



Community Development Programs and Demonstration Projects

- The Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 recognizes the special fishing interests and practices of the indigenous peoples of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. This recognition is embodied in a number of provisions in the Act that pertain specifically to the native peoples of those island areas.
- One provision authorizes the establishment of Community Development Programs (CDPs) to enhance participation by communities of indigenous island residents in the fisheries under the Council's jurisdiction. This provision results from concern by Congress that these communities have not been appropriately sharing in the benefits from the region's commercial fisheries.
- In June 1999, a CDP for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands limited-entry Mau Zone bottomfish fishery was established. Under the CDP, two of the 10 permits for the fishery are set aside to provide fisheries employment and training opportunities for eligible communities consisting of Native Hawaiians.
- Another provision of the Act authorizes the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior to make direct grants of up to \$500,000 per fiscal year to eligible communities for the establishment of demonstration projects to foster and promote the involvement of the native peoples of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in western Pacific fisheries. Such projects could do the following:
 - identify and incorporate traditional marine resource values, knowledge and practices into contemporary management schemes;
 - develop or enhance community-based fishing opportunities;
 - establish and enforce community-based fishery management measures; or
 - support fisheries-related research, education and training in local communities.
- A Council advisory panel was established to evaluate and rank applications for the demonstration project grants. The panel includes two members from each of the four island areas within the Council's region. In September 1998, the panel developed the principles and procedures for soliciting, evaluating and selecting demonstration projects for review by the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior. The Council is in the process of hiring a coordinator to oversee program startup activities.