Man, Land, & Sea

A publication by Guam Coastal Management Program

September 30, 2026

32nd GUAM INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP 2026



Protecting Guam from Ridge to Reef

2026 Guam International Coastal Cleanup

SITE LEADER SPOTLIGHT



"At Career Tech High Academy Charter School (CTHACS), good coastal stewardship matters on both a macro and micro level. From a global perspective, good coastal stewardship (1) protects wildlife and biodiversity, (2) fights climate change, and (3) supports global economies that rely on things like commercial fishing and recreation based tourism. On a micro-level, because our school sits right on the bay surrounded by a coral reef, we can directly see the impact of good coral stewardship and how healthy ecosystems act as natural physical barriers to storm surges and erosion as well as reducing negative human Impact on the ecosystem."

The Motivation: What inspired you or your organization to step up as a site coordinator for GICC 2026, and how long have you been involved?

2026 marks our second year as an official GICC site. Part of CTHACS's philosophy is a strong belief in community partnerships and in 2025 we were presented with the opportunity to partner with NAVFAC to be a site host location to have a direct impact on our immediate environment. This aligns perfectly with our emphasis on personal accountability and responsibility in protecting our natural resources.



The Shoreline Connection: What makes your assigned cleanup location special to your group, and what impact do you hope to make there?

As our school sits on Hågat Bay, we have a direct connection to the shoreline as it is literally CTHACS's backyard. We spend a lot of time in the water with our paddling and diving programs as well as recreationally when the weather permits. We have already seen a significant impact on how our representation of good stewardship spreads to others in the local community and brings both a sense of pride and responsibility that continues to grow.

The Volunteer Experience: What is the best part about leading your group on cleanup morning, especially when working with first-time volunteers?

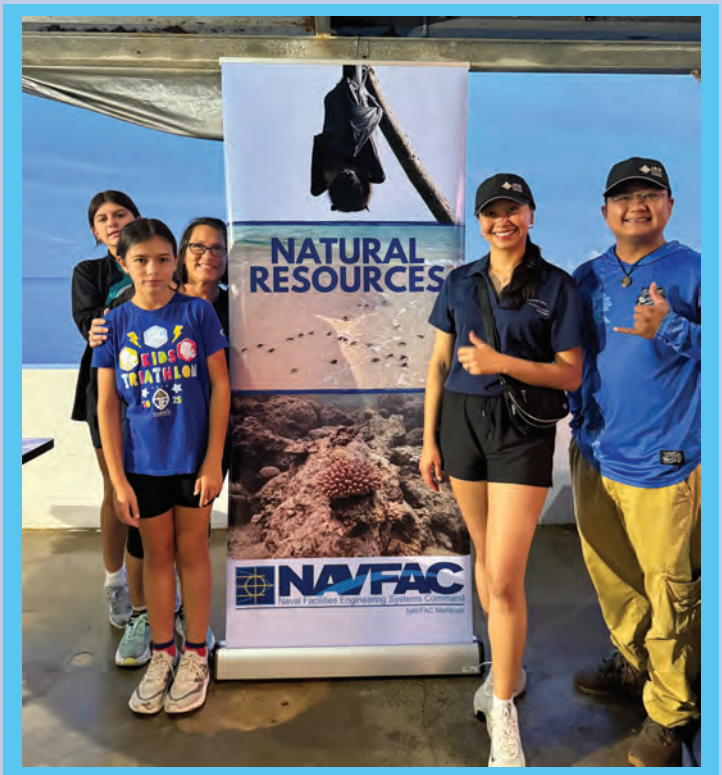
If I have to identify a "best part" about leading the group on cleanup morning, it would be the overall enthusiasm and energy of the volunteers. Of course the veteran volunteers are familiar with the processes and routines, but the first time volunteers express an eagerness and inquisitiveness that filters down and renews the overall energy of the group.

The Big Picture: What is one message or habit you hope volunteers take home to help protect Guam's coastlines year-round?

The message I hope everyone takes home with them is that we have to be responsible citizens and protect our own resources just as we take care of our own homes and property. Furthermore, that it isn't just a once a year endeavor when events are organized, but that we should be vigilant on a daily basis in taking care of our environment, coastal ecosystems and natural resources.

2026 Guam International Coastal Cleanup

SITE LEADER SPOTLIGHT



Shayna Lopez, Natural Resource Specialist, Naval Facilities Marianas (NAVFACMAR)

The Motivation: What inspired you or your organization to step up as a site coordinator for GICC 2026, and how long have you been involved?

For NAVFAC Marianas, environmental stewardship is in alignment with our efforts to conserve and protect our natural resources. Partnering with Career Tech High School in Hågat was intentional; it allowed us to help remove trash right in their backyard while building meaningful environmental relationships with the students, staff, and family of their school community. This is the second year that we have continued this partnership, and I am looking forward to many more years ahead.



The Shoreline Connection: What makes your assigned cleanup location special to your group, and what impact do you hope to make there?

We were eager to partner with Career Tech High School because of its unique location. Because the campus sits directly on the shoreline, we knew this beach cleanup would have an immediate, positive impact on both the coastal habitat and the community that calls Career Tech home.

The Volunteer Experience: What is the best part about leading your group on cleanup morning, especially when working with first-time volunteers?

The best part is always the surprise at just how much trash is collected. At first glance, the beach appeared clean; yet volunteers were amazed by how many bags were filled by the end of the event. I also love seeing the incredible diversity of our volunteers. We had everyone from toddlers to our manamko' showing up to participate in this event.

The Big Picture: What is one message or habit you hope volunteers take home to help protect Guam's coastlines year-round?

We use the slogan, 'Big or small, we protect them all.' Our actions on land ripple from the ridge to the reef, affecting everything from our tiny, fingernail-sized tree snails to our larger fadang trees (cycads) and haggan (sea turtles). Being mindful of our trash isn't just about clean beaches, it's about protecting our species and habitat on our island.



"Cleaning our coastlines does more than protect marine life, it positively impacts our ridge-to-reef system. At NAVFAC Marianas, we understand that the species and habitats we work to conserve and protect are all interconnected, making these efforts vital to our mission." - Shayna Lopez

2026 Guam International Coastal Cleanup: A Monumental Success for Our Island Shores

By: Steven Dierking, Guam Coastal Management Program

The 32nd Annual Guam International Coastal Cleanup demonstrated the incredible power of community action, uniting the island in a shared mission to protect our precious marine environment and coastal habitats. Spanning over 25 cleanup sites island-wide, this year's massive environmental effort brought together over 2,500 dedicated volunteers who rolled up their sleeves and worked tirelessly along our shores. Together, their collective turnout achieved an extraordinary impact, removing over 10 tons (exceeding 20,000 pounds) of marine debris and litter from our beaches, bays, and watersheds.

This island-wide success was a true multi-sector collaboration fueled by a diverse cross-section of the community. Local schools and youth groups turned out in force, inspiring students and faculty alike to practice environmental stewardship and give back to their island home. At the same time, community non-profit organizations championed vital outreach and mobilization, while corporate and business partners stepped up with generous resources, sponsorships, and employee-volunteer teams to drive sustainable operations forward.

Most importantly, this monumental undertaking could not have been done without our incredible site leaders. Their early mornings, meticulous planning, safety guidance, and on-the-ground coordination at every single location ensured everything ran seamlessly from start to finish, turning a massive logistical challenge into an inspiring community victory.

The Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program would like to thank every single volunteer, partner, and leader who pitched in to keep Guam's coasts clean, safe, and beautiful for generations to come.






GUAM INTERNATIONAL
COASTAL CLEANUP
CHECK-IN HERE








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Kawasaki













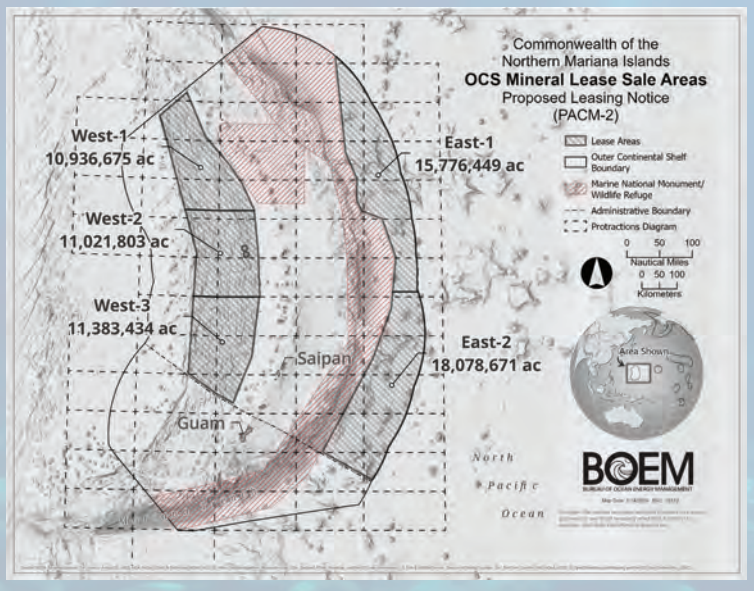
GUAM COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OBJECTS TO NEGATIVE DETERMINATION ON SEABED LEASING

By: Julian Janssen, Federal Actions Planner, Guam Coastal Management Program

On September 30, 2026, the Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP), Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP) issued an objection to the Marine Minerals Administration's (MMA), formerly Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Negative Determination for Commercial Leasing for Minerals Offshore the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). MMA submitted its negative determination to the GCMP on July 17, 2026 to satisfy the requirement for federal consistency under Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act. MMA intends to lease roughly 69 million acres of submerged lands in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around the CNMI. Despite its location in CNMI's EEZ, parts of the lease area are closer to Guam than the CNMI, with the closest being about 46 miles from Guam.

The GCMP subsequently provided public notice on July 27, 2026 through notice on the Guam Public Notice Website, the Bureau of Statistics and Plans website, and a formal Federal Consistency Notice. In addition, the GCMP engaged its Network Agencies and other local scientific and environmental experts at the University of Guam (UOG) Center for Island Sustainability, UOG Marine Lab, WERI, and the Port Authority of Guam.

A negative determination is a written notice from a federal agency to a coastal zone management program stating that a proposed federal action will not have reasonably foreseeable effects on any land, water use, or natural resource within the state or territory's coastal zone. The GCMP objected based on findings that commercial mineral leasing would directly impact Guam, primarily through the operation of survey vessels within Guam's coastal zone.



Crucially, the federal government's own environmental documents concede that survey vessels will likely utilize the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port at Cabras Island, in addition to the Port of Saipan. The use of such port facilities is more likely to support survey activities in the West-3 and East-2 OCS Mineral Lease Sale Areas.The GCMP anticipated the following coastal effects:

- Air pollution. Emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, other greenhouse gases, particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, and carbon monoxide.
- Effect to water quality. Increased turbidity, environmental exposure to antifouling paints, potential discharge of sewage, potential discharge of bilge or ballast water, improper disposal of trash or debris while the vessels are moored, berthed, docked, or underway within the waters of Guam.
- Effects to habitats. Effects to marine wildlife and wetland habitats near the commercial port, including areas with seagrasses, coral, or mangroves.
- Effects to fishing. Effects to ocean banks which serve as offshore fisheries.
- Effects to marine life. Direct and indirect effects to marine species, including sharks and rays, shellfish, invertebrates, marine birds, marine mammals, turtles, and endangered and threatened species of these broader categories.

The GCMP shared the concerns of the acting State Historic Preservation Officer, former Senator Carlotta Leon Guerrero, that the area of potential effect has not been subject to a comprehensive archaeological survey. She stated, "[MMA] intends to rely on future lease stipulations, archaeological surveys, monitoring, and unanticipated discovery procedures to identify and avoid resources." This suggests the negative determination is not based on a comprehensive analysis of the body of archaeological evidence.

When a state agency objects to a negative determination, the federal agency should either consider submitting a consistency determination or attempt to resolve any disagreement with the state agency. In the federal regulations for federal consistency, NOAA expresses that federal agencies should consider postponing the final federal agency action until the disagreement has been resolved.

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https://bsp.guam.gov/guam-coastal-management-program/

Organizing a Beach Cleanup?
We can help!

Contact the Guam Coastal Management Program and get connected with other volunteers and supplies. Call 671-475-9647 or email gcmp@bsp.guam.gov for more information.
*limited supplies available per cleanup event.

