



Oceania Customs
Organisation Secretariat

MARITIME BORDER CHALLENGES: EMERGING MARITIME TRENDS IN THE PACIFIC

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OVERVIEW

- Oceania Customs Organisation
- State of Play – Maritime Domain
- Challenges and Opportunities – Customs Perspectives
- Way Forward



Oceania Customs Organization

Since
1986

23 member countries
- 10 WCO members
- 8 WTO members

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS:

- 1) Customs Leadership
- 2) Law Enforcement and Border Security
- 3) Trade Management and Facilitation
- 4) Revenue Management and Compliance
- 5) Institutional Strengthening of Small Member Administrations
- 6) Institutional Strengthening of the OCO Secretariat

MISSION

Facilitate and help administrations to align with Customs international standards and best practices

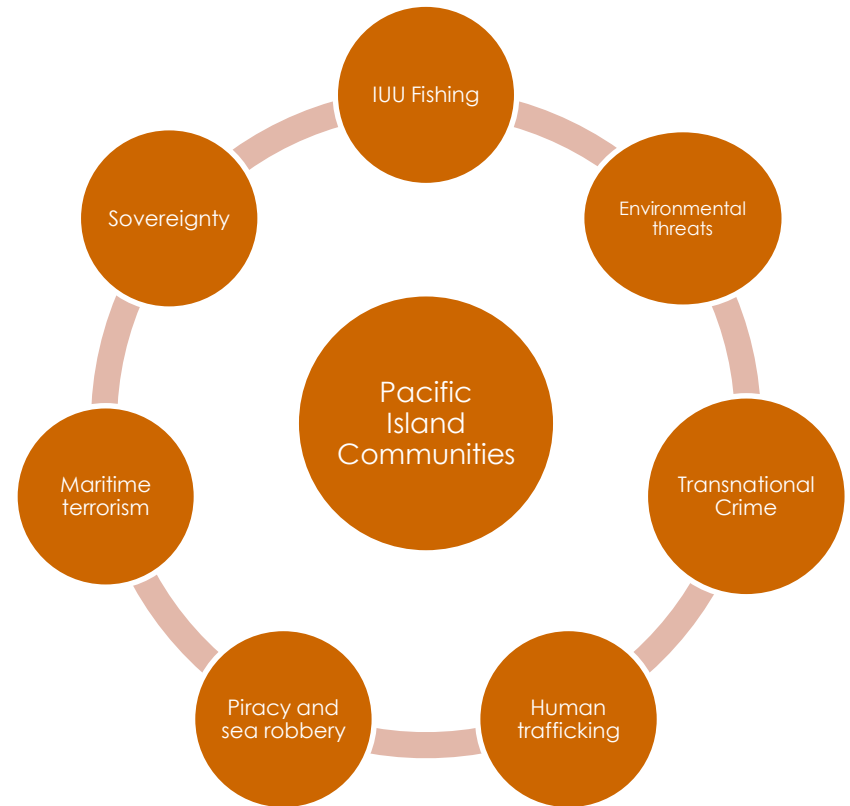
VISION

To be recognized as a dynamic Regional Customs Secretariat that collaborates with regional and global partners to develop and deliver high quality and sustainable outputs to member administrations



State of Play - Maritime

- Tourism – aggregate visitor number growth of about 5.5% per year;
- Pacific Ocean is the largest water mass on the planet. Covers more than 30 percent of the Earth's surface.



Challenges & Opportunities – Customs Perspective

1) Growing cruise industry

- 21% increase from 5 years
- Customs' capacity and operational readiness to respond to the rapid increase in ship sizes and corresponding passenger and crew volumes, as compared to the slow rate of growth of Customs' ability to hire, train and deploy officers and equipments.

• Case Examples

Canadians plead guilty over A\$21m cocaine bust on Sydney ship

27 February 2018

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Melina Roberge (left) with Isabelle Lagacé, who was jailed last year

Instagram/Melina Roberge

Newshub.

13 June 2024



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Growing cruise ship industry brings threat of drug trafficking boom - report

08/03/2019



Michael Morrah



Challenges & Opportunities – Customs Perspective

1) Growing cruise industry

• Opportunities

- Explore partnership mechanism with the Industry (e.g. South Pacific Cruise Alliance, SPTO)
- WCO's Cruise Ship Compendium of Best Practices for Customs
 - Tools, Technology and Port Facilities;
 - Risk Management and Risk Assessment Using Pre-Arrival Data;
 - API and BRI Data Standards;
 - Single Window for Data Transmission;
 - Legislation and Regulations;
 - Coordinated Border Management;
 - Bio/Health Security Data.



Challenges & Opportunities – Customs Perspective

2) Lack of dedicated resources for maritime patrolling

- Surveillance and monitoring before inward/after outward clearance.
- Coordination of information/intelligence.

• Case Examples

- SY PEEBLES – denied entry in Cook Islands;
 - Not using AIS and entire routing is in dark;
 - Master claimed last port of call was Tahiti
 - Left side of yacht had deep marks suggesting yacht came into close contact with another vessel.



Challenges & Opportunities – Customs Perspective

2) Lack of dedicated resources for maritime patrolling

• Opportunities

- Collaboration with maritime partners – international-regional-national.
- OCO Pacific Small Craft Application (OPSCA) – ABF and OCO Secretariat worked with OCO members so that the app fulfils its purpose which is to assist us in gathering information and intelligence on the movement of small craft vessels.
- MDA analytical tools and training



Challenges & Opportunities – Customs Perspective

3) Evolving modus operandi – coordination between more than one vessel across the maritime zones, advanced equipment, insider threat.

- Legislative powers to interdict can be limited;
- Case Examples



Challenges & Opportunities – Customs Perspective

3) Evolving modus operandi – coordination between more than one vessel across the maritime zones, advanced equipment.

- Opportunities

- Multi-agency taskforce approach;
- Engagement with coastal communities.

Comancheros gang's 'mother ship' drug trafficking plan scuppered by global police sting

28 FEBRUARY 2020,
4:56PM

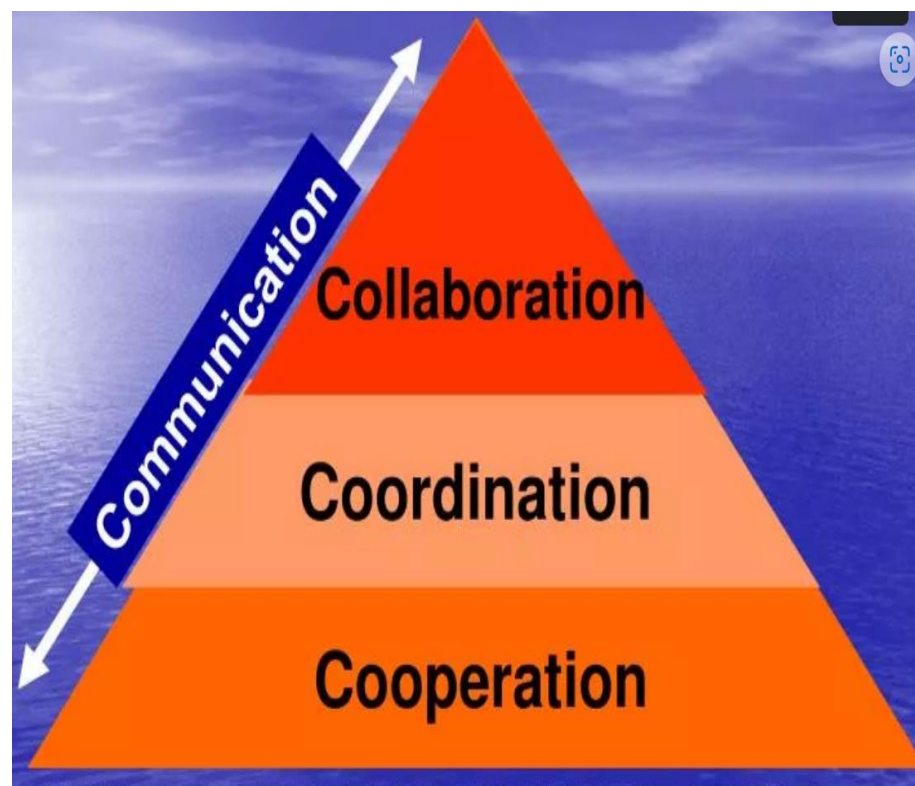
[Media Release](#)

Four jailed over largest cocaine seizure in Australia

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) investigation that resulted in the record seizure began in August 2014 and was supported by the New Zealand Customs Service (NZCS), the New Zealand Police National Organised Crime Group (NOCG), the Fijian Transnational Crime Unit, French Polynesian authorities and Australian Border Force (ABF).

Way Forward

- Strengthen inter-agency and inter-state collaboration
 - Sharing of international best practices
 - Harmonize systems and requirements
 - Information sharing/exchange



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

