

WPRFMC Precious Corals Reports: *65th Meeting of SSC*

Report of the 65th Meeting of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

Ilima Room, Ala Moana Hotel

Honolulu, Hawaii

8-10 April 1997

Precious Corals

Alvin Katekaru, NMFS-PAO, presented information on a permit application submitted by American Deepwater Engineering to harvest coral within the Council area. The company has applied for a permit to harvest coral at the Makapuu established bed. In addition, the company has expressed interest in applying for an exploratory permit to survey undesignated coral beds. The company is seeking "exclusive harvesting rights" to any beds it discovers. Once a bed is surveyed, the company proposes to provide the survey data to NMFS and the Council so that a maximum sustainable yield for that bed can be established. The company would then harvest fifty percent of the MSY. Katekaru stated that the type of permit that can be issued does not specify quotas for individuals. Richard Grigg (U.H. Professor and Chair of the Council's Precious Corals Plan Team) reviewed precious coral assessments in the Council area and noted that quotas for newly surveyed beds could be established using an extrapolation approach based on Makapuu data.

The SSC recommends that the Council establish within the FMP a framework process that would allow timely adjustments of quotas and other management measures as new data becomes available.