



## OFFICIAL INVITATION

### **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Derelict Fishing Gear and Related Marine Debris Seminar Honolulu, HI**

On behalf of the APEC Fisheries Working Group, I am writing to cordially invite you to attend the APEC Derelict Fishing Gear and Related Marine Debris Seminar to be held January 13-16, 2004 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The problem of marine debris and derelict fishing gear in the Pacific stems from the activities of all States that border the Pacific basin; potentially impacting the economic and other interests of such States. This seminar will bring together fishermen, industry representatives and government regulators from APEC economies to discuss ways to alleviate these problems. As such the seminar will address issues such as: oceanography of the North Pacific Ocean, on going scientific research and removal efforts, environmental and economic impacts, gear related problems and solutions, port disposal and recycling issues, and existing domestic and international regulatory structures.

During the 4-day seminar, stakeholders will participate in a series of panels designed to inform and promote discussion. A provisional agenda and meeting information is attached for your review. Following the seminar, we plan to have a technical tour at the Hawaii Metals Recycling Center to demonstrate one method for addressing the shore-side disposal component of derelict gear and related marine debris.

If you are able to attend this seminar, please complete the attached Registration Form and return it by December 8, 2003 to Ms. Rifi Sachdev at [rifi.sachdev@noaa.gov](mailto:rifi.sachdev@noaa.gov) ; Fax (808) 522-8226. Kindly note that booking arrangements are subject to availability and may not be guaranteed for reservations received after December 8, 2003.

We look forward to seeing you in Honolulu in January.

Yours sincerely,

***Colin McIff***

Colin McIff  
Project Overseer