



**192<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the  
Western Pacific Regional Fishery  
Management Council  
Isla Informe (Guam Island Report)**

**Judith Guthertz**

**1. Guam Maritime Matters**

Over the past two months, there have been a dramatic increase in the number of small boats and people who enter Guam illegally. These folks, all from China, supposedly purchase boats in the CNMI, some install new motors, and make their way over to Guam. As of August 15, 2022, there have been 10 of these small boats which were rammed onto Guam's reefs and bays and their occupants, if not apprehended, make their way through the jungle and into the communities. They all seem to have contacts waiting for them on shore. At this time, we do not know if they are coming to Guam to seek asylum and a better life or as some conspiracy theorists say come to spy on the U.S. military activities in Guam. Most have been able bodied men. The U.S. Coast Guard, Guam's Customs and Border Patrol and other law enforcement folks have been made aware of this growing concern. As a board member of the Port Authority of Guam, a major hub for incoming military shipping, and a designated port of entry, we are concerned. Fishermen have also been made aware not to approach these boats in open water and to inform authorities.





Chinese 'Tourists' Arrive by Boat



## Manny Dueñas

### 1. The Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Co-op)

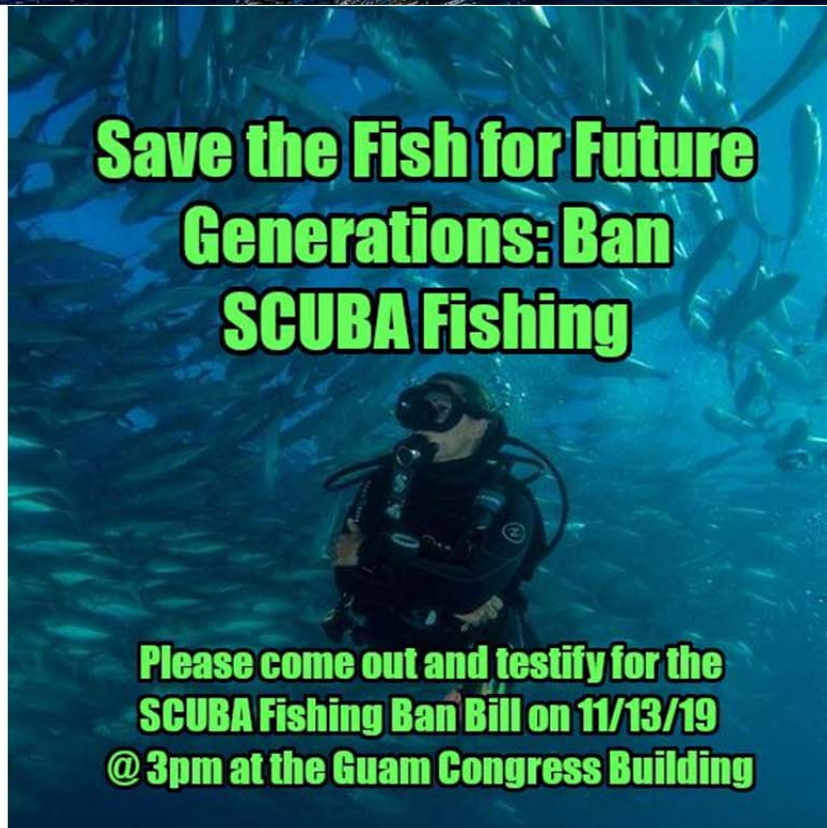
Groundbreaking for the seawall was done on August 15, 2022. The seawall will not only serve as a retainer of the Coop grounds to the sea, but it will also be used by boats who move from the Agat Marina when the water is rough there. It will also be used by visiting fishermen from the CNMI who visit to purchase commodities and fuel for their boats as it is around \$2 to \$3 less than in the CNMI, especially Rota. Estimated completion date for the whole project is summer 2024 and cost around \$8 million.



### 2. Guam FEP

- a. The Guam Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) expires in 2023. The local fishing community, including fishery organizations should be included in the process so there is a buy-in to all the projects that is hoped will improve the lives of the residents.
- b. The FMP process should include expanded consultations with the fishing community to listen and collect their input. This is a critical component of its development.

- c. Regarding the efficacy of the SCUBA spearfishing ban, DAWR received funds for a multi-year study whether the ban is working as intended by the law or not. The results of this study should be shared with the community, especially those impacted the most, the SCUBA spearfishermen.





### 3. Greg D. Perez International Fishing Tournament

The family of the late Greg D. Perez and namesake of the Agaña marina, have taken the initiative to start hosting pelagic tournaments. The event held on August 20-21, 2022, was the second of a planned annual event. This year's was even more important because the family lost a nephew and a sister.



4. Council Family Meeting: August 12, 2022

The Council family meeting by PIFSC scientists and new Council staff Matt Seeley was well attended, joined by Guam and CNMI Council members, Council staff, SSC, plan team members, AP members, and DAWR. The outcome of this meeting was positive, but it is now time for the next step. Smaller pocket discussions, less talk but more listening.



Si Yu'us Ma'ase!