



**Seabed Minerals Authority**  
Runanga Takere Moana  
COOK ISLANDS

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022 | Issue 1

## Kia Orana!

Welcome to the Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority's quarterly online newsletter sharing relevant Seabed Minerals (**SBM**) updates and information. In this issue, we focus on stakeholder engagement.

## Who are we?

The Cook Islands Seabed Minerals Authority (**Authority**) is the key regulator of seabed minerals activities under Cook Islands jurisdiction. The Authority administers the Seabed Minerals Act 2019 (**Act**) on behalf of the Cook Islands Government.

## In this issue:

- SBM Advisory Committee Chairman's Welcome
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement
- Authority Milestones in 2021
- What's happening in 2022
- Vacancies in the SBM sector

# SBM Advisory Committee Chairman's Welcome



Kia Orana and Welcome!

As Chair of the Cook Islands SBM Advisory Committee, alongside my Committee members, I would like to greet, embrace, and welcome you all to the first Authority Newsletter for 2022.

The Advisory Committee stands shoulder to shoulder with our SBM Commissioner, Alex Herman, and her strong, devoted team. We would not have gotten this far without the extraordinary determination, support, bold and unwavering leadership of our Prime Minister, Mark Brown, and his Cabinet and Cook Islands administration.

Leaving the most technical and scientific tasks to those in our Authority office, our primary responsibility as members of the Advisory Committee is to ensure that each and every member of our Cook Islands communities and population is reached and provided with the science-based information, knowledge, and understanding regarding SBM exploration, with all environmental research data readily available for all to see before the next phase is considered.

Thus, public consultations are critical to us and, when conducted effectively with a focus on transparency and accountability, paves the way for positive progress and success.

Though we face some of the most challenging and unprecedented global threats, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and environmental impact concerns, we, as a people and a nation of Godly faith, we have always pivoted and pitched high in our trust, hope, and confidence in our Almighty Creator and Saviour Jesus Christ, who, in His words in John 16:33, declares, "In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world".

I wish you all a joyous and blessed Year of Jesus in 2022.

Bishop Tutai Pere

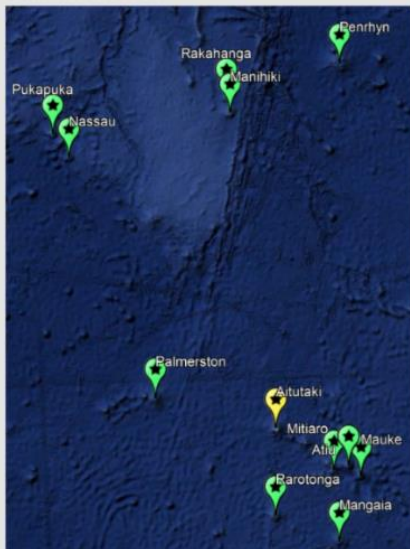
BA, LTh.

Chair of the SBM Advisory Committee

# Community and Stakeholder Engagement

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

All islands with a green placemark were consulted in 2021.



## CONSULTATION SNAPSHOT

### CONSULTATION SURVEY DISTRIBUTIONS



**21**  
Community Consults

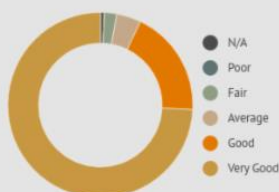
**825**  
Attendees

**419**  
Surveys

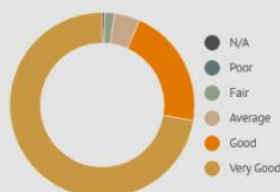
## OVERALL SURVEY RESPONSES

The Authority handed out survey forms at all community consultations in order to receive feedback on the information being provided. Below is a snapshot of responses.

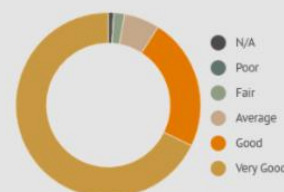
Overall, how satisfied were you with our presentation?



Did the presenter have a good understanding of the subject of presentation?



How would you rate the quality of the SBM information/topic presented?



One of the Authority's core priorities is to reach out and engage with our Cook Islands communities. This allows us to:

- Raise awareness and understanding on SBM issues
- Be transparent about what the Authority is doing
- Create avenues for stakeholder concerns to be heard and addressed
- Ensure a collaborative approach to the development of SBM through the contributions of our Cook Islands people
- Provide accurate and science-based information
- Provide updates on current and upcoming SBM activities
- Collaborate with other government agencies on public initiatives and events
- In the long-term, contribute towards a well-informed Cook Islands public, who can then better engage on SBM issues

In 2021, the Authority met with numerous community and stakeholder groups throughout Rarotonga and our Pa Enea. These meetings involved a wide range of people from our country's leaders to our grassroots communities, delivered in both English and in Maori depending on the stakeholder group.

Overall, while we are proud of the efforts made to engage with our communities, lessons have been learned on how we can improve our consultations in 2022. Our people have shared their concerns and hopes for the SBM sector, and we have listened. We have also come away with great suggestions from our communities on how we can better develop the SBM sector for the benefit of our country.

There are still many Cook Islands communities that the Authority has not had the opportunity to meet with, and so the Authority will continue its engagement in 2022. With the issuing of three exploration licences, the Authority will also return to our communities to explain what this means for the SBM sector and the country.

# Leaders: Government, Traditional and Religious



# Communities: Pa Enuua





## Communities: Rarotonga



# Authority Milestones in 2021



## January to March

- [Authority engages with the Democratic Party with SBM issues](#)
- [Government Delegation Heads North](#)
- [Palmerston welcomes PM Brown](#)
- [Special moment for PM and his delegation](#)
- [Seabed minerals consultations reach the most remote islands of the Cook Islands](#)
- [PM Brown on another northern group tour](#)
- [PM's northern tour concludes with consultation on Rakahanga](#)
- [Seabed Minerals Authority donates books, stationery](#)
- [Demos reject calls for decade-long ban on seabed mining in policy flip](#)
- [Government welcomes bipartisan political support for seabed minerals exploration](#)
- [LETTER: 'Responsible ocean stewardship is our common goal'](#)
- [Seabed Minerals Amendment passed unanimously in Parliament](#)

## April to June

- [OPINION: Demos keeping it slow and steady on seabed mining](#)
- [PM unveils food security initiative on Mitiaro](#)
- [Our future inheritance - 'claim it or lose it'](#)
- [Prime Minister Brown addresses international Cobalt conference](#)
- [Transition to low-carbon economy](#)
- [Agencies collaborate to celebrate World Ocean Day 2021](#)

## July to September

- [Cooks to continue support of UN seabed mining process](#)
- [Prime Minister opens seabed side-event at the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)
- [Seabed mining workshop to focus on environmental management](#)
- [Cook Islands hosts international workshop on seabed environmental management and monitoring](#)
- [Government closer to announcement on seabed minerals exploration](#)
- [Govt 'only allowing exploration'](#)

#### October to December

- [Expert Seabed Minerals Licensing Panel appointed](#)
- [Panel responsible for 'exploration only'](#)
- [SBMA Release: Authority announces assessment of exploration licence applicants](#)
- [Seabed exploration expeditions 'as early as next year': Herman](#)
- [Opinion: Keeping Cook Islands' interest at its core in seabed minerals issues](#)
- [Updates on the Exploration Licensing Process](#)

## What's happening in 2022

On 23 February 2022, three exploration licences were issued to CIC, CIIC Seabed Resources and Moana Minerals respectively.

The Authority has issued 2 releases on this so far:

- [SBMA Release: Historic First Seabed Minerals Exploration Licences Granted](#)
- [SBMA Release: Key messages from Exploration Licence Granting ceremony](#)

The final release will explain more about the exploration phase and what this means.

In 2022, exploration expeditions will begin, and the Cook Islands will soon learn more about its deep seabed and marine environment.

# Vacancies in the SBM sector

## Seabed Minerals Authority



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### Technical Officer

If you are interested in this role, please send your CV and cover letter to Eileen Macquarie at [eileen.macquarie@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:eileen.macquarie@cookislands.gov.ck).

Job description available upon request.

## CIC



1. Assistant Engineer / Electrician
2. Biological Research Assistant
3. Watch Keeper
4. Ships Cook
5. Deck Hand / Able-bodied Sea Person

If you are interested in any of the above roles, please send your CV and cover letter to Shona Lynch at [shona@cic.co.ck](mailto:shona@cic.co.ck). More information available [here](#).

## Moana Minerals



### Environmental Manager

If you are interested in this role, please send your CV and cover letter to [careers@moana.co.ck](mailto:careers@moana.co.ck)

Job Description can be viewed [here](#).

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Queries on this Newsletter may be directed to Dede Mingi: [dede.mingi@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:dede.mingi@cookislands.gov.ck)

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