



Report of the Mariana Archipelago FEP Advisory Panel-Guam Meeting

Friday, May 20, 2016,

Guam Hilton

Tumon, Guam

1. Welcome and Introductions

Peter Perez welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. In attendance from the AP was James Borja, Matthew Orot, Kenneth Borja, Stephen Meno, Ray Flores, Jason Miller, William Bradford, and Roberto Cabreza. Members that were excused were Manuel Duenas, Jesse Rosario, Judith Guthertz, Tom Camacho, Cliff Kyota, and Dale Alvarez.

Also in attendance was Carl Delacruz, Council Coordinator, Brent Tibbats, Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR), Judith Amesbury (SSC), and Jude Martinez and Christine Laurent (Council contractors); Public included Edward Ballesta and Krystal Sanchez

2. Report on Changes to the Pelagic and Archipelagic Annual Fisheries Reports

Delacruz provided a presentation on the changes to the annual reports and noted the work that the Council staff has been doing to better align the annual reports with the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) reports that are mandated by Congress. He explained that the reports included fishery performance information as well as sections on ecosystem information with the idea of marrying the two sections to determine any possible ecosystem considerations.

3. Review of Annual Report Fishery Performance Information

Tibbats provided a report on the annual fishery performance for Guam. He reviewed the catch estimates and data in the annual report module for coral reef, bottomfish, crustacean and pelagic fisheries.

The AP had questions regarding FAD deployments and boat ramps and requested to be updated on them at future meetings.

4. Review of Annual Report Ecosystem Considerations Information and Data Gaps

Delacruz provided a report on the habitat and protected species sections of the annual report. The AP was concerned with the Guam maps and its descriptions including areas that are limited access to fishing and the location of oil settlements on Guam. The AP was also informed that a turtle management plan is being developed by DAWR.

Chris Hawkins, Council staff, called-in from Honolulu to provide a report to the AP on the human dimensions section of the annual report, noting that the report includes social and economic studies done in Guam. Delacruz included the climate variables, marine planning and data integration sections of the annual reports.

5. Report on FEP Implementation Activities

Delacruz reported that there were no amendments to the Mariana FEP in the past year that included Guam and currently none are being considered.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Discussion and Recommendations

The Guam AP discussed provided the following recommendations:

- **The Guam AP recommended the Council request NMFS PIFSC conduct a study on seasonal fishes, migration and why they do what they do.**

The study should focus on why fish show up or don't show up, where they go, and the impacts from climate change, and what other factors may affect seasonal fish migrations.

- **The Guam AP recommended the Council work with Gov Guam to develop a partnership to fund Marine preserve markers and signs.**

There needs to be an effort to replace or repair the existing signs as many of the signs are exposed to the elements and have been corroded. Ideas included getting sponsors for the MPAs and have them pay for the signage. This would provide people with a clear understanding of the boundaries for those MPAs where the signage is either unclear or non-existent.

- **The Guam AP recommended creating an educational video on fisheries in the Mariana archipelago.**

With the completion of FESTPAC, there is a lot more cultural pride and awareness in the Marianas, so now is the time to continue keeping that spirit. Having an educational tool that could be valuable for the classrooms and to share with others would take advantage of this momentum. This continues to keep the young people engaged in fisheries as well.