



## **164th Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council**

October 20 and 21, 2015

Fale Laumei, Utulei, American Samoa

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

Staff has been involved in the following international, national and regional events, educational initiatives, publications and outreach projects in the second quarter of 2015.

#### **I. Events**

- A. **National Marine Educators Association (NMEA)** - Council staff member, who is the NMEA Traditional Knowledge Committee chair, participated in the NMEA board meeting, annual conference and Traditional Knowledge Committee meeting June 28 to July 2 in Providence, Rhode Island. During the conference, Council staff co-presented with the NMEA's 2016 Traditional Knowledge scholarship recipient Ann Marie Chischilly on "Guidance to Use of Traditional Knowledge." The presentation highlighted the Department of the Interior's "Guidelines for Considering Traditional Knowledges in Climate Change Initiatives," which Chischilly co-authored and which points out indigenous concerns regarding the legal consequences of sharing traditional knowledge. For example, knowledge shared with federally funded agencies and contractors are subject to Freedom of Information Act. The guidelines can be found at <https://climatetkw.wordpress.com/>. Council staff discussed ways the Council has used traditional knowledge in outreach and education, such as the traditional lunar calendar art contests, photo-essay contests and high school summer courses, as well as NMEA's traditional knowledge initiatives. Subsequent to the annual conference, Council staff participated in NMEA board teleconferences and is working with the 2017 NMEA conference organizers to include an indigenous presence at that event to be held in Orlando, Florida.
  
- B. **'Aimalama Lunar Conference** - The Council co-sponsored the 'Aimalama Lunar Conference held Sept. 23 to 27 at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in Honolulu. The conference focused on the use of a methodology that is place-based and affiliated with the moon cycles and data collected by generations of observers who made correlations between each moon phases in order to optimize the outcome of their efforts. It will brought together about 300 leaders and innovators from Hawai'i and the Pacific to share ancestral knowledge and technological transformation and to identify common ground to confront global issues, such as climate change. Jesse Rosario of Guam and Charles Ka'ai'ai of Hawaii attended as representatives from the Council. Both have been involved in the creation of the traditional lunar calendars produced by the Council.

- C. **Councils Communications Committee** – The Western Pacific Council will host a meeting with the 10 other education and outreach staff from the other seven Councils. An annual meeting of this group was approved by the Councils Coordination Committee in 2012 in Kona. However, the communicators group has not met since that approval. The tentative meeting will be held in February 2016. One topic of discussion might be the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Magnuson-Steven Act, which will occur in 2016.

## II. Outreach Materials

- A. **Advisory Panel Brochures** – Council staff coordinated the layout and printing of Advisory Panel brochures for each of the island areas. The idea for the brochure came from the Guam AP. The Guam and American Samoa brochures are complete. The CNMI brochure is awaiting a group photo, and work on the Hawaii brochure is progressing.
- B. **Fishermen’s Code of Conduct** – The code is being well received on all the islands. Following distribution of the posters, the Port Authority of Guam expressed a desire to use its own funds to enlarge the posters and display them at all the Marinas on Guam. A high resolution electronic copy of the Code was provided to them. Additionally, the Guam Department of Agriculture requested use of the code for its 2016 calendar. Permission was granted, and the code and photos were provided to them. Public service announcements with the code in English, Chamorro, Refaluwasch, Samoan, Hawaiian and Chuukese have been completed and will be aired on radio and television stations throughout the islands as well as provided to educators and posted to the Council website and YouTube and Vimeo stations. Projects involving the code in Hawaii are covered in the Hawaii Education and Outreach report.
- C. **Rota and Tinian Marine Reserve brochures** – Keena Leon Guerrero, US Pacific Territorial Fisheries Capacity Building scholarship recipient from CNMI, participated in a summer internship at the Council. She assisted in drafting a brochure on the Rota and Tinian Marine Fish Reserves, which the communities requested and the Council endorsed in 2013. The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife is assisting with finalizing the brochures.
- D. **Student Art Contests** – The Council’s annual student art contest this year will be on the theme of traditional fishing and hunting for Guam and traditional navigation and seafaring for CNMI and American Samoa. Both of these themes will be part of the 2016 FestPac on Guam and the reason they were chosen for the art contest. Winning art will be featured in the 2016 lunar calendars for these three island areas and also featured at FestPac.
- E. **Traditional Navigation and Seafaring Video** - As a teachers resource for the navigation and seafaring contest, a video is being created of the interviews of four traditional navigators who the Council brought to the 2011 Hawaii

Fishing and Seafood Festival, including Manny Sikau (Guam), Wally Thompson (American Samoa), Cecilio Raiukiulipiy (CNMI) and Chadd Paishon (Hawaii). The video will be provided to the teachers and will be accessible from the Council's website and YouTube and Vimeo stations.

- F. **Student Ocean to Plate Video** – Council staff is working on the video as directed by the Council following a request from the AP chairs at the 164<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
- G. ***Pacific Islands Fishery News*** – The summer edition of the newsletter was published and distributed. A fall issue is scheduled for release after the 163<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting.
- H. **Other** – Regular outreach such as Council meeting ads, Federal Register notices, press releases, and updates on the Council's website and Facebook and Twitter accounts.

### III. **Climate Change**

- A. **NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) Climate & Marine Resources Task Force** - Council staff participated in the July 13th teleconference. The Task Force was provided an update on the release of the NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy and timeline for the development of Regional Action Plans. Participants provided input on the distribution of the Strategy and tools to help with the release. Council staff proffered a list of potential recipients including regional fishery organizations such as the Hawaii Longline Association, Pacific Islands Fisheries Group, Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, etc. Council staff also suggested that, for the US Pacific Islands, outreach via television and radio and in indigenous languages as well as English would work better than outreach via electronic social media. Participants were also asked about climate change adaptation and resiliency-building barriers and existing programs/plans/projects that integrate climate change into fisheries management. Council staff discussed points made at the June US Insular Areas Climate Change Stakeholders Meeting in Guam (such as lack of communication among stakeholders rather than a lack of a willingness to work together), discussed the Council's climate related initiatives (Fishery Ecosystem Plan, annual reports, Marine Planning & Climate Change Committee, policy and action plan, etc.) and noted other organizations in the region such as Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System.
- B. **Pacific Islands Regional Action Plan drafting team** – Council staff was unable to participate in the team's first meeting on July 13 as it conflicted with the MAFAC Climate Task Force meeting. The agenda included review of the seven objectives of the NOAA Climate Science Strategy, identifying past or ongoing work in the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) Pacific

Islands Fisheries Science Center or Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) that addresses each objective and discussion on what other groups/programs to potentially include in the development of the Pacific Islands Regional Action Plan.

Council staff participated in the team's second meeting on August 20, the purpose of which was to identify and prioritize the Pacific Islands Region's needs for information, products and/or services to meet the seven objectives of the NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy.

Council staff also participated in the team's third meeting on October 7, during which current and planned/budgeted PIFSC, PIRO and Council activities related to climate change were discussed.

The team will meet again in early November to discuss future desires and budget needs, after which the draft will go out for wider review.