



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

**189th Meeting of the
Western Pacific Regional Fishery
Management Council
Guam Island Report**

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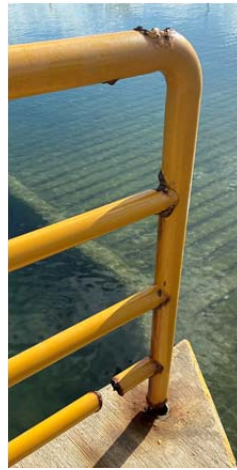
1. Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Co-op) – a 44-year-old Not for Profit Organization has suffered tremendous financial hardship for the last several years due to:
 - Poor conditions at the existing facility. Unfunded repairs cost \$50,000.
 - Unfunded Pandemic Business conditions:
 - Loss of Fishers due to lockdowns, deaths (12t) and precautions.
 - Loss of a consumer base. Priority was typhoon essentials.
 - Loss of tourists. 35% of sales.
 - Other factors:
 - SCUBA Spearfishing Prohibition affected 15% of the sales.
 - No Pandemic financial assistance programs available to the Co-op.
 - SBA, GEDA or Cares Act could not assist any Not-for-Profit organizations.
 - The relocation of all foreign fishing vessels that were home ported in Guam. Departure of these vessels reduced Guam's supply of fresh seafood to 99% imported. The Co-op assisted the few remaining vessels since fish handling agents have long shut down.
 - Poor seasonal appearances coupled with continued interaction with sharks produced a very hostile and frustrating environment. Nature=1; Fisherman=0.
 - The ever-increasing cost of fishing: Gas \$5.10 per gallon. Ice \$2.50 ten-pound bag.
 - Theory of poor seasonal appearances is associated to the ever-increasing efforts by large international fishing vessels from 1.2 million MT to the current of 1.9 million MT. Guam during its best year landed 50mt, inclusive of all fish.
 - The continued loss of estuaries and tributaries where coastal pelagic such as the big eye scad arrive are now half the normal depth. While all the hoopla about carbon emissions is

often touted, our problem is air conditioning is heating up the world. Sea level rise is our land use disregard and lastly our roads and building keeps the world warm hours after sunset.

2. Fishing in Guam's Marine Preserves
 - a. Enforcement in the MPAs can be done through an MOU or JEA with Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency, Guam Police Department, together with the Department of Agriculture.
 - b. DAWR creel survey recorders could be tasked to do observation surveillance while on duty.
3. Catchit Logit and Creel Surveys
 - a. Incorporate Catchit Logit into the Creel survey process to improve collected data.

Monique Amani

1. Dr. Judith Guthertz, former Advisory Panel Chair, has been appointed to the Port Authority of Guam's Board of Directors. She has reached out to the Guam Council family to begin working together on priority projects that involve the port. The AP is drafting a list to be shared with Guthertz. Once confirmed, Judi will join former Council member Dot Harris who retired from the port and is now on the board. Some items of opportunity:
 - Corroded railings at the Agaña Marina. A safety concern.
 - Installation of a floating dock at the Agat Marina parallel to the road with allowance for transient boats only, boats whose trailers may need repair.
 - Determine if the concrete platform formerly used for derbies is repairable to allow future use, installation of a boom and lighting.
 - Fix flooding of the parking lot at the Agat Marina.
 - Designate parking near the launch ramp at Agat Marina for vehicles with trailers only, with signage.
 - Expand and accessorize the seaplane ramp at Apra Harbor to allow pleasure craft to launch and recover while increasing the use of the harbor for increased recreational use, especially when the waters outside are rough.
 - Many other PAG/Fisher/Community collaboration opportunities.



Agaña Marina Corroded Railing – a safety issue for fishers.



Agat Marina Platform



Agat Marina Proposed Floating Dock and Boat Slips



Agat Marina Trailer Designated Parking



Atlantis Marina – Inner Apra Harbor

2. COVID-19 Marine Usage Adaptation

- Most of Guam's charter business, including the day tours such as dolphin watching tours, evening sunset cruises, and fishing charters adapted well to the loss of tourists.
- Most of the cruises are marketing to locals and the military with great success as booze cruises, snorkeling and fishing.
- Fishing charters are using social media to market to the same source markets to fill the void left with the closure of tourism.



Booze Cruises



Military and Local Fishing Charters

Si Yu'us Ma'ase!