



# WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

**181<sup>st</sup>. Meeting of the  
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council  
Laniakea YWCA, 1010 Richards St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813**

## **CNMI Education & Outreach Report**

### **1. Lunar Calendar 2020 & 2021**

With the help of council staff and CNMI Advisory Members, the 2020 CNMI Lunar Calendars were received and distributed to the Island of Rota, Tinian and Saipan. To include CNMI's Governor's Office, Tinian Mayor's Office, Rota Mayor's Office, CNMI Legislative Members, Office of the Attorney General, CNMI Public School System Public Libraries, Department of Lands and Natural Resources Office of the Secretary, Division of Fish and Wildlife, CNMI NOAA Office, Fish Vendors, Fish Markets, Fishers, Fish Store/Dive Shops to name a few.

### **2. KKMP Outreach on Bottomfish Fishermen's Meeting**

Council staff in preparation of the CNMI Bottomfish Fishermen's Meeting and Shark Depredation training participated in a live radio interview with KKMP Radio's Gary Sword. Interview went over topics of the said meeting and who's who that would be presenting.

In addition, to the radio interview council staff also created invitations and hand delivered them to fish vendors and fishermen around Saipan. Furthermore, staff called fishers prior to the meeting to remind them of the meeting and importance of their attendance. A total of 45 individuals attended the said meeting which was held at the Hyatt Regency Ball on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The CNMI Governor and Lt. Governor were also present during the meeting.

### **3. Shark Depredation Meeting**

Inclusive to the Bottomfish Fishermen's Meeting on January 29, 2020 Dr. Carl Meyer and PhD Candidate, Mr. Derek Kraft from the University of Hawaii, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology presented on Shark Depredation. Mr. Kraft presented and trained individuals with regard to collecting forensic DNA swab samples from shark bites on their fish. These swabs will be used to characterize which shark species are interacting with our fishermen. By identifying these species, they can get a better understanding on how to approach tangible solutions to help reduce shark depredation.

### **4. 2020 Pacific Islands Region Marine Education and Training Mini Grant Mini-Grant Program Outreach**

Council staff working with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources shared the grant notice to residents of the CNMI. Council staff forwarded the grant notice via email to CNMI Governor's Office, Northern Marianas College, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife to name a few. Also posted notice on the CNMI AP Fishery and Saipan Fishermen's Association Facebook Page. In addition, staff also shared the notice on WhatsApp chat groups (CNMI's Fishery Community – 78 members, CNMI Fishery AP – 18 members, SFA CNMI – 21 members, MadaFlyerFans – 35 members).

### **5. Saipan Fishermen's Association (SFA) Community & Outreach Shoreline Casting Tournament**

On January 25<sup>th</sup>. Council staff assisted in the coordination and taking photos of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Annual SFA High School Shoreline Casting Fishing Tournament. Over 25 students participated as well as volunteers and parents who assisted students. DFW Data Section staff were also present to weigh catch and provide fish identification.

### **6. Saipan Wahoo Shutout Fishing Tournament**

Scheduled for February 29<sup>th</sup>. 2020. Saipan Fishermen's Association expects more than 30 vessels to participate. Council staff will have a table during the event to pass out Council Outreach Materials. In addition, Council staff will place banners and document the event by taking photos.

### **7. Up-coming Fishing Tournaments**

The CNMI tentatively has a 16 total fishing events for 2020:

#### **Saipan**

1. Wahoo Derby - 1 day (Trolling) - February 29
2. Public Safety "Blue Lagoon" Derby (Rod & Reel, Hand line, trolling) – 1 day (March)
3. Mahi-Mahi Derby (Trolling) - 1 day (Spring – March) March 28
4. SFA/PSS Da'ok Academy Fishing Derby (Trolling) – 1 day (Summer - June)
5. SFA Intl. Fishing Tournament (Trolling) – July 18-19

6. Apnea Spearfishing Tournament - 1 day (Fall) August 8
7. ISLAA Mafute Derby (Rod & Reel, Hand Line and trolling - (Fall – August)
8. Mariana Islands Fishing & Seafood Festival – (All Categories – September)

#### **Tinian**

9. San Jose Fiesta Fishing Derby (Trolling) – 1 day (Spring - May)
10. DLNR/DFW Summer Wildlife Explorer Fishing Derby (Rod & Reel) - 1 day: July

#### **Rota**

11. Gilita Fishing Derby (Trolling) 1 day (Spring – April)
12. Rota Free Dive Spearfishing Derby - June
13. Rota Cliff Fishing Derby 2 days (Summer – July)
14. Back to School Kids Fishing Derby (Rod & Reel)
15. (Budlight) San Francisco De Borja Fiesta Derby (Trolling) – 2 days (Fall – October)
16. Atulai & I'e' Derby (Rod & Reel & Hand line) - (Seasonal) TBA