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## Press Release

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### Sea Turtle Advisory Committee to Meet Aug. 5 and 6

HONOLULU (31 July 2009) The Sea Turtle Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will convene 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Aug. 5 and 6, 2009, at the Council office, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu. The Committee will review the progress of the Council's Sea Turtle Conservation Program and recommend future conservation and research project priorities. The meeting is open to the public from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 5 and all day Aug. 6, but will be closed to the public 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 5 as the Committee discusses internal administrative matters pertaining to the program.

The Sea Turtle Conservation Program aims to ensure effective conservation and management to protect sea turtles that interact with fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction. Past efforts have successfully reduced sea turtle interactions with the Hawaii longline fleet by 90 percent. The Sea Turtle Conservation Program has also supported a number of nesting beach and coastal fisheries conservation projects around the Pacific since 2003 to help the highly migratory sea turtle populations that transit Hawaii waters. These important efforts help protect and manage loggerhead and leatherback nesting beaches in Japan, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea and reduce human impacts in loggerhead foraging grounds in Mexico.

The STAC Committee members are Milani Chaloupka (chair), Ecological Modelling Services (Australia); George Balazs, NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (Hawaii); Peter Dutton, NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center (California); Naoki Kamezaki, Sea Turtle Association of Japan (Japan); Colin Limpus, Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (Australia); Nicolas Pilcher, Marine Research Foundation (Malaysia); Jeffrey Polovina, NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (Hawaii); Raquel Briseno Duenas, IUCN-MTSG Eastern Pacific Region/Unidad Academica Mazatlan (Mexico).

For more information, contact the Council's protected species coordinator, Asuka Ishizaki, at (808) 522-8220.

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council was established by the US Congress to manage fisheries in offshore waters around Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the US Pacific remote island area.