



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

Report of the Mariana Archipelago FEP- CNMI Advisory Panel Meeting

June 5, 2015

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m

Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association Lani, Greg D. Perez Marina, Hagatna Boat Basin

1. "HAFA ADAI"

Peter Perez, Guam AP Chair, opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. observing cultural protocols and welcomed the group.

AP members in attendance included: Judith Guthertz (overall AP Chair), Manuel Duenas, Robbie Cabreza, Jason Miller, James Borja, Matthew Orot, Alan Ainbinder, Felix Reyes, Ken Borja, Stephen Meno, Ray Flores, Judith Guthertz,

Others that participated in the meeting included Carl Dela Cruz (Council Coordinator), John Calvo (Council Coordinator), Tom Camacho (GOSA), Sylvia Spalding (Council Staff), Michael Tosatto (NMFS PIRO) and Vincent Pangelinan (Public).

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

3. Issues to be discussed at 163rd Council Meeting

A. Upcoming Council Action Items

a. Cooperative Research Priorities

Carl Dela Cruz, Guam Island Coordinator, provided the AP with the current Cooperative Research Priorities that will be presented to the Council at its upcoming meeting.

The AP reviewed the priorities and noted that Pacific Pelagic #2 was a priority for Guam and that another project regarding improving catch-by-fishing location is also a priority. *The AP agreed with the priorities as presented.*

b. Five-year Research Priorities

Dela Cruz presented the Council's five-year priorities for the AP's consideration.

The AP was in agreement with the priorities and endorsed the ranking.

Perez noted that the Guam AP is developing its own list of priorities for research in Guam called the "White Board of Priorities" that utilizes the five-year research priorities.

i. Manahak Project – Continued Outreach Project

Dela Cruz reported on the Manahak Project sponsored by the Council, including the tag and release activities that were conducted with students.

ii. Micronesian Fishery Surveys

Dela Cruz also reported on the survey work being done in Guam to quantify and analyze the fishing conflicts in Guam. He noted that AP Member Cliff Kyota has completed the surveys and the data is currently being analyzed. Upon completion of the project, there will be a presentation to the AP to let them know the findings.

iii. Territorial Big Eye Quota

The AP was interested in Guam's Bigeye Tuna quota and the arrangements that other territories have under Amendment 7 to the Pelagics FEP in sharing their quota in exchange for fishery development funding. Dela Cruz provided some information and examples from the other territories and the concerns.

Perez explained more about the situation and noted that Guam is missing out on the opportunity to help its fisheries. It was also explained that the funding from any arrangement is specified in the Amendment to be spent on the Marine Conservation Plan. **The AP agreed that the Governor of Guam should be negotiating with the Hawaii longline fleet to help benefit Guam's fisheries.**

B. Mariana FEP-Guam Community Activities

a. Report on Malesso and Yigo CBMP Meetings

Dela Cruz reported on the Community Based Management Plan meetings held in Malesso and Yigo in April. He noted that the Council was approached by the communities to assist them in formulating plans for their villages. The plans include zoning and monitoring of resources as well as other policies. Dela Cruz also presented on the PCB work group meeting for Malesso, the participants in the meeting, and the plans for taking the next steps. He ended his presentation with what happened at the meeting in Yigo and the plans for the next discussions with the community tentatively scheduled for August.

Jason Miller elaborated on some of the zoning policies and noted that the policies are in place but not enforced. Dela Cruz updated the AP on the assistance the Council is providing for the zoning issues.

In discussion about PCBs, Miller mentioned that a group from the EPA was in Malesso last month to take some sand, algae and fish samples for testing. Robbie Cabreza questioned if the US Coast Guard attended the PCB work group meeting? Dela Cruz replied that they did, and that all the relevant Guam agencies were there as well.

b. Update on Projects and Issues (MRIP, Community FAD-location, Fishing Platform)

Tom Camacho, Guam Organization of Saltwater Anglers (GOSA), updated the AP on the most recent work done on the Fishing Platform. He said that a contractor has been identified and that the money is in place but the budget will only allow them to pay for a certain amount of the platform. He noted that even though the platform will be smaller, it is better than nothing because it still provides the people access. The project is currently at the AG level and the plan is to pursue and work on increasing the length of the platform every year until the project is completed.

The AP noted that Guam's Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) could assist in funding the lengthening of the platform and that the potential negotiations on Guam's bigeye tuna quota could assist as well. Duenas noted that Sportsfish funding could also be used and that the government should be pursuing a real product that is beneficial to the community like this fishing platform project. Camacho noted that there is a need for the community to come out and push for funding for the project to work.

Dela Cruz provided updates on the projects the Council is conducting under the Marine Recreational Information Program to document seasonal run fisheries and says that there are contractors recording data right now and that a presentation will be provided to the AP when the project is completed.

He also presented on the community FAD that Duenas was pursuing and that it should be moving forward now that Duenas has recovered from illness. Duenas apologized for being ill.

c. Update on Education and Outreach Activities

John Calvo presented on the Council's education and outreach activities. He is the lead person on the Fishing and Hunting portion of the Festival of Pacific Arts 2016 and noted that he is trying to help organize and showcase Guam's fishing culture. He also noted that the Code of Conduct posters were distributed to the Mayor's offices and that he is meeting with different representatives to assist them in defining "defacto marine preserve areas" and developing a policy.

The AP asked whether there were other events that the Council can participate in. Calvo noted that it depends on costs but the AP should inquire with the Council staff.

4. Mariana FEP-Guam Issues

A. Report of the Sub-panels

Perez reported that the Guam AP is working on documenting which subpanel members will be responsible for which issue and that he will be working with the members on developing descriptions of the issue and a plan with tasks and actions so that updates can be provided at future meetings.

Judith Guthertz commended Perez on the list. Perez thanked her and noted that the future AP agendas will be developed from these lists.

B. Other Issues:

a. Protective Species – Guam Turtle

Perez noted the ongoing efforts and work being done by the AP in regards to the green sea turtles and its potential uplisting to endangered under the Endangered Species Act. He explained that he has been talking to Council staff about its potential consequences. He noted that efforts by the AP and the Council staff have resulted in additional public hearings, including one on Guam.

Duenas noted that the public hearing is going to be done at the University of Guam (UOG) and that it is not a venue where the public community will show up and seems to be another “dog and pony show” instead of a real community meeting.

5. Public Comment

Sylvia Spalding, Council Staff, noted the AP’s request for a brochure and that the Council staff is looking into developing a draft with the right content so that similar brochures could be used by other APs. She also said that the Council is looking into applying the current Code of Conduct posters that were provided to the AP into some type of school curriculum. She noted that she would like to get the AP involved in deciding on a theme for the next lunar calendar as well. Lastly, she asked the AP to spend some time on developing climate change priorities at a future meeting to provide to the Council.

Michael Tosatto, Regional Administrator of the NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office, introduced himself and agreed with the AP’s views on data collection. He mentioned that it is hard to defend the history of things that happened on Guam but thinks that the work that the Guam AP started on documenting deliberations and keeping track of what is going on to provide to the Council, holds him accountable for results. He encouraged the AP to keep the Council on him to look into things and says that if there is something the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center needs to do, he can also influence them to get it done. He explained his role and how the agency got cornered by the CNMI and Gov Guam about ignoring them, so now they have a Territorial Science Initiative. He explained that it is tough to hear that having additional meetings regarding green sea turtles will not be well attended because it is in the wrong venue. He said he won’t be able to change the venue and noted that Gov Guam suggested UOG.

6. Recommendations to the Council

The Guam Advisory Panel Members of the Mariana Archipelago FEP Advisory Panel made the following recommendations:

Regarding Guam’s Marine Preserves, the Guam AP:

- **Recommended the Council request NMFS PIFSC to analyze the data from CRED surveys within Guam’s Marine Preserves to determine any trends over time.**

Regarding territorial bigeye catch limits, the Guam AP:

- **Recommended the Council facilitate negotiations between the Hawaii longline fleet and the Governor of Guam in utilizing Guam’s quota to help with MCP’s.**

Regarding cooperative research priorities, the Guam AP:

- **Agreed with the current cooperative research priorities, and strongly endorsed the Mariana Archipelago shark study.**

Regarding the Council’s five-year research priorities, the Guam AP:

- **Agreed with the current priorities and endorsed the ranking.**

7. “At the end of the day”

Perez opened up the meeting for other thoughts or business.

Guthertz brought up the issues surrounding the military expansion in Tinian and Pagan. She commended the Council on its draft comments and encouraged the AP to submit their comments as well. Perez emphasized that the comments should be made and done in the correct way.

Perez provided the AP with an update about his presentation at the Mayor’s Council of Guam meeting. He noted that the Mayors are now aware of the designated AP member for each of their villages and were provided a list of names.

Perez also brought up the need to nominate someone from Guam to the open MAFAC position.

The AP also talked about pursuing a representative of the US Coast Guard to participate in its AP meetings. Alan Ainbinder agreed to re-engage the district Commander to determine their commitment.

Dela Cruz informed the AP about communications with the Governor’s Point of Contact for military issues and their previous discussions of having him attend the meetings as well. Guthertz said that it is important that the Governor understand that the AP is a constituency as well. The AP agreed to follow-up on engaging the Governor’s Point of Contact to attend meetings.

Hearing no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.