



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

**164th Meeting of the
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
October 19- 23, 2015
Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium
(Fale Laumei), Utulei, American Samoa**

Synopsis of Issues for the Mariana Archipelago

12. Mariana Archipelago

A. Guam

a. Isla Informe

The Guam Council Members will provide updates to the Council on their respective fishery activities and issues occurring in Guam since the last Council meeting.

b. Legislative Report

Guam Council Members will provide a report on legislative activities in Guam that may have an impact on fishery ecosystem resources that have been proposed or passed since the last meeting. These activities include:

1. Bill No. 160-33 (COR) - B.T. McCreadie 08/13/15

An act to add a new article 9 to chapter 63, title 5, Guam Code Annotated, relative to the Guam Ocean and Fisheries Conservation Act of 2015; to add a new subsection (d) to § 30101 to chapter 30, title 11, Guam Code Annotated, relative to the establishment of Marine Conservation fee; and to amend § 30107 of chapter 30, title 11 Guam Code Annotated, relative to deposit of fees into the Guam Ocean and Fisheries Conservation and development fund.

2. Bill No. 171-33 (COR) - R. J. Respicio 09/04/ 2015

An act to mandate that the Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP) collect data on the amount and type of all produce imported to Guam, such information to be listed quarterly by type of produce on both the BSP and Department of Agriculture's websites.

3. Congress Women Madeleine Z. Bordallo H.R.774 — 114th Congress (2015-2016)

To strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and Unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to Implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes.

c. Enforcement Issues

A report will be provided to the Council from the Guam Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources on issues and activities regarding enforcement of fishery and wildlife resources in Guam.

d. Community Activities and Issues

1. 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.

2. Report on Village of Yigo CBMP meeting

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.

3. Atlantis Integrated Ecosystem model

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.

e. Education and Outreach

The Council will be updated on education and outreach activities being implemented in Guam for their consideration. Among these efforts are the Council's plans for participation in the Festival of the Pacific Arts (FESTPAC) to be held in Guam in 2016. FESTPAC is proposing to have fishing and farming on their program and there may be opportunities for the Council to engage the conveners on native fishing rights and policies, including the use of lunar calendars and climate change.

B. CNMI

1. Arongol Falu

CNMI Council Members will provide updates on their respective fishery activities and issues occurring in CNMI since the last Council meeting.

2. Legislative Report

CNMI Council Members will provide a report on the following legislations that may have an impact on fishery ecosystem resources that have been proposed or passed since the last meeting:

- a. **Public Law 19-3**, introduced by Sen. Palacios and other senators, would amend the Commonwealth Price Freeze Act for more than ten days during a state of major disaster and to add other effects or items subject to the prize freeze.
- b. **Public Law 19-4**, introduced by Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, would exempt generators and household appliances from excise tax for the duration of a declaration of disaster; and to suspend Beautification Tax.
- c. **Public Law 19-5**, introduced by Representative Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero, would prohibit boating while under the influence of alcohol.

3. Enforcement Issues

A report will be provided to the Council from the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife on issues and activities regarding enforcement of fishery and wildlife resources in the CNMI.

4. Community Activities and Issues

The Council will be updated on community activities and issues.

5. Education and Outreach Report

The Council will be updated on education and outreach activities being implemented.

- a. **Annual International Fishing Derby** – Sponsored by the Rota Mayor's Office, the two day event will be held on Rota from October 9 to 10, and will coincide with the San Francisco De Borja Fiesta which will begin in the evening on October 10.
- b. **Fishermen Code of Conduct** – This document has been translated into Chamorro, Refaluwasch and Chuukese, and continued to be distributed to different organizations throughout Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The narration in the different languages has been made and will also be distributed to KKMP Radio Station and to Marianas Cable TV to be aired whenever possible.

- c. **MPA Brochure for Tinian and Rota** –Brochures are being developed to showcase DLNR DFW fishery activities on Tinian and Rota. The brochures came as a result of community meetings held on Rota and Tinian. Community members said they realize the surveyors come each year but had no idea what they were doing or what they have found.

The plan is to make 200 copies of each brochure. Rota DLNR said they would distribute to dive shops, Marianas Visitors authority and public/private high schools. For Tinian, the plan is to provide copies to the DLNR office, Marianas Visitors Bureau and the Tinian High School.

There's also a lesson plan being developed to accompany the brochures for students in the middle schools.

- d. **CNMI Advisory Panel Brochure** – As requested, a new AP brochure for the members is being developed for them to use in helping the fishing communities and the Council. The brochure will explain about their roles and responsibilities, and how they can be contacted for additional information. The brochure will also include the Fishermen Code of Conduct, as well as major concerns the members want to pursue to benefit their communities.
- e. **The Chamorro and Refaluwasch Lunar Calendars Art Contest**– The 2016 Lunar Calendar Art Contest will be announced at various schools on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Students from grades K to 12 are eligible to participate, and winners will have their winning art works in the calendar, in addition to receiving prizes and copies of the calendars which featured their winning posters. The theme for the competition is “Traditional fishing, navigation and seafaring”.

6. Advisory Group Recommendations

The Council will hear reports of the meetings of the Mariana Archipelago FEP Advisory Panel, Fishing Industry Advisory Committee, and Scientific and Statistical Committee. The recommendations from these groups will be presented for the Council's consideration at this meeting.