihan Younis, Park Ranger Marianas Trench MNM	671-686-5344	jihan_younis@fws.gov
	Ecological Services Field Office	Endangered Species Act (ESA) information	Jacqueline Flores, Mariana Islands Team Manager	671-787-6094	jacqueline_flores@fws.gov
			Tyler Willsey, Wildlife Biologist	670-488-8957	tyler_willsey@fws.gov
U.S. Navy	-	Planning and coordination	Mark Cruz, J40 Regional Environmental Coordinator, Joint Region Marianas/NAVFAC Marianas	671-349-1104	mark.cruz@fe.navy.mil

Nongovernmental Organizations

Agency	Topic	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
Friends of the Mariana Trench	Planning and coordination	Laurie Peterka, Executive Director	-	lpeterka@friendsmarianatrench.org
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA)	Planning and coordination	Roberta Guerrero, Executive Director	-	rguerrero.mina@gmail.com
		Becky Furey, Program Director	-	beckyfurey.mina@gmail.com
		David Benavente, Project Manager	-	dbenavente.mina@gmail.com
Pacific Coastal Research and Planning	Planning and coordination	Rebecca Skeelee, Director	-	becky.skeelee@pacificcrp.org
		Robbie Greene, Geospatial Program Manager	-	robbie.greene@pacificcrp.org



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Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services
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