



184th Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Dec. 2-4, 2020

Regional Communications and Outreach Report

This report summarizes regional communications and outreach efforts conducted by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council since its 183rd meeting in September 2020.

Publications

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Lobster Fishery Monograph – Written by Michael Markrich, this monograph focuses on what was once the most lucrative fishery in the State of Hawai‘i. It documents the rise and fall of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) lobster fishery. The monograph was distributed to congressional representatives, legislators and governors, libraries and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, among others. It is also available to download and print from the Council website: www.wpcouncil.org/educational-resources/education-library.

2021 Lunar Calendars – The 13-month calendars aim to raise awareness about traditional ecological knowledge and enhance community involvement in fishery management. Council staff and regional Advisory Panels (APs) collaborated to highlight 13 popular fishing spots in Hawai‘i, American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Each location has historical and current information, species commonly caught, fishing methods, gear used and the reason it is important to fishermen. In addition, a pocket-sized water-resistant Hawai‘i calendar was created especially for fishermen. The five calendars were distributed to congressional representatives, legislators, schools, libraries, fishing clubs and stores, among others. They are also available to download and print from the Council website: www.wpcouncil.org/educational-resources/lunar-calendars.

2019 Western Pacific Region Status of the Fisheries – This publication summarizes and provides key information from the annual archipelagic and pelagic Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Reports, comparing trends to the 2018 data. This year Council staff described factors that may affect the fishery statistics, along with stock statuses and fishery management and development projects in 2019. The report was distributed to congressional representatives, legislators and libraries, among others. It is also available to download and print from the Council website: www.wpcouncil.org/annual-reports.

Pacific Islands Fishery News – The fall issue of the Council’s quarterly newsletter was distributed in November 2020 primarily through the Constant Contact email list with approximately 2,000 subscribers. Less than 100 hard copies were direct mailed. A few hundred hard copies are being distributed through local agencies and fishermen throughout the regions. This issue provides updates on the Council’s recommended actions to address the president’s Executive Order on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth, tori



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line project, the Council's offshore energy policy, uku catch limits, Catchit Logit app training in the Mariana Archipelago and bottomfish training in the CNMI, among others.

Hawaii Fishing News magazine – Council staff submitted articles for the October, November and December 2020 issues on new stock assessments for bigeye and yellowfin tuna, the September Council meeting highlights and marine debris in Hawaii and Council efforts to address it.

Lawai'a magazine: Council staff submitted an article for the winter 2021 issue on the Hawai'i lunar calendars.

In addition, Council staff published press releases on the outcomes of the fall Council Coordination Committee meeting, the Council's meetings with state and federal agencies to coordinate their fishery management efforts and the release of the NWHI lobster fishery monograph.

U.S. Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship program update

Scholarship recipient Maria Angela Delacruz completed her 10-week summer internship with the Council remotely from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. While not physically in the Council office in Honolulu, Maria Angela was able to work remotely with Education Committee Scholarship Subcommittee Chair Craig Severance to learn the basics of the Council process and also spent a portion of her internship in Tim Grabowski's laboratory learning how to mount, embed and polish otoliths (fish ear bones). She is working with Council staff to develop a step-by-step pictorial guide to preparing otolith samples for further study. Maria Angela is on track to graduate in fall 2020 and start her fellowship with the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) in early 2021.

Education and Outreach Plan

Public Service Announcement (PSA) – Towards the goal of increasing positive awareness of the Council, its role and actions to the general public, Council staff worked with a contractor to develop the second in a planned series of four 30-second PSAs to briefly introduce the Council and highlight a Council-sponsored project done in HI, American Samoa, Guam and CNMI. The second video focuses on CNMI and the development of the Catchit Logit app to electronically gather fish catch data. Check it out on the Council YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/wpcouncil.

Regional Initiative – American Samoa, Guam and CNMI

Catchit Logit fishery data app training in the Territories - The training of fishermen and fish vendors was completed for American Samoa and the CNMI. There were 16 alia owners with their crew members that participated in the American Samoa training, while 40 participants attended the CNMI training. COVID-19 restrictions hampered the scheduled workshop in Guam, however Guam Council members, its AP and Department of Agriculture Division of Aquatic and



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Wildlife Resources staff were virtually trained, and will support future fishermen and fish vendor sessions.

Regional Initiative – American Samoa

American Samoa AP Curriculum and Community Outreach Project update

A contractor worked with the American Samoa AP to complete episode scripts for all 12 PSAs of the video project. The contractor is currently developing a shooting schedule for production. The project should be ready by spring 2021 and the AP will work with the local Department of Education and its local resource management partners to plan the workshops for teachers.

Regional Initiative – CNMI

Bottomfish Training in the CNMI – With support from the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund, the CNMI DLNR recently hosted two bottomfish workshops and trained 43 fishers on specialized gear, commercial fishing methods and operations, vessel maintenance and operations, tackle, equipment and fish handling for commercial markets and seafood safety.

Regional Initiative - Hawai‘i

Go Fish! with Mike Buck radio program: The radio show airs Saturdays from 4 to 5 p.m. and is repeated on Sundays from 7 to 8 a.m. with approximately 7300 weekend listeners on AM 690 and FM 94.3. Podcasts are available on the Council website (www.wpcouncil.org/educational-resources/educational-audio-files) and more recently on the radio station webpage (<https://theanswerhawaii.com/radioshow/659>). Council staff and family and invited guests have recently covered topics such as the Southern Exclusion Zone’s reopening to fishing, the tori line project to mitigate seabird interactions with longline fisheries, the new Fisheries 101 web page on the Council website along with new outreach resources (PSAs, handouts, fact sheets), the 2021 lunar calendars and tuna and striped marlin updates.