

**Mission Statement:**

**APEC TO HOLD SEMINAR IN 2004 ON DEALING WITH ABANDONED  
MARINE FISHING GEAR**

On 13-16 January 2004, at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii, in coordination with Hawaii Sea Grant, The U.S. Department of Commerce, The U.S. Department of State, The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, and others, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization's (APEC) Fisheries Working Group is sponsoring an outreach seminar on dealing with derelict fishing gear and related marine debris. Through a series of panels, the seminar will focus on science and policy, gear and disposal issues, and current regulatory structures both to raise awareness of this issue and to promote a meaningful exchange of information in order to consider options to combat this problem. Fishermen, industry representatives and government regulators from APEC Economies are invited to attend. Seminar organizers are soliciting potential panelists and case studies. Individuals involved with recovery of derelict fishing gear, either through the fisheries sector or fisheries management, are encourage to contact: Sidney Howard at: [howardcn@state.gov](mailto:howardcn@state.gov), (202) 647-3464, Colin McIff at: [mciffcl@state.gov](mailto:mciffcl@state.gov), (202) 647-4825 or Holly [Koehlerhr@state.gov](mailto:Koehlerhr@state.gov), (202) 647-3010.