



Federal Fishery Managers to Address Hawaii Longline Fishery, Deepwater Shrimp and Precious Coral

HONOLULU (19 December 2006) The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will convene by teleconference at **2 p.m. (Hawaii standard time) on Dec. 21, 2006, at 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii**, to consider and take action on the matters listed below. The Council will also hold a public hearing on these issues during this meeting.

- Allowing a Hawaiian fisherman to use 7 miles of old-fashioned “basket-style” longline gear within the 25- to 75-nautical mile longline exclusion zone around the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI). Options include no action, granting a permit through the Council’s Community Development Program, or granting an ad-hoc exemption. Current regulations allow “basket-style” longline gear that is under one mile in length to be used within the exclusion zone. This fisherman would like to be able to join the seven 1-mile long lines he is currently using.
- Redefining the maximum sustainable yield for the black coral fishery in the Auau Channel from 5,000 to 3,750 kg per year, a moratorium on the harvest of gold coral (both live and dead) and a limited access program for the MHI black coral fishery.
- Adding *Heterocarpus* (deepwater shrimp) species to appropriate management plan(s) as a management unit species to improve monitoring and management of this fishery.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Sign language, interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be requested at least five days prior to the meeting date. The meeting is also accessible by teleconference at the following locations and local times:

American Samoa Dept. of Marine & Wildlife Resources, **1 p.m., Dec. 21**. For more info, call Fini Aitaoto at 684 633-5102.

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Dept. of Lands & Natural Resources, **10 a.m., Dec. 22**. For more info, call Jack Ogumoro at 670 322-9830/9843.

Guam Governor’s Conference Room, **10 a.m., Dec. 22**. For more info, call John Calvo at 671 688-6400.

The Council manages fisheries in offshore waters surrounding Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, CNMI and other U.S. Pacific islands. For more information, ph. 808 522-8220, fax 808 522-8226, email info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov, or visit www.wpcouncil.org.

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Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Members

The Council, by Congressional mandate, is made up of the following 16 representatives.

Four designated state officials

- Ignacio Dela Cruz, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) Department of Land & Natural Resources
- Adrienne Loerzel, Guam Office of the Governor
- Ray Tulafono, American Samoa Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources
- Peter Young, Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources

Four designated federal officials

- RAdm Sally Brice-O'Hara, U.S. Coast Guard 14th District
- Bill Gibbons-Fly, U.S. Department of State
- Jerry Leinecke, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bill Robinson, Pacific Islands Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service

Eight members who are nominated by the governors of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and CNMI and selected by the Secretary of Commerce

- Manuel Duenas, Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Guam)
- Frederick Duerr, resort and hotel consultant (Hawaii)
- Edwin Ebisui, attorney at law (Hawaii)
- Rick Gaffney, boat dealer and ocean recreation consultant (Hawaii)
- Stephen Haleck, business owner (hotel and gas station) (American Samoa)
- Sean Martin, Pacific Ocean Producers (Hawaii)
- Frank McCoy, Harbor & Environmental Services (American Samoa)
- Benigno Sablan, cultural practitioner (CNMI)