



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

**Guam Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 1, 2012
Guam Hilton Resort & Spa
Micronesian Room
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

1) Welcome & Introductions.

Manny Duenas opened the meeting with welcoming remarks and REAC members introduced themselves. Duenas then explained the Council process, structure, Council family and management responsibility.

2) Overview of REAC role

Mark Mitsuyasu and Paul Dalzell further described the role of the REAC and the Council's ecosystem-based management approach under the Fishery Ecosystem Plans.

3) Report on previous REAC recommendations and actions

John Calvo, Guam Onsite Coordinator provided an update of the status of the 2011 recommendations.

4) Report on Agency Activities

Senator Judi Guthertz from the 31st Guam Legislature provided the status on the implementation of the indigenous fishing rights bill. Senator Guthertz indicated that the bill mandates regulations within 90 days of passage of bill, yet two years later, the Dept. of Agriculture has yet to implement regulations. She stated that several letters have been sent to Dept. of Agriculture on this issue, but no response has been returned. Director Taitague stated that her department is preparing a response letter related to the implementation of regulations associated with the bill.

Senator Guthertz also described the status of the military buildup issue and that there will be likely positives and negatives. The military seems to have shifted in their approach on how they consider community impacts and that there is now a better focus to engage with the community. The governor recently established the First Commission, which will be the central body to develop the policy direction related to the military build-up. This commission will be comprised of a wide range of stakeholders and community representatives.

Dr. Laura Biggs provided an overview of the University of Guam Sea Grant extension program. A recent site visit by Sea Grant national and regional leadership has indicated that the program is developing well and on track to be a fully established Sea Grant office by 2015.

No other agencies offered updates to existing activities.

5. Agency Representatives Marine Management Forum

A) Military Activities

i. Military Closures Impacting Southern Fishing Grounds

Manny Duenas provided an overview of the issues associated with training range complexes including the once dormant land-ranges now being used which shoot live fire into the ocean, forcing boaters to go well offshore to transit area. The southern closure was only supposed to occur 50 days a year, but it is likely to be two to three times the number. Guam has a small artisanal fishery with small vessels averaging 22 ft. The cumulative impacts to Guam's fishing community are not being well documented, as there are a lot of piece meal activities that taken together are having significant impacts on fishermen.

ii. Improving Data Collection on Military Areas

Jay Gutierrez described DAR's existing data collection programs, creel, participation, and aerial surveys as well as boat based creel survey. Creel and participation surveys are done in Apra Harbor, but not Anderson Air Force Base. No boat based surveys are being conducted on Apra. Sometimes Naval Based guards do not allow DAR surveyors access at night. Also, the area DAR can survey has been limited as to years past. Guam EPA used to have issues like that but issues at night. One possible way is to send a letter from Governor,

iii. Discussion on options to mitigate cumulative impacts to fishing community

Manny Duenas invited discussion on this issue. Regarding closure of the southern banks, noting that the notice regarding the military exercises comes via email and 90% of fishermen using the area don't use or have email access.

Dr. Amesbury commented that the use of Naval Range as a live fire training could result in impacts to cultural artifacts at hundreds of archeological sites in the Naval Magazine area.

Senator Guthertz noted that she toured the Naval Magazine with a group of Japanese and visited site as it is site of massacre. She noted that site is a pragmatic solution, indicating that the Naval Magazine is already controlled by Military and reiterated that the Marines need a firing range and will not come without one. The challenge is the location and these issues will need to be considered in depth in the supplemental EIS. It is recommended that land belonging to military be considered first for firing range training. It is a difficult decision to determine where the firing ranges should go? Without the firing range, the marines would not be stationed here. Guam has to decide whether it wants the Marines here or not?

Map of accessible areas in Guam introduced and discussed. Such a map might be used for CMSP. Recommend a map to clearly indicate cumulative impacts. Use maps to inform public about important areas to help with community to make a decision of places for firing ranges. What and where are true impacts to Guam's coastal resources? There needs to be formal request for developing maps from Government of Guam to assist in decision-making. Restoration of Spanish Bridge revealed other problems of ecosystem impacts.

Peter Calvo, Director of the Department of Parks & Recreation noted that he is working on addressing the coastal access issue with the Department of Land Management, which is

researching the public easements around the island. This research includes the mapping of all bullcart trails that are considered public access routes.

Victor Torres noted that the Bureau of Statistics & Plans is also working on such a map. It was also noted that the land-use impacts to natural resources needed to be inventoried to develop a mitigation plan to restore the habitat and provide for sustainable use. There was agreement that such a map would be beneficial in preparing for the Coastal Management Spatial Planning process and that the agencies need to work together to ensure that all pertinent information is included.

The Director of the Department of Agriculture should write to Commander related to the guard issue. Tino indicated that it has been a real challenge to access areas to natural resources surveys, with Anderson a bit easier for the Turtle Watch, but Apra Harbor is more difficult.

Senator Guthertz noted that a lot of these issues can be worked out with better coordination and communication.

B. Update on the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument

i. Report on Monument Scoping Sessions and Management Plan

Lisa Croft from NOAA provided an overview of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument

ii. Report on Monument Advisory Council

Lisa Croft from NOAA noted that there are three representatives from the CNMI on the Monument Advisory Council and there is no representative from Guam at this time.

C. Federal Fisheries Annual Catch Limits (ACL)

Paul Dalzell presented on the ACL program

D. Compact Impact

John Calvo presented a brief overview of the impact on fisheries that was presented at the 151st Council Meeting. Dr. Ansito Walter from the University of Guam presented on the meetings with the Department of Agriculture and the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association to work with the Governor's Office to request funding from the US Department of Interior to study the impact of the migrants from the Freely Associated States (FAS) on Guam's fishery resources to include funding for education and outreach, fishery management and enforcement. A draft letter was submitted by Director Taitague to the Governor's Office but has been awaiting review. Immigration from Micronesia is amongst the highest per capita anywhere in the world.

Calvin Saruwataru of the Bureau of Statistics & Plans (BSP) noted that the letter was reviewed but that the wording needed to be changed. It was found that feedback regarding the letter was not provided to the Department of Agriculture for revision. BSP will assist the Department of Agriculture with the wording of the letter to push the item forward.

Discussion ensued regarding the methods of fishing done by migrants and how they differ from local practices. Manny Duenas noted that at the FADs, the FSM boats would cut off local boats

during the pass by of the FAD and that he experienced this himself. He also noted that the fishermen even take undersized fish. It was noted that the differences in fishing methods and practices should be studied to resolve this issue.

E. Proposed Guam Fisheries Act

Manny Duenas presented the proposed Guam Fisheries Act that would set up permits for those who started fishing after the date of the announcement of the military buildup. The Act would establish limited entry with a Control Date of 12/31/2006 (the year of the Build-up announcement); Individuals and their descendants who have lived on Guam as of this date are given a no-cost Permanent General Permit also deemed as "Fishing Rights" to harvest the fresh or saltwater resources of Guam, in accordance with the Laws of Guam. Certification of Residence Form must be signed and certified by the Village Mayor where residence is maintained. After the Control Date, January 1, 2007 all individuals (18-64 years of age) that wish to harvest fresh or salt (or combination of) water resources of Guam must apply for a Limited Access Permit.

Under the Act, the Marine Resource Management Council (MRMC) shall be established and shall consist of the following:

- a. Nine Voting Members.
- b. Two Designated Non-Voting Members.
- c. No more than three Observer Non-Voting Members.

Composition of Membership:

- a. Three Members are nominated through the Mayor's Council and should be fishing representatives from the following:
 - aa. One representing the Northern Villages.
 - bb. One representing the central Villages.
 - cc. One representing the Southern Villages.
- b. Two Members, one from two separate local licensed and legally recognized organizations where 60% of its members or Executive Officers are of Chamorro decent as prescribed by the Organic Act of Guam.
- c. Two Members shall be members of the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association.
- d. One Member shall be a member of the Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation.
- e. One Member shall be a member of the Guam Organization of Saltwater Anglers.
- f. Director, Department of Agriculture or designee.
- g. President, Department of Chamorro Affairs or designee.

Other interested agencies may request the Council for observer status and may be recognized at the end of the agenda to provide in-put at the chair's discretion.

Purpose of the Marine Resource Management Council (MRMC):

- a. Provide advice to the Liheslaturan Guahan, Committee on Natural Resources on matters pertaining but not limited to use and harvest of fresh and salt water resources and its management.
- b. Shall review and provide advice on the impacts of laws affecting the sustainable use of the resources to include the Designated CMAs.
- c. Shall develop a program which shall enhance to promote the sustainable use of Guam's marine resources.

Under the Act, the MRMC shall provide the Director of the Department of Agriculture guidance and advice in the expenditure of funds derived from marine activities or federal grants received for the benefit of the marine community.

The existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) shall be designated as Cultural Managed Areas (CMAs). The governance over these areas shall be afforded to the Mayors of the respective Villages and matters of particular concern regarding existing rules and regulations in its use be forwarded to the MRMC for consideration and recommendation.

Under the Act, a Marine Development Fund would be established to address fisheries or marine related projects, programs or concerns. Authorized uses would include but not limited to, are;

- a. Marina improvements, moorings, and so forth.
- b. Access paths to resources (Land and Shore side).
- c. Funding Activities in support of Marine activities.
- d. Funding assistance for Community Facilities.
- e. Funding assistance in the form of financing (loans) at a rate not to exceed 2 % to cover administrative costs.
- f. Funding research in the marine area (not to exceed 10% of the annual revenue).
- g. Funding support for marine activities that support the perpetuation of the Chamorro Culture and Heritage (an annual designated funding of not less than 10%).
- h. The MRMC may authorize funding for support staff or other activities in support of the mission of the Council.

6. Ocean Monitoring and Data Collection

A. Report on Bio-Sampling Program

Eric Cruz provided an overview of the Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) Bio-Sampling Program and noted that there was still much work to be done to develop quality information for management purposes.

B. Habitat Blue Print for Guam

Val Brown from NOAA/NMFS presented on the various habitat programs being run by her agency.

C. PacIOOS

Jason Biggs provided an overview of the program noting the importance for the collection of data to assist with the management of the resources. He also noted that the expansion of this program could further benefit the management of the island's natural resources.

D. Guam Coral Reef Ecosystem Research Program

Joseph Artero-Cameron presented on the various management objectives and the bullet points to achieve those objectives for Fishing, Pollution, Coastal Uses, Invasive Species, Climate Change and Extreme Events. Cameron noted that the island needed to study the local issues and come up with local solutions to address the mitigation of the various impacts.

Cameron did a brief overview of the 2012 Coral Reef Research Program as follows...

Fishing

- Conserve and manage fisheries to prevent overfishing, rebuild stocks, and minimize destructive fishing.
- Evaluate and improve the effectiveness of MPAs as a fisheries management tool.

Pollution

- Reduce the impacts of pollutants on coral reef ecosystems by improving the understanding of their effects.
- Improve water quality by reducing land-based pollutant inputs and impacts on coral reef ecosystems.

Coastal Uses

- Reduce the impacts from recreational use, industry, coastal development, and maritime vessels on coral reef ecosystems.
- Balance resource use to minimize user conflicts, provide equitable uses, and ensure optimal benefits to present and future generations.
- Restore injured and degraded coral reef habitat.
- Protect, conserve, and enhance the recovery of protected, threatened, and other key species.
- Manage coral reef ecosystems and their uses in a holistic manner.
- Evaluate and improve the effectiveness of MPAs as a management tool.

Invasive Species

- Control or eradicate alien and native invasive species that have the potential to cause damage to coral reef ecosystems.

Climate Change

- Minimize the effects of climate change on coral reef ecosystems.

Extreme Events

- Identify causes and consequences of diseases in coral reef ecosystems and mitigate their impacts.
- Reduce the occurrence and intensity of harmful algal blooms.

E. Report of Data Workshop

Paul Dalzel provided information on the Data Workshop.

F. Discussion and Recommendations

7. Communities and Traditional Fishing Rights

A. First Stewards Climate Change Symposium

Joseph Artero-Cameron provided an overview of the First Stewards Climate Change Symposium and presented on the efforts to prepare for the event. The First Stewards Climate Change Symposium is scheduled for July 17 – 20 in Washington DC at the National Museum of the American Indian. The symposium will feature an indigenous perspective to Climate Change and its potential impacts to local peoples.

B. Guam Village Management

Mayor Jose “Pedo” Terlaje was unable to give his presentation due to other pressing matters in his village of Yona. John Calvo presented the Mayor’s regrets and gave an overview of Public Law 31 – 162 which was signed by Governor Calvo on January 4, 2012 to place the Tagachang Beach Park under the management of the Yona Mayor’s Office. The Mayor’s Office will have administrative responsibility of the park and will adopt the rules and regulations provided by the Department of Parks & Recreation, until it sets its own fees, etc.

C. Discussion and Recommendations

8. Upcoming Meetings/Workshops

A. Synopsis of Upcoming 153rd Council Meeting Actions

Eric Kingma presented an overview of the various discussions to take place at the 153rd Council Meetings on Saipan from March 5 – 6 and on Guam from March 8 – 9.

B. Teachers Workshop

Dr. Laura Biggs presented an overview of the Sustainable Science Watershed Monitoring Teachers Workshop which is scheduled for Saturday, March 10 at the University of Guam Marine Laboratory. She also gave an overview of the Center for Microbial Oceanography Research and Education (CMORE) project “Microscopes for Middle Schools” in which Guam will receive five digital microscopes for use in a pilot program with five Guam middle schools beginning with Benavente (Dededo), Oceanview (Piti), Agueda Johnston (Chalan Pago-Ordot), Inarajan (Inarajan) and F.B. Leon Guerrero (Yigo).

C. Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

Manny Duenas provided information on the work of the WCPFC and the meeting scheduled for March 26 – 30 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

9. Other Business

10. Public Comment

11. Discussion and Recommendations

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

2012 REAC Recommendations

Regarding cumulative impacts to Guam's fishing community from restricted areas, the REAC recommends:

- 1) That the Council write a letter to the Governor of Guam requesting that Government of Guam agencies (Bureau of Statistics & Plans, Department of Agriculture, Department of Parks & Recreation, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, Port Authority of Guam) work collaboratively to develop an official informative map to illustrate existing and planned restricted areas, on land, in the nearshore, and offshore areas, and to be used to identify cumulative impacts to the Guam fishing community.

Regarding ecosystem threats to local areas, the REAC recommends:

- 2) That the Council write a letter to the Director of the Bureau of Statistics & Plans to request that the Guam Coastal Management Program work with other Government of Guam agencies and local organizations to develop a detailed inventory of ecosystem threats by location/village, and produce a mitigation plan to address these various items.

Regarding collecting fisheries data on Military bases and controlled areas, the REAC recommends:

- 3) That the Council request that the Director of the Guam Department of Agriculture ask the Governor of Guam to write to the Commander Joint Region Marianas concerning data collection issues on Military bases, and to request better coordination and communication to enhance fisheries data collection at Apra Harbor and Anderson Air force Base.

Regarding the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Advisory Council (MAC) include a Guam representative:

- 4) That the Council write a letter to NOAA and USFWS to request that the MAC include a Guam representatives as issues related to management of associated or adjacent resources of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument are important to the people of Guam

Regarding the access to the nearshore, the REAC recommends:

- 5) That the Council write a letter to the Governor of Guam requesting that the Department of Land Management continue its work on identifying traditional bull cart trails and other public access routes and develop an official informative map to identify existing and proposed access routes to coastal areas.

Regarding the collecting of biological data of fishery resources, the REAC recommends:

- 6) The Biosampling program initiated by the Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) be provided cooperation and support to continue and to further engage the community to obtain information important to fisheries management as well as educational and outreach opportunities.

Regarding the collecting of information on the ocean surrounding Guam, the REAC recommends:

- 7) That the Council write a letter to the Governor of Guam requesting that the Government of Guam support and encourage further community engagement with PACIOOS

Regarding Guam's Coral Reef Research Program, the REAC recommends:

- 8) That the Council write a letter to the Governor of Guam requesting that the Government of Guam pursue the completion of the 2012 Coral Reef Research Program.

Regarding the Guam's participation in national and regional climate change issues, the REAC recommends:

- 9) That the Council write a letter to the Governor of Guam to request an endorsement of Guam's participation in the First Stewards Climate Change Symposium in Washington DC.

Regarding the Compact Impact, the REAC recommends:

- 10) That a project be developed to address the challenges of cultural differences between local fishermen and immigrants from the freely associated States to increase understanding of cultural differences and resolve fishing conflicts between these sectors.

Actions

The Bureau of Statistics & Plans will assist Director of the Department of Agriculture to change the wording and resubmit the request to the Governor's Office requesting a technical assistance grant from the US Department of Interior to study the impact and pursue funding to address education & outreach, fishery management and enforcement issues created by the Compact of Free Association.