

Your Data Drives Your Fishery

"Everything connects to everything else"

~ Leonardo DaVinci

A fish is connected to the fisherman, a fisherman is connected to his fishing community, the fishing community is connected to the local fishery managers and the fishery managers are connected with federal management. The connection of information starts with every single fisherman participating in any fishery. Imagine the power of that information if everyone has the ability to provide his or her data to inform fishery management decisions that affect the entire fishing community. You have the power to determine the direction you want your fisheries to head.

The amount of fish in the ocean is driven by, among other things, how many of you are out there fishing, how hard you fish and the amount of catch you take home. Everybody fishes differently. Taken collectively, the most experienced fisherman along with the novice who can hardly catch anything, this dictates the performance of the fishery as a whole.



Catchit Logit app is an electronic catch log for fishermen that monitors and summarizes fishing performance.

are passionate about their trade. The Council invites all fishermen and fish retailers in American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) who care about their fisheries to participate in electronic fishery data collection.

It's easy—after registering at your respective local fishery management agency, you will receive a personal eReporting account. As more people register, the data gathered by the agency will become more representative of the entire fishery. Your account can be accessed through your Android or Apple smartphone or tablet. You can also log data through your computer if you have

If you were given the opportunity to have a direct way to contribute to the science that drives how you will be managed, would you take it? What if your fishery information has the potential to change the way your fishery is evaluated, would you share it?

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council encourages you to take responsibility for your fisheries by providing fishery information. This is your opportunity to make a difference!

Introducing Catchit Logit—a free, electronic reporting app for fishermen and fish vendors who

access to the internet. Google tablets will be provided to fishermen or fish retailers that do not have smart devices or computers.

What is the benefit of reporting your catch? Nobody knows more about your fishing performance than yourself. By self-reporting, you have control over the quality of data being submitted. With great power comes great responsibility. You are responsible for the accuracy of the data being submitted that will be used for science and management, and can dictate when you want to submit the data within the period that is required by local regulations. You can collect your data while on the boat, back on the docks, or once you're ready to sell your catch.

Why is it important for you to report your fishery information? Take the driver seat and control the destiny of your fishery. Fishery management will occur regardless and use whatever information is available. Instead of taking a back seat and watching as a fishery gets "wrecked" by inaccurate information, take the wheel and drive to avoid a collision. Inaccurate data leads to inaccurate fishery management decisions.

What's in it for you if you report your catch? Simple—you can continue to fish and pursue something you enjoy. Catchit Logit provides you with a track record of your fishery performance; a personal catch log. The dashboard is a virtual leaderboard, comparing your performance with others using the app. In addition, the Council will be conducting an incentive program for fishermen who regularly report through the app by including them in a quarterly raffle with a chance to win major prizes.

This is a game changer. This is the first eReporting app to be implemented in the three island territories of the Western Pacific region. If everyone starts to report, it will usher in a new age of collecting important fishery information for the betterment of fishery management in the region. You will feel more ownership over your marine resources by sharing information about them.

The Council will be launching the Catchit Logit app suite in summer 2020, with one designed for fishermen and one for vendors. The Council, in collaboration with your local fishery management agencies, will host a series of registration events in American Samoa, Guam and CNMI associated with fishing derbies and international fishing tournaments. The Council is also organizing training workshops to enable fishermen and fish retailers to master the art of eReporting. You can ask questions and give feedback on this new way of providing much needed fishery data to managers. Stay tuned for more details.

The Council encourages fishermen of all ages to participate in eReporting. Take hold of your fishing future. By making the right decision today, it will pay dividends in the near future. The time to take action is now so that generations to come can fish forever! 🐟