

Bottomfish Task Force Meeting Summary

2 October 1997

8:30 to 5:00

Council Conference Room Western Pacific Fishery Council Honolulu, Hawaii

Dave Kalthoff, Task Force Chairman, opened the meeting with introductions of all participants and assigned rapporteur for major agenda items. The agenda and participants list are attached at the back of this report.

Alvin Katekaru updated the group on the new Hoomalu zone participants. Both permit holders are fishing the Hoomalu zone and are expected to meet the three trip use it or lose it provision by the end of the year.

Mark Mitsuyasu summarized the SSC and Council actions with regard to Mau zone issues since the last Task Force meeting. He reported that the SSC and Council agreed to all Task Force recommendations except that the SSC chose to recommend a reduced target number of target vessels from 13 to 8 and to include the proposed 2 CDP permits in the target number of 8, thus reducing the available number of points based permits to 6. The concurred with The task force had no questions at that time. Mark then provided the group with an estimated time line for the completion of the FMP amendment establishing a Mau zone limited access program. In order to implement the amendment before the current two year moratorium expires, the Council needs to give final approval no later than its August 1998 Council meeting.

Most of the time was spent reviewing the draft amendment to ensure all the task force recommendations and actions were included in the plan. Each section of the proposed plan was reviewed and discussed with changes noted for the next draft. Please see draft amendment for details of plan.

The Task Force formulated one recommendation for SSC and Council consideration.

The Task Force recommends revising the target number. Two permits will be reserved for the Community Development Program and 8 permits will be allocated under the proposed point system. Therefore, a total of 10 permits will be the revised long term target number.

The Task Force initially recommended that total MSY criteria be used to establish the target number of 13 permits. However, the SSC and Council suggested, at their last meetings, that the long term target number of permits be based on efficient MSY criteria or a total of 8 permits for the Mau Zone; six permits under the point system and 2 permits for the CDP.

The Task Force feels that an 8 + 2 target number is more appropriate. The 2 reserved CDP permits is viewed separately from the Aregular® Mau zone permits since these are essentially new permits that may or may not be fully used at the time Mau zone limited access program is established or for a brief period thereafter. It is noted that the 2 CDP permits would be exempt from the use-it-or-lose-it provision. Reducing the regular permits down from 18 to 6 would be too restrictive and the Task Force feels that 18 to 8 would be more appropriate. If the annual/5 year review analysis show that the target number needs adjusting, then all permits should be considered together at that time. Increasing the target number to 10 will not significantly decrease CPUE and will not jeopardize the long-term sustainability of the fishery.