



WPRFMC Staff Planning Session

Executive Summary

The Council is currently in the third year of its 2020-2024 Program Plan which supports administrative operations and program activities funded through its 5-year Administrative award through the period from January 2020 to December 2024. On August 1-2, 2022, Council staff held a planning session retreat at the Royal Kona Resort, in Kailua-Kona Hawaii to provide staff the opportunity to review and evaluate the Council's work as completed and currently underway half way through the Council's planning and funding cycle. Staff evaluated the relevance of stated program plan activities over the remaining two and half years taking into consideration existing, new and future internal and external drivers. The objective of the strategic planning session was to update the Council's program plan priorities and supporting activities based on the current landscape of local, regional, national and international issues and drivers.

The Planning Session was held using different methods to gather data and guide the planning exercise including a survey, in-person discussion with breakouts, and strategic planning methods. Prior to the planning session, a google form was sent to Council family members to get an understanding of an external viewpoint of the Council's effectiveness. Survey results showed that participants were interested in the sustainability of resources and ensuring the best science and data are driving management decisions. The challenges to doing so, were reported to include the lack of representation and resources. The survey also pointed out the need for continued work on the Island Fisheries and Outreach Programs. Improved communication with the public and the agencies were identified as needs in order for the Council to be more effective.

Staff discussion and planning identified what was working or needed to be started, as well as what didn't and could be stopped. These Council activities were identified and ranked through planning exercises to allow for staff to develop next steps and potential actions. The ideas and activities ranged the gamut from general program areas, to administration, to pelagic and island fisheries programs. Overall, the staff discussed the need for more planning, collaboration, and community engagement. Staff recognized the need for a greater presence in the community to allow for building relationships with fishermen, environmental groups, the agencies, etc. in order to provide more effective Council management.

The next steps in the planning exercise are to address the concerns brought up in the survey and at the retreat. Staff working groups and meetings are in the process of identifying short-term, near-term, and long-term actions. These will be identified and incorporated into Council activities and staff work plans.