

WESTERN
PACIFIC
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FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

**187th Meeting of the
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
December 7-9, 2021**

Moku Pepa (Island Report)

Matt Ramsey

Ramsey was honored to be invited to participate on the Steering Committee for the 2022 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit. The Summit will be held in March 2022 in Arlington. The theme for the Summit will be “Recreational Fisheries in a Time of Change” which reflects the substantial changes that are impacting recreational fishers including novel uses of ocean space, new technologies, and climate change. He will be participating on the Steering Committee as a fisher, not in his Council member capacity, but he wanted to provide the Council an update and thank the Council staff for their assistance in gathering meeting summaries and connecting me to fishers throughout the region. They have only had two planning meeting thus far so the full agenda hasn’t been developed but he will continue to work with Council staff and regional fishers to share our perspectives with the Steering Committee.

On a similar note, it is challenging to find the ideal fisher to represent the “fisher voice”, but over the last few months, it has become extremely clear that there is a growing gap in the capacity for fisher representation in the next generation. He has participated many meetings in the last few months with Federal, State, and County level managers and even NGOs who are in search of fishers who can adequately represent fishing interests but for multiple reasons, have not been able to find them. While this is very troubling, he is excited to report that there is strong agreement across the board on the need for capacity building with Hawaii’s future fishery managers. He is hopeful that everyone can work together to make this happen.

And lastly, there has been lot of discussion about the proposed time-area closures for the Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins. He has received a multitude of comments from fishers who are confused or feel very passionate about the proposed rules. Typically comments usually come from one sector or gear type, but the comments have been wide spread originating from spear fishers, kayak fishers, boat fishers, and traditional/indigenous subsistence fishers on Maui and Hawaii Island. Recognizing that it is an agenda item,

McGrew Rice

The Kona charter fleet has seen a decrease in charters this fall. The small boat fishers have had a couple of small runs of tunas but overall the fishing has been real slow. We are hoping fishing and charters will pick up this winter. They have a major issue at harbors around the state on where they can dispose their waste oil .The harbors used to have a place take their oil. David Sakoda explain that that serve cost too much to dispose the oil so they discontinued there drop offs. They have reached out to outside disposal places with not much luck. This is going

cause an environmental and hard ship for boaters. There are full five gallon oil cans being left on docks and at trash cans. This could be something that the Sportsfish Restoration Fund could be used for to help out boaters and fishers.

Roger Dang

Dang will provide a report on the longline fishery and seafood processor sector in Hawaii.