



## **Federal Managers to Consider Long-Term Measures for Bottomfish in the Main Hawaiian Islands and Other US Pacific Island Fishery Issues**

HONOLULU (18 June 2007) The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will convene June 19 to 22, 2007, at the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, to discuss management of commercial and non-commercial fisheries in federal waters (3 to 200 miles offshore) of the U.S. Pacific Islands.

One of the key items to be considered will be measures to implement after the 2007 main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) bottomfish closure for seven species of deepwater species, known as the Deep 7, ends on September 30. The MHI bottomfish overfishing issue will be discussed 6:30 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, June 20. Measurements under consideration include:

- Limiting commercial catches of Deep 7 species to 178,000 lbs, which represents a 24 percent reduction of MHI commercial Deep 7 catches as compared to 2004, and closing both the commercial and non-commercial sectors once commercial Deep 7 landings are reached.
- Changing non-commercial bag limits from the current five onaga and/or ehu combined per person per trip, to five of any Deep 7 species combined per person per trip and extending this bag limit to include not only State water (0 to 3 miles from shore) but also Federal waters (3 to 200 miles from shore).
- Implementing Federal permit and reporting requirements for non-commercial fishermen who catch bottomfish in the MHI.
- Implementing a 2008 seasonal closure for MHI Deep 7 fishing from May through August.
- Implementing a combined commercial and non-commercial Deep 7 total allowable catch limit beginning September 1, 2008. At this point the non-commercial bag limits would be dropped.

Other key items for the Council to consider during the week include the following:

- Changing the existing 50 mile longline closed area around Guam.
- Establishing a mechanism by which tuna quotas issued by Pacific regional fishery management organizations can be implemented in a timely manner by the Council through the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

— more —

- Implementing management measures for commercial (and possibly non-commercial) non-longline pelagic fishing in federal waters of the U.S. Pacific islands.
- Implementing a limited entry program for the Hawaii black coral fishery operating in the Auau Channel.

Recommendations made by the Council are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval. For more information on or a draft agenda for this meeting, please visit the Council's website at [www.wpcouncil.org](http://www.wpcouncil.org) or call (808) 522-8220.

### **Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Members**

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

Four designated state officials:

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

Four designated federal officials:

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

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

- Frank McCoy, Harbor & Environmental Services (American Samoa)
- Stephen Haleck, business owner (hotel and gas station) (American Samoa)
- 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)
- Sean Martin, Pacific Ocean Producers (Hawaii)
- Benigno Sablan, cultural practitioner (CNMI)