



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

Program Planning

Action Memorandum

15 June 2000
104th Council Meeting
Makena, Hawaii

Regarding Program Planning, the Council acted to:

1. Not forward the new MSY-based overfishing definitions until the NMFS and the Councils meet in September to resolve the issue of using proxies for MSY.

Status: Overfishing definitions will not be submitted until the use of proxies for MSY is clarified. Considered at NMFS workshop on overfishing (NS-1) in July, but not fully resolved.

2. Revise the structure of the Council's advisory panels to reflect sector-based panels. The Council should establish the following four new panels (replace the existing advisory panels): commercial, recreational, indigenous/subsistence, and ecosystem and habitat. Each panel will be limited to 10 members. A Council review committee, which should include the SSC Chair, should be established to review applications and recommend new advisory panel members for the 2001-2002 term. The Council's Community Demonstration Projects advisory panel will remain unchanged.

Status: Council SOPP is being redrafted for Council review. Advisory Panel applications were revised for solicitation in September 2000. Matrix of applicants is being compiled for distribution to the Executive Committee.

3. Recommend that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands be included under the Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish, Crustacean and Precious Corals Fishery Management Plans.
4. Recommend that the management area around the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands be defined from 3 to 200 nm for each of these Fishery Management Plans.
5. Recommend that the exploratory permit for precious corals in the EEZ of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands be set at 1000 kg per year.

6. Recommend that the Pacific Remote Island Areas (Baker, Howland, Jarvis, Wake, Johnston, Palmyra and Kingman Reef) be included under its Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish and Crustacean Fisher Management Plans. The Council further acted to define the management area around the Pacific Remote Island Areas from 0 to 200 nm for each of these Fishery Management Plans.

Status of 3-6: These recommendations have been incorporated a draft amendment which was distributed for internal review in August, 2000.