



**190<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Western Pacific Regional Fishery  
Management Council  
Guam Island Report**

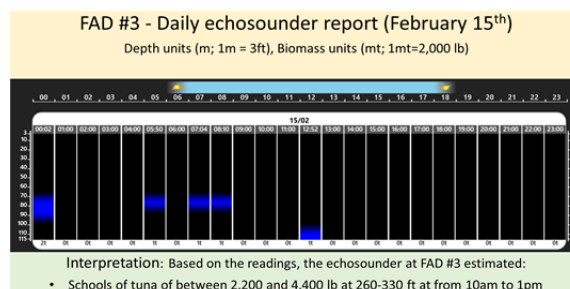
**Monique Amani**

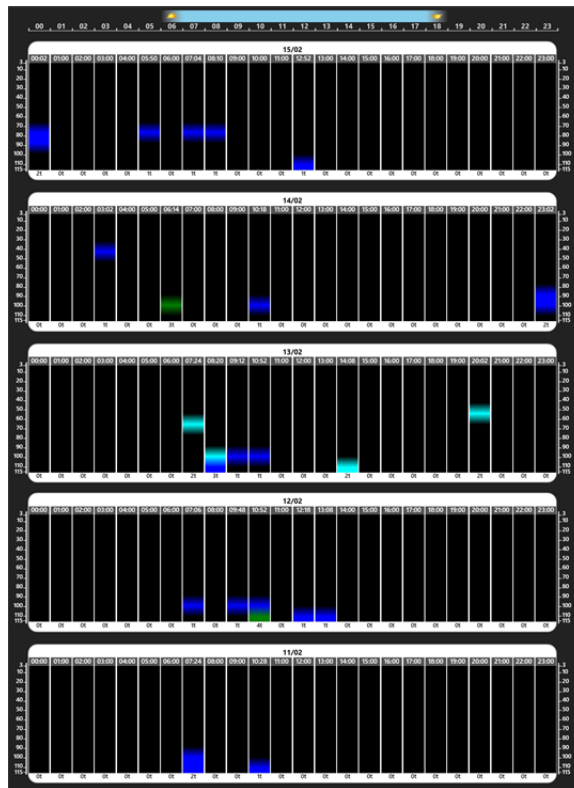
1. A proposed \$680 million resort to be located between Gun Beach and Two Lovers Point is drawing local criticism with protestors gathering to voice their concerns about the Vista Del Mar hotel and residential housing project. The project includes development of the ocean frontage as well as on top of the plateau. Phase I will include a 796-room hotel, 31-storey tower and a second 33-storey tower and water park. Phase II will include a 288-unit condominium, parking, sports facilities, and pool. Phase III will include 50-single family dwellings with parks, playground, and a community center. Protesters are concerned about the already over developed Tumon Bay, how the project will affect the environment, the preservation and conservation of the island's resources, including the possible closure of the beach fronting the project thus impacting fishermen's access to their traditional fishing grounds.



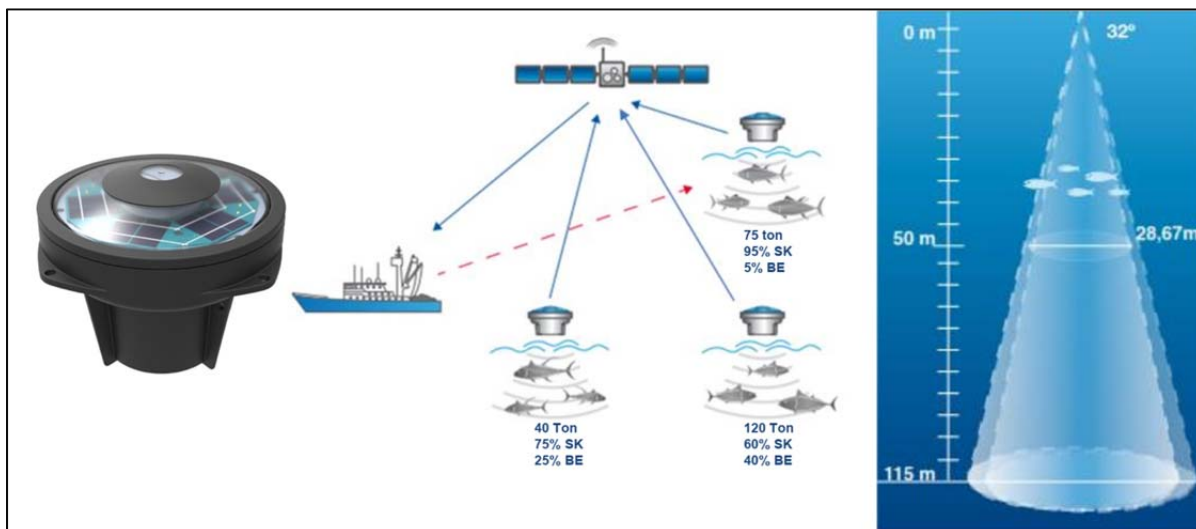


2. Purse seine fishing technology comes to Guam. To improve artisanal fishing catch rate and lower the cost of small boat fishing, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), together with DAWR and support from the Council, deployed a small echosounder buoy to a FAD that will essentially identify pelagic fish and communicate those findings via a satellite link. The sounder is able to identify fish at depths of over 100 meters with a resolution of 0.05 m. At this time, it can only identify the biomass as tuna. The separation of the difference tuna species is around the corner as the technology is evolving. Just two days after deployment, initial results showed tuna spikes of about 2,000 pounds of tuna at the sounder's beacon maximum depth of about 110 meters (360 ft). The sounder once detected a biomass peak of up to 105,000 pounds of tuna. We hope with the deployment of more of these echosounders, we can determine the migration of tuna from one buoy to another and at different parts around the island. In addition to deploying multiple Smart-FADs, TNC is working with DAWR and the Council to develop a data-sharing framework so access to the data is easier and shared with the fishing community.





Sounding trend between November 11 – 15, 2022



Echosounder user connectivity and cone of detection

### 3. Guam Fishing Events 2022

ShutUp and Fish Guam will host its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mahi & Wahoo Shootout on Saturday, March 19, 2022. A one-day event at two marinas and two species of pelagic fish. The Council supports the event with the use of its gantry crane and hoist, along with a table with branded material and Catchit Logit information. Staff will be the weighmaster at the Agat marina.

The DAWR Kids Fishing Derbies are scheduled for the Saturdays of April 23, June 18, July 30, and August 13, 2022.

And finally, the family of Greg D. Perez, once holder of the world record Pacific Blue Marling at 1,153 pounds on August 21, 1969, will hold its second Annual Guam World Record International Fishing Tournament, on Saturday, August 20, 2022.

### Manny Dueñas

1. Fishing challenges are on the rise in Guam. Cost of fishing in Guam has become prohibitive, especially with the price of gasoline and diesel. As of February 18, 2022:

#### Gasoline prices jump 72% in 2 years

DAILY POST STAFF  
9 HRS AGO



The cost of waste disposal and recycling has also gone up.

Fishing seasonality is open only a few months of the year lately:

- Wahoo
  - Before: October to November
  - Now: December to January
- Mahimahi
  - Before: December to April
  - Now: From February



These are now appearing during peak rough water season so only the larger boats are able to fish.

2. The Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Co-op), although suffering from severe financial hardship from the loss of tourists, COVID-19 lockdowns, and weather, continues to move forward with the construction of its new two-story facility. Support from the Governor, Lt. Governor, GEDA, the Port and others, raised enough funds for the construction of a temporary facility while the main structure is being build. More than \$7.5 million has been made available today. The transformation of some shipping containers are ongoing while trying to comply with US Army Corps of Engineers' demand we be four feet off the ground. This makes it very difficult to load or off-load fish, including processed fish transactions.



Temporary Coop Facilities

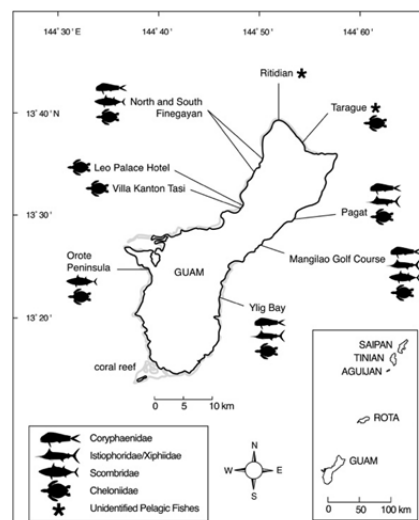


Existing Coop Frontage

3. Sanctuary designation must be more transparent. The outreach needs to be better organized to allow for as many residents of the Mariana Archipelago to listen and submit comments if they chose to. The public comment session held on February 12, 2022, was too short to allow for this.
4. Military firing range over Ritidian Point should involve the community, especially the fishing community in discussions. There must be a firing range mitigation with the military. This can include the military deploying FAD buoys to help the fishing community.



5. Sea Turtles EFH needs another look, including delisting or lowering the endangered status of the turtles to threatened and allow for cultural take. The harvesting of sea turtles for special occasions goes back thousands of years in the Marianas, facts supported by archeological digs and finds.



Si Yu'us Ma'ase!