



## **176<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council**

### **4. CNMI - Community Activities and Issues**

#### **(4) a. Bottom fish Fishery Development Project (Vessel purchase)**

Council staff with the DLNR Secretary, Anthony T. Benavente and the Governor's Office are working towards completing the procurement process and MOU regarding the purchase and shipment of a vessel for the Bottom Fish Fishery Development Project for the CNMI.

An agreement between Noah Shirakawa, the vessel owner, and DLNR covering the actual lease of the boat and training activities.

CNMI Gov's Legal Counsel, Attorney Gil Birnbrich is finalizing the agreement, taking into account all captured costs. To include vessel supplies for vessel maintenance and workshops which was included in plan. In addition, slip fees, work on vessel name work and insurance is also being calculated. Council staff is also working on the cost for Matson Shipping with regard to shipping the said vessel to Saipan.

#### **(4) b. Mandatory License and Reporting Regulation**

Regulation update and steps for public comment and outreach plans for March 2019. Said regulations are set for release on February 28, 2019 for a period on (1) month.

The regulation is designed to provide the Department of Lands and Natural Resource and the Division of Fish & Wildlife the means of collecting commercial catch data and well enforcement capabilities. Council staff have been working closely with the CNMI Attorney General's Office in completing this project.

#### **(4) c. Fishing Base Improvement Project**

Fishing Base Garapan – Saipan: A&E proposal for repair and strengthen the Fishing Base Ramp was submitted on February 4th. 2019 and meeting was held immediately after with

DLNR Secretary – Mr. Anthony Benavente, Mr. Augustine Kaipat and WPRFMC – CNMI Island Coordinator, Mr. Floyd Masga and Council Staff, Mr. Mark Mitsuyasu. Meetings are ongoing to coordinate funds and proceed with the project.

**(4) d. Fisheries 101: Capacity Building to Improve Territorial Science and Fishery**

Management in US Pacific Islands. – Participation

With the support of the Council and staff CNMI has (3) participants that completed the application process. However, a 2nd. Request of applicants was requested and hopes of more applications will be submitted. Currently, Mr. Lino Tenorio, Alex Castro Jr. and Wyne Pangelinan have submitted their applications.

**(4) f. Ice Machine Project for public market**

In collaboration with Council Staff and the Department of Lands & Natural Resources the Ice machine has been received and installation is in the process. Plans are to link it with the CNMI's Mandatory Reporting Requirements by providing an incentive to fisher to provide data. The said Ice Machine is situated within the Farmer Market in Garapan. A proposal for the set-up and installation has been submitted by (3) vendors and is now waiting payment.

**(5) g. Bio Sampling Update.**

Mr. John Gurley will provide an update of the bio-sampling project to Council.