



## 170th Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

June 20 to 22, 2017

Laniakea YWCA, Fuller Hall, 1040 Richards St., Honolulu

### Regional, National and International Outreach and Education Report

Council staff has been or will be involved in the following regional, national and international education and outreach efforts between mid-March and early June 2017:

#### Events

- **Marianas Trench Fishing and Seafood Festival:** The Council participated as a Gold Sponsor, with support for the Children's Fishing Clinic and the Fun Family Fishing Derby. The event was held May 27-28 in Saipan.
- **United Nation's Ocean Conference.** Council staff provided data and information to the Polynesian Voyaging Society for potential use in a video presentation from Nainoa Thompson to the conference.
- **National Marine Educators Association (NMEA):** The Council will attend the annual conference and board meetings, June 25-29 in Charleston, South Carolina. The Council will give a poster presentation on incorporating traditional knowledge into resource management and education programs and will chair the Traditional Knowledge Committee meeting. Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, a Council advisor and a CNMI Refaluwasch Lunar Calendar Committee member, will present at the Committee meeting as the 2017 NMEA Traditional Knowledge Scholarship recipient, with additional funding support from the Council.

#### Outreach Materials

- **United Nation's World Tuna Day:** The Council produced a poster for the inaugural event, which will be celebrated annually each May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The back of the poster describes the importance of tuna to our region, the Council's efforts in tuna management and a resolution from the Council that encourages the Congressional Delegation, Governors, Mayors, County Councils, fishery and natural resources departments, fishing clubs and organization in the US Pacific Islands to join in the observation and requests that the US Departments of State and Commerce present the UN General Assembly with the resolution and the poster. The poster was mailed widely to the groups mentioned.
- **Pacific Islands Fishery News:** The spring 2017 issues was published and distributed. Articles covered President Trump's review of marine national monument and sanctuaries, the American Samoa Large Vessel Prohibited Area lawsuit, the Council's Fishing and Indigenous Community Program, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, 169<sup>th</sup> Council meeting actions, UN World Tuna Day, a tribute to late Council member Richard Seman, recipes from Peter Perez (Guam) and the Council Calendar.
- **Councils Communications Group:** The communications staff members of the eight Councils are working to develop informational sheets on the Council process and accomplishments by the Councils for national use.

## US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity Building Scholarship

- **2013 Cohort:** Prior to the two-year US Pacific Territories Fisheries Capacity Building Scholarship Program, the Council co-sponsored a three-year scholarship program with the American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG), then under the Department of Commerce and since moved to the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR). **Valentine Vaeoso**, a recipient of that scholarship program, will be completing her final class at the University of Hawaii (UH) at Hilo this summer and has been in discussion with the DMWR director regarding the required three-year employment upon graduation.
- **2015 Cohort:** **Keena Leon Guerrero** has graduated with Honors (Cum Laude) from Hawaii Pacific University and was offered employment with the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), Fisheries Data Section and Fisheries Research, by Manuel Pangelinan, in late May when he was the division's director. **Faasalafa Kitiona** will be completing her final course from the UH Hilo this summer and has been in discussion with the DMWR director regarding the required two-year employment upon graduation.
- **2016 Cohort:** **Carey Demapan** (CNMI) continues to pursue her undergraduate degree at UH Hilo and began her required internship with the Council on June 7. She will be assisting staff on evolving the Council's lunar calendars. **Frank Villagomez** (CNMI) completed his first semester at University of Guam (UOG), pursuing a graduate degree under the mentorship of Council SSC member and UOG professor Frank Camacho.
- **2017 Cohort:** **MariaAngela Delacruz**, a Northern Marianas College sophomore has applied to the undergraduate degree program at UH Hilo. The Council is working with the university on her financial assistance.

NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center and Pacific Islands Regional Office continue to provide financial support for the scholarship program.

### Climate Change:

- **NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) Resiliency Working Group.** Council staff continued to participate on two subgroups to address adaptive management and ways to improve NOAA outreach and education on climate change. The adaptation subgroup has been focused on data needs and framework and emergency actions. The outreach and education subgroup completed a nationwide survey and has been working to analyze the responses by sectors. Council staff has volunteered to analyze the indigenous and education (K-12) sectors.
- **NOAA Climate Science Strategy, Pacific Islands Regional Action Plan (PIRAP):** Council staff is participating in the Steering Committee to organize the 2017 annual meeting on the PIRAP. The action plan can be found at [https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/ecosystems/climate/documents/raps/tech\\_memos/PI\\_Regional\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/ecosystems/climate/documents/raps/tech_memos/PI_Regional_Action_Plan.pdf). Highlights from the plan can be found at [https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/ecosystems/climate/documents/raps/highlights/PIRAP\\_Highlights\\_web.pdf](https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/ecosystems/climate/documents/raps/highlights/PIRAP_Highlights_web.pdf)