



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

Report of the Joint Advisory Panel Meeting

June 23 and June 25, 2012

Council Office

Honolulu, Hawaii

1. Welcoming Remarks

Ed Watamura, AP Chair, opened the meeting and Kitty Simonds, Executive Director, provided the welcoming remarks.

2. Overview and Introductions

Joshua DeMello, Council staff, provided an overview of the agenda and the meeting expectations.

3. Reports on Fishery/Community Issues and Council Support

A. American Samoa

Judy McCoy, Pelagic AP Chair, presented the American Samoa community issues report. The following issues were provided to the AP:

- More FADs need to be deployed and DMWR needs to identify new funding sources to fund and deploy more FADs. She explained that there have been problems in getting materials for FADs in the past and that SPC has assisted DMWR with the FAD program for several years.
- There should be an improvement to the collection of recreational and subsistence fisheries data. Recreational fishermen are always willing to participate and assist with these data collection programs. Incentive programs should be in place to facilitate data collection and that quality and reliable information should be collected and used in the analysis of programs like ACLs.
- A system to help finance the purchase of fishing boats would be welcomed. Some fishermen who have alias may need to move on to bigger boats and there is also a need to have trained fishermen in order to have an efficient and profitable fishery.
- Local organizations, fishermen and the public need the assistance of a good grant writer to help them obtain grant money for fishery-related projects.
- The Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary expansion proposal is a big issue and would like to be apprised of any updates as they are made.

B. Guam

Jesse Rosario, Marianas AP co-Chair-Guam, presented the Guam community issues report. The following issues were presented:

- **Community-based management plan**-The Department of Agriculture is working with a couple of villages to draft, review and implement a strategic management plan ultimately creating a sustainable fishing program in their MPAs or their coastal areas within their

jurisdiction. However, the communities need assistance in formulating and guiding the management plan.

- **Military firing range-** The AP noted the Surface Danger Zone is in effect and vessels and boat operators need to know the signs or signals of an active firing range. In essence, the military has the right-of-fire and those in the vicinity are basically placing themselves at risk. The AP members also would like to have a better dialog with the Military Command when closures or restrictions are imposed from shore to the ocean's outward boundaries.
- **Napoleon Wrasse-**The Guam "Atuhong" is being placed on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) list without holistic studies or data proving that the reduction of its population is attributable to overfishing or other factors such as change of habitat and/or environmental conditions.
- **82 species of coral proposed under ESA-** A total of 82 Coral Species have been identified in a report that proposes for their placement on the ESA list. Guam has the second largest population of corals to be placed on the list, with a total of 35 species on the list found in Guam's coastal waters. Once these coral species are on the ESA list, the coastal areas where the corals are found will be subjected to restricted human activities. Many areas on Guam's limited marine coastal near-shores are used by fishermen, beachgoers and water-ways users who may be subject to losing these coastal shores without any testimony by them. Guam public beaches are designed for use by the public, if such corals listed on the ESA are identified in the public beaches, this may impact the use of the beaches goers or water-way users.
- **USCG marine monitoring channels-** The US Coast Guard implemented Rescue 21 in which they stated that they will discontinue monitoring marine radio channel 68. This presents a grave concern as channel 68 is essentially the primary mode of communication used by most off-shore boaters, waterway users, etc. Furthermore, the Coast Guard did not disclose the changes when it began implementing the new Rescue 21 monitoring system.
- **Marine education and training-**The AP noted that building capacity on marine education allows island residents to pursue training and education in Marine Engine Repair, Maritime Laws, Rules and related provisions. Once their training and/education is completed, they will return back to Guam providing services as a certified Marine Engine Tech or Maritime educator.

C. CNMI

Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, Marianas AP co-Chair-CNMI, presented the CNMI community issues report:

- **Marianas Trench Marine National Monument-**The AP noted that the initial meetings were held and the committee is looking into the initial promises from the Federal government under the EO, including gaining state waters.
- **ESA Coral Listing-**Recent listening sessions in CNMI have shown that there is a general opposition to the listing. There are concerns about the corals in the CNMI but they are healthy, and local information from scientists are not included in the biological and management reports produced by PIRO, and that PIRO needs to conduct coral assessments first prior to any listing of corals around CNMI.

- **Local Legislation**-Local legislation introduced this year includes a fisheries act that would include licensing and permitting and minimum sizes. There were concerns about some of the information being used to create the legislation.
- **Bottomfish Regulations**-At the last AP meeting in the Marianas, there was a recommendation to re-visit the regulations for bottomfish in the CNMI to allow large vessels to fish close to shore. The AP recommended to reduce the 50 miles closure area around the southern islands to at least 25 miles, which might even be less when additional information becomes available during the scoping meeting, and completely eliminate the 10 miles closure area around Alamagan due to lack of any fishery program on the island. Furthermore, the AP members recommended to support grandfathering of bottomfish commercial vessel over 40 feet whose owner is indigenous and has been doing business for the past 10 years.

D. Hawaii-PRIA

DeMello, presented the Hawaii community issues report and the following issues were discussed:

- **Local legislation:** The state of Hawaii plans to ban SCUBA spearfishing in West Hawaii that encompasses 150 miles of coastline (Upolu Point to South Point), and 35% of the coast is already protected through the State's Fisheries Replenishment Areas (FRAs). Members said that this is a shotgun approach to natural resource management in response to alleged decreases in fish along the coasts. Members felt that there are problems with the proposed regulations, including enforcement and identification and an unclear objective for this action. They suggested that the Council recommend the State of Hawaii to look into these issues as well as provide some alternatives to the banning. They also noted that this proposal is being considered by some as a pilot approach for a future state-wide ban on SCUBA spearfishing.
- **Bottomfish Fishing:** The catch and effort data from the 2011-12 season will be different from previous years because of the ACT not being reached as early as in previous years. It was noted that projections and catch limits were based on CPUE data and he would like to see this season's CPUE data in relation to the CPUE from the past seasons with a quota. There was some discussion about weather and its effect on the fishery, possibly contributing to any CPUE changes. They also said that it would be interesting to also know how much (effort) has been expended this year compared to previous years. Another bottomfishing issue involved the State of Hawaii's Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs). Members brought up that some of the BRFAs extend into Federal waters and the issue of jurisdiction of the State in Federal waters has not been resolved, and would like the BRFAs to only be enforced in State waters. They would also like to see the evaluation of the BRFAs completed, and if not, the State should include a sunset date on the BRFAs.
- **Federal Agencies:** The AP also brought up a concern of fishermen that the number of agencies with a say over fisheries in Hawaii is becoming overwhelming. From NOAA (NMFS and Sanctuaries), to USFWS and now the National Ocean Council, it is very confusing on who does what and who they can go to for information. They suggested that the Council provide a statement on where the Councils fit in the process. There is concern over the marginalization of the Council with an ever increasing bureaucracy and the need for increased communication to the public.

- **Regulation Review-**The Hawaii AP brought up the need to review fishery regulations, as many are old and not based on science. They want to see if they are still (or ever were) effective and if new information is available to ensure the regulations are doing what they are supposed to do. Case in point is the minimum size for commercial sale of yellowfin tuna. The current minimum size of 3 lbs is too small and there is support to increase to a size that the science says is appropriate. They added that the science is important, especially for stuff management measures like ACLs where, in the case of the ACLs for Jacks, the numbers are just wild guesses without the recreational catch and effort information.
- **Follow-up-**The AP agreed that one issue that they have is that there isn't enough follow-up to meetings, even the AP meetings. Once the AP makes its recommendation, they would like to know where the recommendation goes and what happens after the Council makes its decisions. Other issues, like the monk seal critical habitat/EIS, or the sanctuary expansion, also have the same problems as fishermen are not kept aware and they don't know where they are in the process. It's difficult for the AP members to communicate with the fishing community if they can't get the answers and makes them feel that they are hitting a dead end and fishermen feel like nothing is being done for them. They suggested using the Council's website as a place for information to be continually updated. They also suggested that some recommendations are of particular concern (i.e. getting the State of Hawaii to remove the requirement for all those on a vessel to have a CML) and the AP would like to know what happened. Another suggestion was that regular reports from the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement on fishing violations (not just the big MSA violations, but also those conducted in random/routine boardings-i.e. BRFA, permit, catch limit, etc) be provided to the AP as well through its meetings and through regular updates.

4. Discussion and Recommendations Regarding Community Issues

The following recommendations were made specifically in regards to each island area:

In regards to American Samoa issues:

- *The AP recommends the Council work with DMWR to identify new funding sources to fund and deploy more FADs.*
- *The AP requested the Council provide the American Samoa community with the details and updates regarding ACLs during its family meetings so that the community can provide their local perspectives on this issue.*
- *The AP recommended the Council request NMFS to improve the collection of recreational and subsistence fisheries data and consider the use of incentive programs.*
- *The AP recommended the Council request NMFS to provide a system to help finance the purchase of fishing boats.*
- *The AP recommends the Council provide assistance for grant writing to assist the community in obtaining funding for fishery-related projects.*

In regards to Guam issues:

- *The Council provide funding for the Malesso/Santa Rita/Agat Community Base-Management Plan to defer cost of materials, supplies, rentals, and other miscellaneous expenses for hosting the Village/Community Fisheries Based Management meetings.*
- *The AP recommends the Council request NMFS to clearly identify the specific coastal areas of Guam where these corals occur before they categorize these corals as being protected by the ESA.*
- *The AP recommends the Council request the U.S. Coast Guard to continue monitoring marine radio channel 68, the most commonly used marine radio channel by boaters and other water-way users, and provide additional outreach and education on the newly developed Maritime Search and Rescue Channel 21 on how the Rescue 21 operates, and the 20 nm coverage.*
- *The AP recommends the Council continue to seek MET funds to support Guam's Coastal Training and Awareness programs.*

In regards to CNMI issues:

- *The AP recommended the Council that legislations be based on scientific data, and that all proposed policies, whether through legislation or regulation, be initiated by DFW.*
- *The AP recommends the Council assist DFW in seeking the necessary funds to modify the existing ramp or construct a new ramp, as the existing ramp is not high enough or is always submerged under water during high tide.*
- *The AP recommends the Council assist DFW in seeking funding to replace lost FADs and further recommended that new FADs be equipped with long lasting materials to withstand rough waters especially during typhoons.*
- *The AP recommends the Council assist DFW in seeking funds for the construction of a marker buoy, and obtain the necessary permits, at the entrance of east harbor to guide fishermen leaving or returning from fishing in the evening.*
- *The AP recommends the Council seek support for the proposal to address shark depredation on local pelagic and bottomfish fisheries.*
- *The AP recommends the Council request NMFS PIRO restore funding for the local turtle research program to its original level consistent with last year's budget.*
- *The AP recommends the Council request NMFS to continue to provide financial support to the on-going CNMI bio-sampling program.*
- *The AP recommends the Council request NMFS to increase its funding assistance to DFW data collection efforts.*
- *The AP recommends the Council assist DFW in revising their fishing regulations and managing public education and outreach.*
- *The AP recommends the Council assist DFW in exploring the possibilities of implementing a fishing license program for the CNMI.*
- *The AP recommends the Council reduce the current 50 mile bottomfish closure area around the southern islands to at least 25 miles, and completely eliminate the 10 mile closure area around Alamaghan due to lack of any fishery program on the island. Furthermore, the AP recommends the Council support the grandfathering of bottomfish commercial vessels over 40 feet whose owner is indigenous and has been doing business for the past 10 years.*

In regards to Hawaii issues:

- *In regards to the State of Hawaii rule-making process, the Hawaii AP recommends the Council request State of Hawaii clearly define their objective or goal regarding and consider developing a suite of alternatives in developing its current and future fisheries rules (i.e. the proposal to ban fish taken by spear while SCUBA diving in coastal waters of West Hawaii Island, the proposal to ban the commercial sale of ulua on Maui) and provide these to the public during its public hearing process.*
- *In regards to Hawaii bottomfish, the Hawaii AP recommends the Council request NMFS PIFSC to provide an analysis of the Hawaii bottomfish CPUE data for 2012 in comparison to past seasons to determine any usefulness for future stock assessments.*
- *In regards to Hawaii bottomfish, the Hawaii AP also recommends the Council request from the State of Hawaii to remove the Federal portion of the BRFA's as well as to complete the evaluation of the BRFA's.*
- *In regards to public outreach and communication with fishermen, the Hawaii AP recommends the Council provide a statement for the AP on where the Council fits in, regarding the ever increasing layers of bureaucracy.*
- *In regards to AP outreach and communication, the Hawaii AP recommends the Council provide a means for follow-up to AP recommendations after the Council makes decisions, as well as follow-up on important issues (i.e. protected species issues, sanctuary expansions, etc) so that fishermen can follow and track the process.*
- *In regards to existing fishery regulations, the Hawaii AP recommends the Council request NMFS and the State of Hawaii to provide regular review of their fishing regulations to ensure its effectiveness, incorporate new information, and provide for adaptive management of the resources. The Hawaii AP recommends the Council request the State of Hawaii consider reviewing the current minimum size for the sale of yellowfin tuna (3 lbs) as its first regulation for review.*
- *In regards to requirements for Commercial Marine Licenses for ALL those aboard a commercial fishing vessel, the Hawaii AP recommends the Council request the State of Hawaii DAR to amend their regulations so that only the Captain or Owner be required to have a CML and be required to file the monthly catch report. The Hawaii AP believes that with everyone required to have a CML there may be a good chance of duplicative reporting, and that it is a burden when you have guests or out-of-town visitors out on a fishing trip.*

In addition to the previous recommendations made by the individual Advisory Panels, the Joint Advisory Panel had many discussions regarding the following issues and made a few recommendations:

The indigenous people of the Pacific have an oral tradition and many of the elders still practice this tradition to express themselves. By not allowing the people to express themselves in their cultural manner, many of them will leave the meeting without being heard. It is important for agencies to provide for these people to provide testimony. *The AP recommends the Council request NMFS and other agencies to provide for oral testimony at all its public meetings, not just written testimony.*

Many of the AP members were unclear on the roles of each agency involved in fisheries, noting that there are too many agencies and that it is hard to know who is who. They also said there was a need to provide education on the processes that the agencies use to develop regulations for fisheries and in particular, protected species. *The AP recommends the Council work with NMFS to develop training workshops on agency roles and regulatory processes to be provided throughout the region.*

5. AP Training Workshops

Council staff provided training workshops to assist the AP in engaging their communities and encouraging the AP to continue to working on behalf of the Council. The following workshops were provided to the AP, including demonstrations and exercises:

- The Council, its Programs, and New Initiatives
- Protected Species
- Data and Stock Assessments
- International Fisheries
- Communications and Outreach
- Public Commenting
- AP Tacklebox

6. Council Action Items

A. Status Review of Report and Management of 82 Candidate Coral Species Petitioned Under ESA

Lance Smith, NMFS PIRO Protected Resources, provided a review of the petition for 82 coral species under the ESA. He explained the process of the review steps and noted that they are gathering public comments before they make their status determinations. He noted that the distribution and descriptions are provided in the reports. He also went over the process they are currently ongoing and the proposed timeline for this process.

The AP wasn't in favor of the listing of any of the corals as they agreed that the corals in the island areas are flourishing. Some AP members also identified some information that was overlooked and provided it to Smith. The AP also noted that the protection of the corals may be adversely affect the protection of another species such as the Hawaiian Monk Seal, as some of these other protected species forage on these corals.

B. Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle Petition Finding

Smith also presented on information on a petition to delist the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle. He noted that the finding was due last month and NMFS is over a month late with the finding.

The AP noted that if the petition was to list, it seems NMFS jumps as the opportunity to protect the species, but when the petition is to delist, they drag their feet. Both of these are examples of ways the NMFS impacts the indigenous people of the islands.

The AP asked if there were any penalties for missing the deadlines? Smith responded that if they are sued on the process, NMFS will lose and have to pay the court fees. He noted that some organizations build themselves on these types of suits.

C. North Pacific Humpback Whale Populations in Alaska

John Moran, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, provided a presentation on herring predation by humpback whales by the North Pacific Humpback Whales. His study looked at the competition between herring and humpback whales for krill and whether the increasing numbers of humpbacks were out-competing the herring. He noted that for delisting, they would have to figure out how to determine population segments, whether it is by feeding location of breeding location, and that has yet to be done.

D. Options for Marianas Purse Seine Area Closure

Paul Dalzell presented options for a purse-seine closure around the Mariana Archipelago. Previous efforts by the Council to create a total EEZ closure for purse-seine vessels with a 30 nm longline area closure, but the purse-seine closure was not approved by NMFS. This action is to make the purse-seine closure congruent with the approved longline area closure. Dalzell provided options and background information on the issue.

The AP were concerned with the number of countries fishing in the area. They also said that it's getting harder to catch tunas around the Marianas, as you have to travel further to catch fish. Dalzell noted that there is more fishing in the equatorial areas near Micronesia for tunas, particularly for skipjack. He said that the problem is that it is difficult to show any effect of this fishing on the Marianas troll fishery, and noted that more information from fishermen is needed on how things have changed over time.

In regards to the options for this issue, the AP was concerned with what was happening south of the Marianas regarding tuna catches, and expressed the need to provide more protection for the local fleets.

It was also noted that tuna tagging programs are collecting information from the area but not in the Marianas. The AP expressed the need to know the range of the tunas in the Western Pacific and the need for more information about the tunas around the Marianas. **The AP recommended the Council request SPC OFP to extend their tuna tagging program to the Marianas Archipelago.**

E. Recommendations for Territorial Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits

Eric Kingma, Council staff, provided recommendations being considered for territorial bigeye tuna catch limits and gave a background on the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. He noted that under the Commission and its convention, there are different rights assigned to places like the US territories to develop its fisheries. He presented the charter arrangements negotiated through the Council under a Council amendment to provide the U.S. an opportunity to access the quotas for the territories by other U.S. fisheries. These recommendations being presented takes into account congressional legislation (section 113) that allows arrangements between the territories and domestic U.S. fisheries and directs the Council to implement an amendment that takes into account this legislation.

An AP noted that by giving Hawaii's longline fishery a portion of the territorial quotas when they reach their quota, as the small-boat fishery was banking on the closure for higher prices.

The AP recommended the Council look at the economic impacts of amendment 20/Section 113 on the small-boat fishery of Hawaii.

F. Recommendations on Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Annual Catch Target

Mark Mitsuyasu, Council staff, provided an overview of the past bottomfish seasons and the status of this year's Annual Catch Target. He presented on the P* and SEEM processes used to reduce the ACL to the ACT.

There was discussion about the moving the quota back to the ACL since the uncertainty for providing the data has decreased. Mitsuyasu explained that it was already considered in the SEEM process.

G. Recommendations on Cooperative Research Priorities

DeMello provided an overview of cooperative research and noted that the members had the current list of priorities for FY12-13 and if there were any changes they would like to see to let the Council know.

H. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

I. Discussion and Recommendations

John Kaneko, Hawaii Seafood Council, provided a presentation on "Seafood Sustainability." Kaneko noted how the AP's and the Council process feeds into the sustainability of Hawaii's seafood. He also presented the FAO responsible fisheries assessment done on the Hawaii longline fishery.

7. FAD Issue Workshop

Kingma provided an opportunity for AP members to learn more about FADs through a FAD issue workshop. The following was presented and discussed at the workshop:

- Introduction and Overview of FAD issues in the WPR
- Case Study of Local Government FAD Program-State of Hawaii
 - Design and Deployment
 - Catch Information
 - Questions and Discussion
- Overview of FAD Permitting Process
 - US Coast Guard
 - Army Corps of Engineers
 - Questions and Discussion
- Council's Community FAD Projects
 - Participation
 - Catch Information
 - Future Projects
 - Questions and Discussion
- Discussion on Private FAD Issues
- FADs as a Spatial Management Tool

- Separating Commercial vs. Non-commercial Vessels
- Separating Large vs. Small Vessels
- Territorial Use Rights in Fishing (TURFs)

8. Final Discussion and AP Recommendations

The following are the final Joint AP recommendations:

American Samoa

In regards to American Samoa Issues:

- **The AP recommends the Council work with DMWR to identify new funding sources (or existing funding sources such as the Council’s community FAD program) to fund and deploy more FADs.**
- **The AP requests the Council provide the American Samoa community with the details and updates regarding ACLs during its family meetings so that the community can provide their local perspectives on this issue.**
- **The AP recommends the Council request NMFS to improve the collection of recreational and subsistence fisheries data in American Samoa and consider the use of incentive programs.**

Guam

- **The AP recommends the Council provide assistance and resources to the Guam Department of Agriculture to continue the development of Community Based-Management Plans.**
- **The AP recommends the Council request the U.S. Coast Guard to continue monitoring marine radio channel 68, the most commonly used marine radio channel by boaters and other water-way users, and provide additional outreach and education on the newly developed Maritime Search and Rescue Channel 21 on how the Rescue 21 operates, and the 20 nm coverage.**
- **The AP recommends the Council assist the fishing community of Guam to obtain a barge for deployment of FADs currently with the Department of Agriculture and involve the GFCA for use of the Galaide.**

CNMI

In regards to assisting CNMI DFW:

- **The AP recommends the Council assist DFW in seeking the necessary funds to modify the existing ramp or construct a new ramp in Tinian and Rota, as the existing ramp is not high enough or is always submerged under water during high tide. Data can be collected from fishermen through improvements of the boat ramp.**
- **The AP recommends the Council assist DFW and community organizations in seeking funding to replace lost FADs and further recommended that new FADs be equipped with long lasting materials to withstand rough waters especially during typhoons.**
- **The AP recommends the Council assist DFW and USCG in seeking funds for the construction of a marker buoy on Rota, and obtain the necessary permits, at the**

entrance of Rota east harbor to guide fishermen leaving or returning from fishing in the evening.

- **The AP recommends the Council assist DFW in revising their fishing regulations and managing public education and outreach.**
- **The AP recommends the Council assist DFW in exploring the possibilities of implementing a fishing license program for the CNMI.**

In regards to NMFS requests:

- **The AP recommends the Council request NMFS to increase its funding assistance to CNMI DLNR Division of Fish and Wildlife data collection efforts.**

In regards to CNMI bottomfish:

- **The AP recommends the Council continue to investigate the need for changes to the CNMI bottomfish regulations. There may be a need to reduce the current 50 mile bottomfish closure area around the southern islands to at least 25 miles, and completely eliminate the 10 mile closure area around Alamaghan due to lack of any fishery program on the island. Furthermore, the AP recommends the Council look at supporting the grandfathering of bottomfish commercial vessels over 40 feet whose owner is indigenous and has been doing business for the past 10 years.**

Hawaii

In regards to the State of Hawaii rule-making process:

- **The AP recommends the Council request the State of Hawaii clearly define their objectives or goals and consider developing a suite of alternatives in developing its current and future fisheries rules (e.g. the proposal to ban fish taken by spear while SCUBA diving in coastal waters of West Hawaii Island, the proposal to ban the commercial sale of ulua on Maui) and provide these to the public during its public hearing process.**
- **The AP recommends the Council request the State of Hawaii DAR to amend their regulations so that only the Captain or Owner be required to have a CML and be required to file the monthly catch report.** The AP believes that with everyone required to have a CML there may be a good chance of duplicative reporting, and that it is a burden when you have guests or out-of-town visitors out on a fishing trip.

In regards to Hawaii bottomfish:

- **The AP recommends the Council request from the State of Hawaii to remove the Federal portion of the BRFA's as well as to complete the evaluation of the BRFA's.**
- **The AP recommends the Council request NMFS PIFSC to provide an analysis of the Hawaii bottomfish CPUE data for 2012 in comparison to past seasons to determine any usefulness for future stock assessments.**

Pelagics

In regards to Territorial Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits:

- **The AP recommended the Council look at the economic impacts of Pelagics FEP Amendment 20/Congressional Legislation Section 113 on the small-boat fishery of Hawaii.**

- **The AP supports the authority for the territories to utilize catch limits assigned by the WCPFC.**

In regards to Pelagic Fisheries in the Marianas:

- **The AP recommended the Council request SPC OFP to extend their tuna tagging program to the Marianas Archipelago.**
- **The AP recommended the Council continue to pursue the EEZ as a prohibited area around the Marianas, but if this is not feasible, to implement a 100 nm closure, with a 50 nm closure around any sea mounts beyond the 100 nm area within the EEZ .**

Program Planning

In regards to NMFS:

- **The AP recommends the Council request NMFS and other agencies to provide for oral testimony at all its public meetings, not just written testimony.**
- **The AP recommends the Council work with NMFS to develop training workshops on agency roles and regulatory processes to be provided throughout the region.**
- **The AP recommends the Council request NMFS and other agencies provide regular review of their fishing regulations to ensure its effectiveness, incorporate new information, and provide for adaptive management of the resources. The AP recommends the Council start by requesting the State of Hawaii consider reviewing the current minimum size for the sale of yellowfin tuna (3 lbs) as its first regulation for review.**
- **The AP recommends the Council request NMFS to provide a system to help finance the purchase of fishing boats in the Western Pacific Region.**
- **The AP recommends the Council request NMFS to continue to provide financial support to the on-going Marianas Archipelago bio-sampling programs.**

In regards to MET and CDPP:

- **The AP recommends the Council continue to seek MET and CDPP funds for the Western Pacific Region.**

In regards to Cooperative Research Priorities:

- **The AP recommends the Council continue to seek support for the proposal to address shark depredation on local pelagic and bottomfish fisheries in the Western Pacific region.**

Protected Species

In regards to 82 Species of Corals:

- **The AP recommends the Council oppose the listing of the 82 species of coral under the ESA because the scientific data presented is limited and insufficient to support the listing.** The proposed measure directly affects the people of the Western Pacific that are dependent upon coral reef resources for cultural, social and economic purposes.

In regards to Sea Turtles:

- **The AP recommends the Council request NOAA, in concert with local agencies, to conduct scientific study and data collection regarding the population and habitat activities of the Green Sea Turtle found occurring in the Western Pacific. The AP supports the current efforts for delisting of the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle from the ESA.**
- **The AP recommends the Council request NMFS PIRO restore funding for the local turtle research program to its original level consistent with last year's budget.**

In regards to Humpback Whales:

- **The AP commends NOAA in its work in recovering the humpback whale population and supports the future delisting of this species from the ESA in the near future.**

Administrative Matters

In regards to public outreach and communication with fishermen:

- **The AP recommends the Council provide a statement for the AP on where the Council fits in, regarding the ever increasing layers of bureaucracy.**

In regards to AP outreach and communication:

- **The AP recommends the Council provide a means for follow-up to AP recommendations after the Council makes decisions, as well as follow-up on important issues (i.e. protected species issues, sanctuary expansions, etc) so that fishermen can follow and track the process.**

In regards to fishing opportunities:

- **The AP recommends the Council provide assistance for grant writing to assist the community in obtaining funding for fishery-related projects.**