



FINAL Report of the Hawaii Archipelago FEP Advisory Panel Meeting

Friday, October 11, 2019

Council Office
Honolulu, Hawaii

1. Welcome and Introductions

Hawaii Advisory Panel (AP) Vice Chair Gil Kualii opened the meeting and provided the introductions. Members in attendance included: Eddie Ebisui III, Nathan Abe, Clay Tam

Also in attendance was Joshua DeMello, Marlowe Sabater, and Amy Vandehey (Council Staff).

2. Review of the last AP meeting and recommendations

Council staff reviewed the last AP meeting held in June 2019. He noted the recommendations from the meeting included Kona crab, protected species, and other Hawaii fishery issues. One of the other issues was to work on education and outreach and AP recruitment. Both of these issues were scheduled to be discussed at this meeting.

The Vice Chair added that previous discussions also had other issues that the AP discussed including drafting a plan for outreach at fishing tournaments in Hawaii; reviewing the Marine Conservation Plan (MCP); and fishery issues that included Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs) in the state being replaced with community FADs, including moonrise/sunrise in the lunar calendars, and shark feeding on the North Shore of Oahu and at the Kampachi cage in Kona.

3. 180th Council Meeting Action Items and Issues

a. Electronic Reporting for the Hawaii Longline Fishery

Council staff presented on the agenda item for the Council meeting regarding electronic reporting for the Hawaii longline fishery. He said that the Council had already passed an amendment for incorporating electronic reporting in the Hawaii longline fishery and current efforts are being made to implement the reporting program. He noted the issues regarding responsibility for data transmission and getting captains to report utilizing the technology.

The AP discussed the need for the electronic reporting, noting the need for protected species interactions. They agreed that there is a need for fishery reporting being near real time because of the international quotas that the fishery is under.

b. Uku Fishery Terms of Reference for Stock Assessment

Council staff said that at the 134th SSC meeting, the SSC will review the terms of reference and appoint an SSC member for the review of the stock assessment. He said that this model can incorporate other types of environmental data because it is a single species assessment. He said that the AP can engage the assessment author to provide insight and knowledge.

An AP member asked if the model was sensitive to the lack of non-commercial data. Staff responded said that he doesn't know but they are probably exploring using HMRFS or a ratio to commercial like they did for deep 7. It was unknown if there was a data workshop being held. An AP member said that uku can be caught on multiple gears, from deep to shallow, by many different people and not all of it is commercial, but is probably more non-commercial. The AP said that they fear that the result will be a

lower ACL that would shut the fishery down quick. Another AP member said that the commercial fishery can be dictated based on the prices. Another added that there are seasonal differences in uku and places that you need to feed your stocks. *The AP agreed that NMFS should be utilizing this type of information from fishermen for their stock assessment and offered their assistance in that regard.*

4. Hawaii Reports

a. Hawaii Fisheries Reports

Council staff noted that the State of Hawaii will provide its report to the Council at its 180th meeting in a couple of weeks. He noted that the state made changes to its leadership at Division of Aquatic Resources and has finally filled their program manager positions. He also discussed the Board of Land and Natural Resources meeting agenda regarding changes to the crustacean rules in the state. Staff also reported that the Council is continuing their project for sampling life history information of coral reef species on Oahu and Maui at both tournaments and in the markets. The Council is also looking at the pelagic small-boat fisheries in Hawaii and will be engaging the AP as the ideas are developed.

An AP member said that the longline fishery still considers billfish as bycatch, but other fisheries target those fish. It is a concern because of the stock status and these fish are targeted by some of the small boats. With the Billfish Act, there is a less likelihood of keeping billfish because they are not able to be exported from Hawaii. An AP member noted the price fluctuations at the fish auction and said that billfish may not be commercially important as much as it used to be. Another AP member noted that the price can be high on other islands and there is still a market. The AP agreed to keep abreast of small boat fisheries in Hawaii in order to inform staff on the pelagic small-boat fishery issue development.

b. SFF/Hawaii MCP Review

Council staff reviewed the purpose and development of the Sustainable Fisheries Fund and the Hawaii/Pacific Remote Island Area Marine Conservation Plan (MCP). He noted the different objectives and projects included in the MCP and noted that the Council would be taking action in March to either approve or disapprove the plan, as it expires next August.

The AP said that the Environmental Protection Agency is cracking down on dry docking at harbors, as fishermen are getting a fine at harbors when they work on their boat. An AP member noted that there should be a place near the marinas, an empty lot with the certifications to use it, and the MCP should provide funding for that. Another AP member said there is a sampan on Maui that needs this kind of work. Another AP member said the Marine Education and Training Center at Sand Island is set up for this type of work and the state should look at using that for the fishermen to work on their boats.

The AP agreed to review the MCP and provide comments after the Council meeting and discuss comments by conference call and assist staff in the drafting of the next MCP.

5. Island Fishery Issues & Activities

a. Issues

The Vice Chair reported that he drafted an article for Hawaii Fishing News on the need for improved data collection and filling data gaps. He said that Hawaii is the only state without a non-commercial license so we don't know who is catching and what they are catching. The AP agreed that the importance of getting the data is because it is used by stock assessments that are used to manage the fishery.

An AP member said that there could be an all-gear tournament for uku to get non-commercial data. Another added that the idea would be a good project to do on each island and the AP could assist in

introducing a catch reporting app, collect life history information and biosamples, and provide outreach on the importance of data. The AP said that the Council should put it together and hold all these tournaments and have a final result at a future Fishers Forum. Another ideas by the AP was to do a year-long “tournament” as well to do non-commercial data collection with monthly drawings. Either option, the AP agreed, was to include a survey to determine if participants are commercial or non-commercial (if they hold a CML or not), what gears they use, who they are, etc. *The AP agreed to draft a proposal to present to the Council.*

An AP member was also concerned about the amount of waste in the islands and said the State should figure out how to make artificial reefs out of it. There was a general consensus that the habitat is what attracts the fish, but some AP members were concerned about possible heavy metal contamination as well.

b. Activities

i. Education and Outreach Activities

The AP wanted greater presence and larger awareness of the AP so they worked with Council staff on developing a brochure that could be passed out to fishermen or provided to dealers and tackle shops. Council staff presented on the brochure and said it follows on with what the AP wanted: fewer words, more color, and pushing the reader to get involved with Council process. She said it can be used for the AP members at tournaments and other events that fishermen are present.

The AP discussed the potential for having booths at tournaments in the next year, potentially to coincide with an AP or Council meeting. *The AP agreed to develop a plan to present to the Council* and potentially develop a theme for each of these events.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

7. Discussion and Recommendations

The Hawaii AP made the following recommendations:

Recommended the Council request NMFS PIFSC to engage the AP on the uku fishery stock assessment to incorporate the insight and knowledge of Hawaii fishermen.

8. Other Business

a. Hawaii AP Alternate Selection

Staff noted the alternate positions will be up for consideration at the 180th Council Meeting and noted that there were representatives from more than just Oahu, as the AP requested at its last meeting.