



## **Report of the Joint Advisory Panel Meeting**

March 15-16, 2019

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Council Office

Honolulu, Hawaii

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Kitty Simonds, Council Executive Director, provided an address to the AP. She noted the importance of knowing what is going on nationally and regionally with fisheries in their areas. She said to make sure they know what they want to do and list out the priorities in order to tell the Council what is going on around them. The Council is here to help but we need your advice.

Joshua DeMello, Council Staff, welcomed the AP. Members in attendance included:  
Hawaii AP: Eddie Ebisui III, Gil Kualii, Nathan Abe, Carrie Johnston, Clay Tam  
Guam AP: Judy Amesbury, Jason Miller, Tatiana Talavera, Matthew Orot, Ken Borja,  
CNMI AP: Mike Fleming, Richard Farrell, Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, Perry Mesgnon  
American Samoa AP: Brian Thompson, Krista Corry, Carlos Sanchez, Joseph Faaita, Will Sword

Council Staff in attendance included: Kitty Simonds, Mark Mitsuyasu, Marlowe Sabater, Asuka Ishizaki, Mark Fitchett, Thomas Remington, Nate Ilaoa, Floyd Masga, Felix Reyes, Zach Yamada, Joshua DeMello

Others in attendance included: Archie Soliai (Council Chair), Dean Sensui (Council Member, Hawaii Vice-Chair), Michael Tenorio (SSC Member), John Kaneko (Hawaii Seafood Council)

Judy Amesbury noted that the CNMI is going to give homesteads to people for living on Pagan. Simonds said that they should make sure they get money from the government. Mike Fleming said that the government offered \$66 Million but they want to make sure that the Governor negotiates for more and has a plan.

### **2. Review of Agenda**

Council staff reviewed the agenda and described the presentations for the first day.

### **3. Sustainable Seafood and Management**

John Kaneko, Hawaii Seafood Council, provided a presentation an overview of sustainable seafood and fisheries management in the US and the Western Pacific region. He noted that the overview is part of a workshop training that he is working on providing to the entire region. For the big picture of seafood consumption in the United States, he said that nearly 96% is imported, so it's important that US fisheries distinguish itself from its competition. Some of that 96% is actually US caught seafood that is processed overseas and brought back into the US, which means that that part of the seafood industry does not provide to jobs and the economy or have US handling guidelines.

He discussed the impacts of the Billfish Act amendments that prohibit landing and exporting billfish from the Pacific to the US. There was concern from AP members about not being able to provide it to Hawaii or export it to another country. Kaneko provided additional information on responsible fisheries, noting that it is responsible if it's well-managed, controls impacts, etc. He also provided information on the UN FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as well as an ideal fishery management system. Ideal management systems include a fishery management plan, established reference points, regular scientific advice, effective monitoring and control, responsive corrective management actions, prohibition on destructive fishing methods, minimized bycatch, ecosystem issues are addressed, and a continuous improvement process.

An AP member commented that any boat in any US fishery should automatically qualify for Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification because of how well the fisheries are managed. Kaneko noted that the process he presented is the standard for the US and that certifications are based on this kind of processes.

There was some discussion on the US fisheries that land fish that is sent elsewhere for processing and returned to the US. It was noted that some of that fish is mixed with foreign fish, and while labeled as foreign, it still has some US fish in it. Some AP members noted that the cannery in American Samoa is even more important because it is a US industry. AP members also discussed the amount of fish that is being imported and the seafood deficit in the region. Kaneko said that costs are increasing because the fresh fish is increasingly rare.

An AP member asked if there are national efforts for lobbying on the behalf of fishermen, as unless there is a lobbyist, the fishermen here aren't able to compete against those other people shutting down fishing. Kaneko noted that the Hawaii Longline Association can lobby but they don't have lobbyists and added that there isn't a national lobby of longliners.

#### **4. Council Education Committee Action Plan**

Council staff provided a presentation on the Council's education and outreach plan and activities. She also provided an update on the US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity Building Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU provides funding for providing scholarships to students in the territories to go to school in marine science and return to their home island to work in the island territory fishery agency. It is funded by the Council, NMFS PIRO and NMFS PIFSC. The scholarship has already graduated and employed four students with five students completing their degrees and three more will begin the program in the fall. She also addressed the need for K-12 outreach and education, in which the Council will be working on producing a video to incorporate fisheries into lessons and education. She shared the draft plan with the AP and noted the contents.

There was discussion on the curriculum development and American Samoa members noted that they would like to work with Magdalene on their ideas for curriculum for outer villages that have fisheries as a way of life. They also noted that there is a need for technical/trade types to provide education and outreach as well. There is a need to bring in the fisheries as a whole not just the fisheries science and management, but from catching it to eating it. Council staff noted that marine science education throughout the entire Pacific is ignored and its hard to get into the

education system everywhere. She said that there is a three-pronged approach (k-12, college, vocations) for marine education in Taiwan and the government supports it that may be a model.

There was a suggestion for an AP resource web page in order for the AP to be able to provide information. Maybe a google drive where resources and links can be shared for the educational component to give ideas and use as temporary resources.

Council staff also provided some input on the AP's proposed outreach efforts in their plans. She noted that its important to have copy editing, high resolution photos, knowing who your audience is and the message you are trying to get across, etc. She said be specific on who you are trying to target and what you are trying to say. There is a communications framework that the Council developed that the AP should refer to regarding messaging and audiences.

A Hawaii AP member noted that kids today are talented, so the Council should hold a contest like art or video or something that helps to integrate and get them involved.

## **5. Developing a Roadmap to Effective Spatial Management**

Council staff provided a presentation on the SSC's working group meeting on effective spatial management and the issue of developing blue water marine protected areas. He noted that up to 84% of the US EEZ in the Western Pacific could be closed at any time. He also provided some background information on blue water MPAs as given by SSC member Ray Hilborn. A working paper will be developed by the working group for presentation to the Council.

Discussion on the topic by the AP members focused on the issue not being important enough by the government and management agencies to work on it or making people aware. Members were also concerned about the ability to misrepresent the catch on the high seas, increasing IUU fishing. Another AP member pointed out that the US fleet is small in comparison to the rest of the world, so defending it has been difficult. AP also discussed the idea that defending fishermen against a big, diverse threat, may take litigation. It was pointed out that the US fleet is subject to US management, and the US is holding itself to a higher standard than the rest of the world, so the battle is how to make the rest of the world (through commissions and organizations) in line with these standards.

## **6. Report out on the Individual AP Plans**

AP Members reported out on their advisory panel plans; AS provided specific projects that they are developing; Hawaii talked about expanding the use of technology to assist in data collection and characterizing the existing federal fisheries that lack data and information;

Carrie does boost on social media for fishing in the region; you can target people who fish or self-identify in the different regions; the response is huge and inexpensive; paid promotion and advertising for particular audiences or categories you want;

A common priority and issue that was determined by the AP included highlighting the importance of fishing and fisheries to the community. There is a need to increase communication about fishing, the issues, and data; There is also a common priority of enforcement not being able to enforce existing regulations so problems still occur, need an

approach to curb activity outside of enforcement? Another commonality is on bottomfish in the territories

## **7. Discussion on Mandatory Reporting and Federalizing the Fisheries**

AP members discussed the ability for the AP to look at options for federalizing those fisheries that don't have permitting and reporting. Since the change to the MUS, there are limited number of species in the plan. Looking at how the Hawaii bottomfish ACL management and its changes allows for better information collection, there is a management regime for both commercial and non-commercial. A permitted fishery under the Federal law exposes it to different requirements (issues and criteria and assessments applied to it) and the small-boat troll and handline fishery has no Federal requirements. A Federal component of the fishery comes with a lot of baggage. There needs to be a process to weigh the pros and cons.

Council staff noted the problems with litigation and ESA that confound the problem with federalizing the fishery. Particularly, there is a problem with completing the consultation on white tip sharks, and without federal protection, a fishery may be exposed and liable personally if states do not work on their consultation.

## **8. Advisory Panel Issues and Concerns**

American Samoa members noted that fresh fish projects in American Samoa is an urgency. There was also AP administrative issues discussed with members resigning and others members becoming Council staff. The AP discussed the issues and made a recommendation for replacements on the AP.

## **9. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **10. Discussion and Recommendations**

**The Joint Advisory Panel recommends the Council make the following changes to the AP:**

- **CNMI AP-Remove Diego Blanco, Ray Teregeyo, Floyd Masga; Replace Ray Teregeyo with Ray Tebuteb**
- **Hawaii AP-Remove Matt Yamamoto from the alternate list**
- **Guam AP-Remove Felix Reyes and Replace with Tatiana Talavera (alternate)**

## **11. Other Business**

The Council Chair, Archie Soliai, addressed the AP and thanked them for their service to the Council. He stressed the importance of the role of the AP and welcomed their ideas and contributions. This is going to be a challenging time for the fisheries and the AP has a lot of work to do.

The Executive Director, Kitty Simonds, addressed the AP saying that the AP should be meeting with the entire Council family to work on issues and bring it to the Council is the best way to get the problems addressed. She said to pay attention to the outside world as well because that will allow you to know what is happening within our own EEZs. She said we aren't asking for more, we are asking for different, so we shouldn't give up fighting for what should happen in our region.