



SHUMUN XXVII // February 7th- 8th, 2026

Ad-Hoc: Preventing the Utter Doom of Bikini Bottom

Background Guide



Crisis Director: Chase Finney
Chair: Allison Bennett

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The Ad Hoc Special Committee on Preventing the Utter Doom of Bikini Bottom

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Letter from the Chair

Hey Delegates!

My name is Allison Bennett, and I will be your chair! I am a sophomore here at Seton Hall, majoring in Diplomacy and International Relations in 3+2 BS/MA program with a double major in philosophy and a minor in German. I have been doing Model UN since I was in 8th grade, so this is year 7 for me (2nd year competing on the collegiate circuit)! This is also my second year with SHUMUN, last year having chaired the DISEC committee (don't worry, we are much more prepared this year). Outside of Bikini Bottom, I am the USG of Marketing for SHUMUN XXVII, Secretary for Shuna (our competitive mun team), Public Relations Chair for the John Quincy Adams Society, Communications Liaison for the Diplomatic Envoy, as well as a member of the School of Diplomacy's Dean's Office's Marketing team.

Chase and I have been in the kitchen cooking up this SpongeBob crisis for an entire calendar year at this point, as the idea bloomed during SHUMUN XXVI. SpongeBob is a classic and something that played a huge role in many childhoods, unless you are one of the unlucky ones who weren't allowed to watch it growing up. The openness, fluidity, and utter chaos that comes from the SpongeBob series is something that I hope you all have within your crisis arcs and ideas! We're giving you guys a lot of creative freedom with this one, so have so much fun! :)

Can't wait to meet you!

Allison Bennett

Contact me here: benneta2@shu.edu

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Letter from the Vice Chair

Hello Delegates,

My name is Megan Hay, and I will be the Vice Chair of SHUMUN's Ad Hoc Special Committee on Preventing the Utter Doom of Bikini Bottom! To start off, some background about me: I'm a freshman here at Seton Hall University pursuing a B.S. in Diplomacy and International Relations and a B.A. in Spanish. This is my first year competing in Model UN, and it has already been an amazing experience. I'm also a writer for the Diplomatic Envoy and a member of the Undergraduate Diplomacy Student Association. Now on to the committee...

With 15 seasons and countless creative plotlines, SpongeBob SquarePants can sometimes seem like a long-running crisis committee. Take inspiration from that. Have fun. Maybe sprinkle in a certain (reasonable) amount of chaos. All the available roles are unique, and I encourage each of you to use your character's strengths and personality to fulfill your crisis arc. Whether this is your first or your fourth year in Model UN, whether you are a SpongeBob fanatic or have never watched an episode, I hope your experience during SHUMUN XVII is enjoyable. I look forward to meeting you all and seeing what unfolds in Bikini Bottom!

Sincerely,

Megan Hay

megan.hay@student.shu.edu

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Letter from the Crisis Director

HELLO DELEGATES,

My name is Chase Finney and welcome to the Bikini Bottom and the greater Atlantian Pacific! Not only am I really excited to be your USG of Philanthropy and Events, but also your crisis director for the Ad Hoc Special Committee on Preventing the Utter Doom of Bikini Bottom. I'm a second year at Seton Hall double majoring in both English and Diplomacy and International Relations. I started competing in Model UN a year ago, and this year will be my second year helping staff and run a committee for SHUMUN. As for other on-campus events and interests, I'm an editor for the diplomatic envoy and participate as a member in both the John Quincy Adams Society and UNA-SHU.

In congruence with everything aforementioned, I'm also equally excited to get to know you all and how you develop your positions over the course of the weekend. *Spongebob* is a series that, at this point, has raised generations of kids and parents alike. I'll echo this sentiment till my voice breaks, but I really want to emphasize the creative freedoms you have with these characters, BUT ABOVE ALL, HAVE F.U.N.! (F is for friends who do stuff together. U is for you and me. N is for anywhere and anytime at all down here in the deep blue sea.)

Best,

Chase Finney, Crisis Director

Reach me here: Finneych@student.shu.edu

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Notes on Procedure and SHUMUN Policy

1. SHUMUN uses Parliamentary Procedure (often abbreviated as Parli Pro) to run committee. A Google search will give you more than enough information on how this is used in Model UN, and any other questions can easily be addressed in committee.
2. SHUMUN has a zero-tolerance policy regarding bullying, offensive remarks, harassment, discrimination, or anything of the sort. Model UN should be a fun activity for delegates to participate in and no one should feel excluded at any point during the weekend. If at any point the Senior Secretariat is notified of any violation of this policy, the delegate and advisor will be contacted and the issue will be discussed, potentially resulting in expulsion from the conference or disqualification from awards. In general, if you think even for a second that something would offend someone, do not do, or say that thing.
3. Profanity is prohibited.
4. Pre-writing is defined as any speeches, notes or directives written outside of committee time and is strictly prohibited. Delegates are allowed to bring research into committee, but not pre-written speeches, notes or directives. Engaging in pre-writing will result in immediate disqualification from award consideration.
5. Technology is not allowed to be used within the committee room. Research must be done prior to the beginning of committee sessions. Any usage of cell phones or laptops in the committee is grounds for disqualification.
6. If you need to use the restroom during committee, you do not need to raise your hand or ask permission.
7. SHUMUN XXVII Crisis Committees are PAPER-ONLY. We are utilizing a two-pad system for crisis notes, delegates will be expected to arrive with 2 standard legal pads and additional scratch paper.

For any questions, please contact the secretariat at shuna.sec@gmail.com.

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Background

For centuries, Bikini Bottom and the surrounding undersea communities have lived undisturbed, blissfully unaware (or in denial) of the humans above. That peace ends when a deep-sea research mission from the surface world stumbles upon Bikini Bottom—broadcasting its discovery to every major government, corporation, and media outlet. Within weeks, the world descends—oil rigs, research vessels, private submarines, and diplomats all arrive, each claiming to represent “peaceful exploration.” But the citizens of Bikini Bottom know what “exploration” really means: exploitation.

Now, Bikini Bottom's leaders, heroes, and weirdos must confront an existential dilemma: Does the Bikini Bottom open up to humans, resist colonization, or retreat into isolation beneath the waves?

Background: Historical Context

Long before modern human history, vast underwater civilizations flourished across the ocean floor. King Neptune and his royal line ruled from the fabled city of Atlantis, exercising dominion over various marine realms—including the small but vibrant region that would one day become Bikini Bottom. Atlantis's decline, according to undersea legend, came after contact with early human explorers. Myths speak of “sky creatures” who brought strange devices and diseases, leading

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to the Great Evaporation War—a cataclysm that drove much of undersea society into isolation and secrecy. In its aftermath, the surviving kingdoms swore a Pact of the Deep, vowing to remain hidden from the surface for their own safety.

Over the centuries, as the tides of civilization changed above, Bikini Bottom quietly thrived below. Located within a coral-rich region once used for nuclear testing (the infamous *Bikini Atoll*), the community developed a unique ecosystem: part natural, part radioactive mutation. This strange mix gave rise to sentient marine species capable of human-like reasoning, governance, and emotion—though the surface world remained oblivious.

Economically, Bikini Bottom's society was modest but self-sufficient. Mr. Krabs's *Krusty Krab* emerged as the heart of its capitalist economy, while Plankton's *Chum Bucket* stood as a rival scientific-industrial enterprise. King Neptune's rule was largely ceremonial, his influence fading as Bikini Bottom transitioned into a quasi-republican local governance structure. Despite occasional ventures by surface dwellers—such as marine biologists, treasure hunters, and lost submarines—the city's protective bubble of secrecy remained intact through the use of advanced camouflage technology (rumored to be the work of Sandy Cheeks and the late Atlantean engineers). On land, humans assumed the deep ocean was lifeless. Scientific understanding of marine ecosystems expanded during the 20th and 21st centuries, but oceanic exploration remained limited to remote-operated vehicles and sonar mapping. A few anomalous recordings—strange voices,

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inexplicable radio interference, moving cities—were dismissed as errors.

Throughout the Cold War and into the present day, governments have conducted deep-sea drilling and mining projects in the Pacific, often unaware they were encroaching upon inhabited undersea territories. Environmental damage accumulated—coral bleaching, oil spills, chemical dumping—but Bikini Bottom managed to avoid full exposure... until now.

Background: Discovery

“They came from above. They said they wanted to learn. But they brought their flags, their logos, and their lawyers.” — Bikini Bottom Resident

In the late 2025, an international deep-sea expedition—a joint project between the United Nations Oceanic Research Council (UNORC) and a private energy conglomerate known as the Blue Tide Industries—launched an autonomous drilling probe into the lower Pacific basin. What began as a mission to test new subsea resource extraction technology ended in global astonishment: the probe's live broadcast revealed Bikini Bottom, complete with recognizable structures, moving vehicles, and...talking fish??? Within hours, social media exploded. By the next week, dozens of nations and corporations claimed jurisdiction over the discovery, citing proximity to international waters and global scientific interest. UNORC declared Bikini Bottom as a "Zone of Extraordinary Biological and Cultural Significance" pending investigation. Public fascination turned to chaos: activists called for

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protection of “sentient sea life,” while nationalist politicians demanded resource rights. The global community found itself torn between scientific discovery, moral obligation, and economic opportunity. The discovery shattered Bikini Bottom’s illusion of security. The once-humorous squabbles between Mr. Krabs, Plankton, and their neighbors gave way to panic, propaganda, and politics. Meanwhile, factions within Bikini Bottom begin forming. The Factions are as follows:

- The Collaborators: Certain businessmen who welcome trade and tourism.
- The Resistance: A secret alliance of radical jellyfishers seeking to repel the humans.
- The Reformists: SpongeBob’s followers, pushing for peaceful coexistence.
- The Technocrats: A group calling for total domination through science and weaponized technology.

The United Nations debates whether Bikini Bottom should be classified as:

- A sovereign sentient state,
- A protected marine heritage zone,
- Or an international territory subject to joint human governance.

Each classification would fundamentally alter the balance of power and the fate of Bikini Bottom.

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Background: The Situation Today (Committee Entry Point)

“Day 43 since discovery. The first human embassy bubble has opened. Protests rage outside. The ocean holds its breath.”

The committee convenes at a critical juncture. A delegation of human representatives has arrived in Bikini Bottom to negotiate the terms of contact and cooperation. Simultaneously, undersea factions debate whether to accept, resist, or manipulate these new arrivals. Trust is thin, pollution is spreading, and disease threatens both species. The world watches as humanity’s first interspecies diplomatic crisis has begun, and its outcome will determine whether the ocean becomes a partner, a colony, or a graveyard.

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Positions

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR & CD: Your backroom crisis notes SHOULD NOT and CANNOT be addressed to anyone listed here.

1. Spongebob Squarepants

Ambassador for Friendship and Surface Relations, Fry Cook at Krusty Krab

An eternal optimist who believes diplomacy, Krabby Patties, and jellyfishing can solve all problems. He's leading the push for peaceful coexistence with humans, no matter how tense it gets.

2. Patrick Star

Advisor on Surface Culture and Public Morale

Clueless but confident, Patrick has somehow been appointed to advise on human behavior. His "insights" often derail meetings, but occasionally stumble into accidental genius.

3. Squidward Tentacles

Minister of Culture and Integration, Cashier at Krusty Krab

Convinced that humans will finally appreciate his "talent", Squidward supports opening the seas to surface influence, mostly for his own fame and artistic recognition.

4. Eugene H. Krabs

Secretary of Trade and Economic Affairs, Owner of Krusty Krab

Obsessed with profit, Mr. Krabs views the surface as an untapped goldmine for Krusty Krab franchises. He's pushing aggressive trade deals, no matter the environmental cost.

5. Pearl Krabs

Youth Representative and Pop Culture Envoy

Keen to connect the next generation of ocean and land, Pearl advocates for modernization and cultural exchange, especially if it involves concerts and shopping.

6. Mrs. Puff

Director of Maritime Transportation and Safety, Boating Instructor

As boating chaos increases with human contact, Mrs. Puff must prevent collisions, chaos, and unlicensed driving.

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7. Larry the Lobster

Minister of Defense and Security, Body-Builder, Owner of Larry's Gym

Larry is ready to flex Bikini Bottom's strength but still insists on keeping things "chill" at Goo Lagoon.

8. Sandy Cheeks

Chief Scientific Liaison to the Surface

The only land mammal underwater, Sandy bridges both worlds through science. She's trusted by humans, but some in Bikini Bottom question her loyalties.

9. Sheldon J. Plankton

Minister of Technology and Strategic Intelligence, Owner of Chum Bucket

Sees the human arrival as a chance to finally steal the Krabby Patty secret formula, or humanity's secrets instead. His "cooperation" comes with ulterior motives.

10. Karen Plankton

Director of Information Systems and Digital Security, Co-Owner of Chum Bucket

Plankton's supercomputer wife manages communications across the seafloor. She's far more competent than her husband, and may be secretly running the intelligence network herself.

11. Perch Perkins

Head of Public Information and Media Relations, Field Reporter Bikini Bottom News

The face of undersea news, Perch is the voice of public perception. He spins every story for ratings, not accuracy, and thrives on the chaos of breaking headlines.

12. Man Ray

Chief of Homeland Security

A supposedly "reformed" supervillain now leading security forces. Whether he's protecting the ocean or plotting a coup depends on who you ask.

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13. Dirty Bubble

Undersea Environmental Hazard & Public Safety Threat Advisor

Represents unpredictable consequences of pollution and negligence in Bikini Bottom. His presence serves as a constant reminder that surface activity (oil rigs, human waste, or careless tourism) can literally blow up in the city's face.

14. Bubble Bass

Culinary Trade Envoy and Food Critic

Claims to represent undersea cuisine on the world stage. Really just wants to prove humans can't cook better than him, and get free samples while doing it.

15. Mermaid Man

Senior Defense Advisor and Heroic Legacy Consultant

Once a legendary superhero, now semi-retired but still called in for "heroic optics." He mostly naps through briefings but wakes up for justice.

16. Barnacle Boy

Deputy Defense Advisor

Tired of being treated like a sidekick, Barnacle Boy takes a more serious stance on human threats, arguing for strategy over nostalgia.

17. Old Man Jenkins

Traditionalist Council Elder

Suspicious of humans, progress, and pretty much everything else. Advocates for isolation and "the good ol' days before all this fancy diplomacy."

18. Patchy the Pirate

Human Ambassador to the Seas, President of the Spongebob Fan Club

The Self-proclaimed representative of humanity and Spongebob's biggest fan. His chaotic enthusiasm often derails talks, but his heart (and parrot) are in the right place.

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19. Kevin C. Cucumber

Head of the Jellyfish Preservation Front, Leader of Jellyspotters

A radical environmentalist determined to protect Jellyfish Fields from human interference. His protests often make him more of a problem than a solution.

20. Fred

President of the Bikini Bottom Workers' Union

Represents the working class, demanding protection against pollution and human exploitation. After suffering a leg injury on the job, he is the face of labor rallies.

21. Squilliam Fancyson

Economic Advisor and Elite Delegate

Squidward's arrogant rival, Squilliam, sees human trade as a luxury opportunity for the upper class. He supports cooperation, as long as it benefits him.

22. The Flying Dutchman

Minister of Maritime Borders and Territorial Integrity

Tasked with defending Bikini Bottom's maritime boundaries from human intrusion, he takes an aggressively isolationist stance. His unpredictable methods make him both a powerful ally and a terrifying liability.

23. Officer Nancy O'Malley

Chief of Civil Order and Law Enforcement

A by-the-book officer trying to maintain peace during rising protests and panic. Balances between strict enforcement and genuine care for her community.

24. Officer John

Deputy Director of Counter-Espionage and Law Enforcement

Paranoid and loyal, John suspects human spies are everywhere. He runs surveillance operations, sometimes on his own allies.

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25. Dr. Gill Gilliam

Director of Public Health and Disease Prevention

A respected undersea physician who is now leading Bikini Bottom's Health and Safety Bureau. Warns that humanity's arrival could trigger a biological crisis.

