



191st Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

June 21-23, 2022

Regional Communications and Outreach Report

This report summarizes regional communications and outreach efforts conducted by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council from March 2022 through May 31, 2022.

Publications

Pacific Islands Fishery News

The spring issue of the Council's quarterly newsletter was distributed in June 2022 primarily through the Constant Contact email list with ~2,000 subscribers. Less than 100 hard copies were direct mailed. A few hundred hard copies are being distributed through local agencies and fishermen throughout the regions. This issue highlights a proposed new Pacific Strategy to advance U.S. fishing interests, diversity in the Western Pacific Region, equity and environmental justice activities, and Sustainable Fisheries Fund project updates in the CNMI and American Samoa, among others (www.wpcouncil.org/wp-council-newsletters).

Hawaii Fishing News

The Council submitted monthly articles to the magazine *Hawaii Fishing News* on the following topics:

- April – smart fish aggregating devices that collect data to support cooperative research and provide community benefits; and an introduction of Council Advisory Panel members Clay Tam and Gil Kualii
- May – shark depredation signals in fishery catch data collected from fishers with commercial marine licenses
- June – introduction to Council's island coordinators in American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI, and a description of their local fishing communities

Western Pacific Region Status of the Fisheries 2020-21

To monitor and evaluate fishery performance, the Council publishes annual reports for each of its five fishery ecosystem-based management plans. This publication highlights some of the notable changes in the U.S. Pacific Island fisheries from 2019 to 2021. Fishery statistics can be affected by numerous variables, including environmental factors and socioeconomic considerations. The COVID-19 pandemic also had notable impacts. Some of these effects are noted, in addition to recent stock statuses and management measures (www.wpcouncil.org/status-of-the-fisheries-2020-21).

For the full reports, go to www.wpcouncil.org/annual-reports. To access the data used to generate the reports, go to www.wpcouncildata.org.

Media



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Following a Council press release on the SSC discussing at its March meeting a new study comparing the economic impacts of using relatively weaker hooks to existing hooks in the Hawai'i deep-set longline fishery, Radio New Zealand and Hawaii News Now contacted the Council to do follow-up interviews. Council staff spoke with Radio New Zealand March 14 and Hawaii News Now March 15 to take a closer look at the "weak hook" initiative, and discuss other potential solutions to prevent the accidental hooking of endangered species.

www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2022/03/16/hawaiis-longline-community-scrambles-outfish-false-killer-whales

Regional Initiatives – CNMI

Council staff and CNMI Advisory Panel (AP) supported the following events:

- March 5 – Tasi to Table (TTT) Wahoo in the Marianas Derby.
- April 2 – Luta Local Friendly Fishing Derby had 9 participants. The CNMI AP worked with TTT volunteers to weigh and record catches. Students also entered the tournament.
- April 23 – Council staff gave a presentation at the TTT high school recruitment event to discuss the Council scholarship program and Council process, and promote the Catchit Logit app.
- April 28 – Council staff coordinated Catchit Logit training with the CNMI Division of Fisheries & Wildlife staff.
- April 30 – Tinian San Jose Fiesta Fishing Derby with 44 vessels participating. The CNMI AP had an outreach table and promoted the Catchit Logit app. Tinian Junior and Senior high school students and TTT students assisted at the event, collecting data and weighing and measuring catch.
- May 14 – Saipan Fishermen's Association's 18th Annual Mahi-Mahi Derby. Council staff had an outreach table and promoted the Catchit Logit app. Salty Bandits 2 (Austin Benavente, Joey Tudela, and Ken Salas) were the 1st place winners, landing a 21.1-pound mahi-mahi.

Regional Initiatives – Guam

Council staff and film director Judy Amesbury (Guam AP and Micronesian Archaeological Research Services) continued to promote the new documentary "Open Ocean Fishing in the Mariana Archipelago." Amesbury showed the film and spoke with the University of Guam (UOG) Marine Archaeology class March 15 and the UOG Marine Lab March 16.

In addition, the Council partnered with the Guam Museum to screen the film May 28 as part of its Heritage-Ideas-Traditions-Arts (HITA) Talk series. Council staff promoted the event via a press release, flyer and social media, and the Guam Museum live-streamed the event on its Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts. After the film showing, a panel of fishermen featured in the film interacted with the audience and discussed fishing knowledge, traditions, canoes and information about the Council. The panel included: James Borja, Stephen Meno and his daughter, Mike Fleming and Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, the canoe builder/seafarer Ron Acfalle, and the host Leonard Iriarte. Approximately 70 people attended in-person. The film is available on the Council's YouTube page: youtube.com/watch?v=jf56B6YaJ0I.



Regional Initiatives – Hawai‘i

On March 26, Council staff and Hawaii AP member Carrie Johnston supported the 2022 Science & Sustainability Festival at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. The Council’s outreach table had a gyotaku (fish print) activity and provided fish facts handouts, Hawai‘i AP brochures, FishMaps flyers and issues of *Hawaii Fishing News*. Approximately 300 people visited the table.

Council staff was invited to be a guest lecturer for Hawai‘i Pacific University’s Marine Conservation Biology Course taught by David Hyrenbach, and provided a presentation March 31 entitled, "Turtles and Seabirds and Whales, Oh My!: Managing protected species bycatch in the Hawaii longline fishery." The presentation covered an overview of the Council management system, history of sea turtle, seabird and marine mammal interaction mitigation measures developed and implemented in the Hawai‘i fishery, including recent developments (e.g., tori line measure).

On May 10, Council staff visited four Marine Science classes (~70 students) at Kapolei High School, providing an overview of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and Fishery Management Councils, and leading a gyotaku activity. Students also viewed the Council’s “Ahi, The Yellowfin Tuna: Managing Our Fisheries” and “Little Changes Have Big Impacts on Little Islands” videos. Teachers received a packet of information, including Council newsletters and Council 101 handouts. Students took home fish fact handouts. In advance of this visit, the teacher completed the “Gone Fishing: Fisheries Management Activity” with the students, that illustrates the concept of the Tragedy of the Commons.

Go Fish! with Mike Buck radio program: The radio show airs Saturdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and is repeated on Sundays from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. with ~7300 weekend listeners on AM 690 and FM 94.3. Podcasts are available on the radio station webpage (<https://theanswerhawaii.com/radioshow/659>). Council staff and invited guests have recently covered the following:

- National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit and NWHI draft fishery regulations
- Equity and environmental justice workshop and other activities in the Western Pacific Region