

WPRFMC Ecosystem 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

Ecosystems and Habitat

Robert Schroeder updated the SSC on the coral reef resources assessment, noting that the NOAA-National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant would generate a region-wide assessment by the consultant. The assessment should provide detailed information on the reefs and status of fisheries that depend on reefs. The Council will then use this information to determine if there is a need for a coral reef FMP, or if no further action is now needed. Either way a useful baseline will be established.

Robert Schroeder then reviewed the major points of the final EIS/Management Plan for the Hawaii Humpback Whale Sanctuary. It was noted that the SSC and the Council have previously made their respective positions known on the Sanctuary. **The SSC continues to stand on its previous finding "that there is no clear evidence that the sanctuary will materially contribute to recovery of the whale population and that the research goals do not clearly show what data are lacking nor what data are important to collect".**