



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Protected Species to Dominate Fishery Discussions

HONOLULU (7 May 2001)—Scientists and environmental experts from throughout the United States and the Pacific will convene in Honolulu May 15 to 17 to discuss fishery management issues in the US Pacific islands. The conservation of protected species will be a key discussion item. Recent concerns about endangered Hawaiian monk seals and leatherback turtles have closed the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands lobster fishery and the Hawaii longline fishery for swordfish. The annual loss in landings is about \$1 million and up to \$17.6 million, respectively.

The 15 scientists are members of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), which advises the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. They meet about three times a year. Three new members of the SSC include **Christopher Carr**, JD, an attorney at Washburn, Briscoe & McCarthy, San Francisco, practicing in natural resources litigation; **Scott Eckert**, PhD, senior research biologist at Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute and adjunct research professor at the University of San Diego, specializing in endangered species research and management, with an emphasis in marine turtle management and conservation; and **Christopher Evans**, PhD, chief biologist at the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife, whose research has focused on tropical marine invertebrates, particularly lobsters and prawns.

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council is responsible for developing, monitoring and modifying fishery management plans for federal waters (generally, 3 to 200 miles offshore) surrounding Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and US Pacific island possessions. For more information, phone (808) 522-8220 or connect to www.wpcouncil.org

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