



Series of Public Meetings to Focus on Collection of Catch Data from Fishermen and Other Fishery Management Issues in the U.S. Pacific Islands

HONOLULU (21 September 2007) The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council announces the following public meetings and associated public hearings on the management of offshore fisheries in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and US Pacific remote island areas.

96th SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE MEETING, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sept. 25, and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sept. 26 to 27, 2007

FISHERS FORUM “Fishing for Data,” Pagoda Hotel, 1525 Rycroft Drive, Honolulu, from 6 to 9 p.m., Oct. 10, 2007

139th COUNCIL MEETING, Pagoda Hotel, 1525 Rycroft Drive, Honolulu, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 9, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 10 to 12, 2007

The SSC and/or Council are scheduled to discuss and potentially act upon the following items, among others:

- o A process by which longline catch or effort limits could be readily implemented if promulgated by a regional fishery management organization
- o Recreational fishery data collection for the region
- o Longline and purse seine exclusion zones around CNMI
- o Purse seine exclusion zones around American Samoa and Guam
- o Modifications to the American Samoa longline program
- o Review and implementation process for Community Development Program initiatives
- o Regulatory modifications to the Hawaii shallow-set longline fishery that targets swordfish
- o Methodology for setting total allowable catch limits for the Hawaii bottomfish fishery
- o Options to address data collection gaps

The Fishers Forum will provide fishermen and other interested persons an opportunity to learn about and comment on the national recreational saltwater angler registry, a new recreational data plan for the region and Council initiatives regarding data reporting requirements.

For the full agendas or more information, visit www.wpcouncil.org or contact Council staff in Hawaii at (808) 522-8220 or info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov; in American Samoa (684) 633-5102; in Guam (671) 649-3150; or in CNMI (670) 322-9830 / (670) 322-9834.

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Public hearings and comment periods are available during the meetings. Testimony on non-agenda items will occur 4 to 5 p.m. Oct. 11. Written comments must reach the Council by 5 p.m., Oct. 5, addressed to Kitty Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813 or fax to 808 522-8285.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) is the policy-making organization for fisheries management in federal waters (generally 3-200 miles offshore) of the U.S. Pacific Islands. Recommendations approved by the Council are forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce for approval. For more information and full agendas of the meetings, visit www.wpcouncil.org or contact the Council at (808) 522-8220 or at info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov.

SCIENTIFIC AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Stewart Allen	NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
Dr. Judith Amesbury	Micronesian Archeological Research Services
Dr. Brian Bowen	Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology
Dr. Paul Callaghan (CHAIR)	University of Guam
Dr. Frank A. Camacho	Guam Community College
Dr. Milani Chaloupka	University of Queensland
Dr. Charles Daxboeck	BioDax Consulting Tahiti
Dr. Richard Deriso	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
Dr. John Hampton	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Dr. Pierre Kleiber	NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
Dr. Molly Lutcavage	University of New Hampshire, Dept. of Zoology
Dr. James Parrish	Hawaii Cooperative Fishery Research Unit
Dr. Dan Polhemus	Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources
Dr. Craig Severance	University of Hawaii at Hilo
Dr. John Sibert	Pelagic Fisheries Research Program
Dr. Robert Skillman	NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (retired)
Mr. Michael Trianni	Northern Mariana Islands Division of Fish & Wildlife