



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

164th Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Oct. 19 to 23, 2015

Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium
(Fale Laumei), Utulei, American Samoa

Guam Community Activities

- 1.) Report on Indigenous Fishing Rights Initiatives
- 2.) Atlantis Integrated Ecosystem Model PIFSC
- 3.) Report on the Yigo CBMP Charles Kaaiai

a.) **Report on Indigenous Fishing Rights Initiatives**

- The Guam Indigenous Fishing Rights Task Force has met since July 29, 2015. The Task Force had difficulty in the beginning in understanding the limits of their responsibility and authority. At first they believed that the regulatory requirements could be met through application of the Guam Administrative Adjudication Amendment process for rule making. However, at their most recent meeting they discussed that rulemaking for the Indigenous Fishing Rights Act may need legislative action. The conflict appears focused on the indigenous rights group supporting the opening of the reserves to rule-making and resistance to making new rules for the conduct of fishing in the reserves. Through five meetings of this committee there has been little progress.

b.) **Atlantis Integrated Ecosystem Model PIFSC**

- The Council will hear a presentation from Dr. Mariska Weijerman, PIFSC-CRED, on the preliminary results of the Atlantis-based ecosystem model for the near-shore ecosystem of Guam. Below is the summary of her talk:
On Guam's reefs we expect that future impacts of climate change - affecting the ocean and rainfall patterns - will result in the loss of coral growth. Particularly coral taxa most vulnerable to climate change will be the first one to disappear and on a longer time scale the three-dimensional complexity of the reef will degrade. A reduction in habitat complexity will result in a decline of fish biomass affecting not only the socio-economic important reef-fish fishery but also the resilience of reefs to disturbances. If fisheries managers and resource users are to proactively prepare for the consequences of climate change, they would benefit from a decision-support tool that can evaluate the socio-ecological impacts of alternative regulations under climate change projections. Effective coral reef management must be based on proper understanding of coral reefs as ecosystems and of the complex and simultaneous impacts of different stressors whilst taking into consideration that humans are an integral part of the ecosystem. Ecosystem

models can deal with this level of complexity and provide insight into the impacts of stressors to reef dynamics and society.

To support decision-makers in their efforts to manage coastal resources in a changing climate, our interdisciplinary team proposes to use an integrated assessment framework to: (1) work with decision-makers to assess relevant data sources to be incorporated in the ecosystem model; (2) work with decision-makers to develop management scenarios that can offset or mitigate expected effects of climate change to the natural resources; (3) assess best way to simulate climate variability impacts to Guam's coral reef ecosystems; (4) modify an existing interdisciplinary modeling approach to quantify tradeoffs in ecosystem services of a set of management scenarios based on socioeconomic (fishery yield) and ecological (fish biomass and diversity, algal cover) performance indicators in the face of climate change; and (5) use these risk assessments to effectively communicate the tradeoffs to decision-makers and resource users.

c.) Yigo Management Plan

- The fishing community of Yigo has interest in the Community based management plan after observing the Merizo Mayors efforts. The council supported this request and held an initial meeting in Yigo to assess the interest of the Yigo community in November 2014. On April 2015, the Council and the Yigo Mayor's office held a workshop to identify the community's resource, priorities, goals and objectives. Council staff met with the Yigo community on August 22, 2015. Council staff developed a community-based fishery management plan process that involves 2 day workshop. The community of Yigo met in April 2015 for the first workshop but was not able to finish the work for the planning process. In August, because of the truncated first workshop, staff was not able to complete the workshop. Staff has enough information to begin writing the plan but will need to meet with the community again to work on final details to finish the plan.