



**WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL**

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Action Memorandum

99th Council Meeting

Guam-CNMI

15-18 March 1999

Regarding Ecosystem & Habitat, the Council acted to:

1) Accept the following terms (as more clearly defined), from the goal statement for the draft Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan, which reads: *"To ensure that coral-reef resources in the U.S. Western Pacific EEZ are effectively managed to achieve a sustainable balance of economic productivity, ecological integrity, and social acceptability";*:

Optimal "economic productivity" means the greatest sustained (perpetual, not short-term) income to the most people (not just a few individuals, but the nearby human community).

Coral reefs have "ecological integrity" when all the elements of the ecosystem, along with the processes that support these elements, are maintained.

"Social acceptability" is the agreement by resource users of the suitability of the FMP, taking cultural, traditional, political, and individual benefits into account.

Status: These definitions are now included in the current draft of the CRE FMP

2) Regarding the draft Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP, to generally concur with the direction in which the Plan is being developed by the CRE Plan Team, with advice from the EHAP, in terms of management units, proposed measures, addressing of SFA provisions, and funding priorities for coral reef activities, with specific recommendations to:

a) Consider the recent deterioration of coral reefs near Saipan, reported from various sources, as a priority for study and possible management action.

Status: To be considered by Coral Reef Ecosystem Plan Team at its next meeting. Current draft of FMP lists possible sites for consideration as marine protected areas.

b) Consider allowing the sustainable harvest of hard and soft live corals under the developing FMP.