

Press Release

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**WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL**

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council to Attend the National Workshop on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

HONOLULU (18 June 2011) The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is pleased to announce its participation in a national workshop that will set the stage to implement a coherent policy to manage all uses of our nation's oceans and coastlines, including the Great Lakes. The three-day event will be held in Washington, DC on June 21-23. Its purpose is to consider next steps for regional implementation of the policy initiatives, including defining the roles and responsibilities of the regional planning bodies.

Hosted by the National Ocean Council (NOC), workshop activities will be based on an Executive Order signed by President Obama in July 2010. The order mandates protection, maintenance, and restoration of aquatic ecosystems and resources, and efforts to enhance the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, in addition to other important issues such as understanding climate change and ocean acidification.

Of concern to the nation's eight Regional Fishery Management Councils is the status of their request for membership on their respective regional planning bodies. Collectively, the Councils also have clearly identified their lengthy experience with regional governance, science-based processes, and collaborative partnerships, and in particular their extensive practical experience with marine spatial planning and a highly recognized public process that includes stakeholder involvement. For more, go to www.fisherycouncils.org/MSPFlier.pdf.

At this juncture, the region's fishermen are unclear and unsure of how they might effectively provide input into a system that is governed by the National Ocean Council's 27 Federal government agencies.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional councils established by federal legislation in 1976. It is charged with conserving and managing fishery resources from 3 to 200 miles off the coasts of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and eight Pacific remote island areas.

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council members: Secretary of Commerce appointees nominated by their respective governors: AMERICAN SAMOA: William Sword, recreational fisherman/ civil engineer/ manager, and Stephen Haleck, hotel/gas station owner (vice chair); GUAM: Manuel Duenas, Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (chair); HAWAII: Frederick Duerr, resort/hotel consultant; Julie Leialoha, environmentalist; David Itano, researcher (vice chair); Sean Martin, Pacific Ocean Producers; and CNMI: Benigno Sablan, cultural practitioner (vice chair). Designated state officials: Arnold Palacios, CNMI Department of Land & Natural Resources; Marquita Taitague, Guam Department of Agriculture; William Aila, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources; Ray Tulafono, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources. Designated federal officials: Mike Tosatto, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office; Don Palawski, US Fish & Wildlife; RAdm Charles Ray, US Coast Guard 14th District; Bill Gibbons-Fly, US Department of State.

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