



Report of the Hawaii Archipelago FEP Advisory Panel Meeting

March 12, 2015

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Teleconference and Webconference

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Hawaii Advisory Panel (AP) Meeting started at 4:25 p.m. In attendance were AP Members: Basil Oshiro, Nathan Abe, Gary Beals, Clay Tam, Ed Watamura, and Layne Nakagawa. Also in attendance was Council Staff: Joshua DeMello, Mark Mitsuyasu, Eric Kingma, Chris Hawkins, and Rebecca Walker. Members of the public included staff from Representative Rhodes' office, as well as Ellary Tucker Williams.

2. Review and Approval of the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

3. New Advisory Panel Structure and Process

DeMello reviewed the new Advisory Panel (AP) structure and noted the new process of developing solutions prior to requesting assistance from the Council.

The AP said that they would like to be provided tools for outreach and guidance for AP members. *Council staff responded that they are working on an AP handbook and will provide that to the AP along with outreach and education materials.*

4. Meeting Expectations and Overview

DeMello provided meeting expectations and noted that the meeting is set up to discuss the issues and develop solutions.

5. Issues to be discussed at 162nd Council Meeting

A. Upcoming Council Action Items

i. Recommendations on Territory Longline Bigeye Specification

Kingma reported on the specification for territory longline bigeye limit arrangements.

The AP asked about the Hawaii longline catch. Kingma responded that Hawaii's take is only 3% of the entire longline fishery, and even smaller than that of the entire catch.

There were also questions of whether there is foreign fishing near Hawaii. They also asked who else from the U.S. is in the fishery. Kingma responded that there are folks fishing on the high seas further north and further south. He also said that Hawaii has the only longline fishery in the Pacific and is the largest producer of BET in the US (approximately 60-80%).

ii. Report on FEP Review

Hawkins presented the efforts of the Council in reviewing its Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs). He reported on the meetings and reviews conducted with the Council Family and the general categories of issues to be addressed with a future revision. Hawkins also presented the proposed plan for revising the FEP.

The AP questioned the definition of ecosystem and said there is a lot of disconnect and lack of understanding of the connections. They also said that there is a need to define island fishing different and to recognize the Aha Moku system.

B. Issues Relevant to the FEP AP

DeMello reported on issues that were to be discussed at the 162nd Council Meeting that would be of interest to the AP. The issues included Main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish scoping meetings, ahi public scoping meetings, community projects, and education and outreach projects.

In regards to MHI bottomfish, the AP said that there needed to be more public scoping, especially on how to fill out the CML CPUE and suggested that “hours fished” on the form be changed to “line hours” with a greater explanation. They said that there should be ads on the local fishing shows and should be for everyone. *The Hawaii AP recommends the Council work with the State on increased outreach for correct reporting on CML forms and provide these tools to the AP to provide assistance.*

They also commented that for bottomfish, there is a need to look at the data and see if some of the bottomfish landings that come from non-bottomfishing gears can be pulled out or if it makes a difference. The AP commented that bottomfish should be the priority of future scoping meetings and outreach.

6. Hawaii Archipelago FEP Issues

A. Island Fisheries Subpanel

The AP discussed an issue brought up regarding fixing the South Point boat ramp. Efforts have been made to request it being fixed through the Council and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. AP members noted that the fishing community in that area do not want the ramp fixed so that there isn't an influx of fishermen from outside the community.

The AP noted that there were bills in the legislature that would endanger the aquarium fishery but that all of the bills did not advance further. They said that the fishery is well managed and there is a need to get the word out about it. An AP member said that he would inquire as to how the AP can assist the fishery.

B. Pelagic Fisheries Subpanel

An issue that an AP member brought up was possible gear conflicts at the Cross Seamount. He noted that there are handliners, shortliners and longliners fishing in the same area. He would like to see a limited-entry type of system for the Cross Seamount and a prohibition on longline fishing.

Council Staff noted that there has been work done in the past regarding the Cross Seamount fishery, including a survey of the fishermen and profiles for the fishery and agreed to provide that information to the AP. They also noted that if the fishery were to go to limited entry, that would entail a host of other requirements including permitting and reporting, observers, VMS, use-it-or-lose-it schemes, a take statement for protected species, etc., due to it becoming a recognized Federal fishery.

AP members questioned whether it was longline vessels at the Cross Seamount or shortline vessels (or shortline being employed by handline vessels) and if its only a few longline vessels it would be best to settle any conflicts outside of regulations. *Council staff agreed to assist the AP in following up on this issue through meeting with the fishermen to discover the issue and arrange for a meeting with longline vessel owners to discuss solutions.*

C. Ecosystems and Habitat Subpanel

A major issue for the AP was the relationship between fishermen and scientists. The AP said that it is a trust issue because the scientists always want the fishermen's data but are not willing to talk with the fishermen. They said there should be a protocol for scientists to work with fishermen. *Council Staff agreed to help facilitate discussions with scientists on this issue.*

D. Indigenous Fishing Rights Subpanel

The AP agreed that a Code of Conduct is a good thing for the AP to use as an outreach tool. They also said that fishermen need to be involved in discussions for any community based management areas.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Recommendations to the Council

The AP provided the following recommendations to the Council:

- *The Hawaii AP recommended the Council work with the State on increased outreach for correct reporting on CML forms and provide these tools to the AP to provide assistance.*

9. Other Business

Ellary Tucker Williams, Impact Assessment, provided an overview of a NMFS PIFSC-contracted project to collect names and contact information for a future recreational fishery expenditure survey. The AP discussed the survey with her and agreed to assist in the survey by providing contact information.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.