



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

February 15, 2022

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Kitty M. Simonds *Kitty M. Simonds*
SUBJECT: Summary of Action Items for the 190th Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

1. Respecification of the main Hawaiian island deepwater shrimp and precious coral ACLs

The 190th meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council will convene on March 22-24, 2022, by web conference (Webex) with host sites at the following locations:

- Tedi of Samoa Building, Suite 208B, Fagatogo Village, American Samoa
- BRI Building, Suite 205, Kopa Di Oru St. Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
- Cliff Pointe, 304 W. O'Brien Drive, Hagatña, Guam

The Webex link is <https://tinyurl.com/CM190mtg> (if prompted, enter event number: 2455 618 6219; password: CM190mtg).

The Council will consider and may take action on the issues summarized below, including any public comments on them. Written public comments on final action items should be received by the Council's executive director by 5 p.m. (HST), Friday, March 18, 2022, by postal mail, fax or email as indicated below.

Instructions for connecting to the Webex and providing oral public comments during the meeting will be posted on the Council website at <https://www.wpcouncil.org/event/190th-council-meeting-virtual>

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Action Item Summary for the 190th Council Meeting

1. Respecification of the MHI Deepwater Shrimp and Precious Coral ACLs for Fishing Years 2022-2025 (Final Action)

The Council will review recent data for the multi-year specification of the ACLs for the MHI deepwater shrimp (*Heterocarpus laevigatus* and *H. ensifer*) and precious corals for fishing years 2022-2025. The previous ACL specifications were based on studies by Tagami and Ralston¹ (for deepwater shrimp) and Grigg² (for precious corals). The SSC applied the Tier 4 control rule ($ABC=0.91 \times MSY$) since the fishery is inactive due to low participation. There was one federal permit holder for precious corals from 2016 to 2019 and zero in 2020. There were 2 federal permit holders for deepwater shrimp from 2016 to 2018 and zero from 2019 to 2020. The catch from the Fisher Reporting System of the Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources showed an average of 11,835 pounds of *H. laevigatus* landed coming from three to five commercial marine license holders from 2016 to 2020. No catch was reported in the previous five years for precious corals. There is no assessments for these stocks and recent studies do not generate new maximum sustainable yields. Therefore, the Council may choose between the following alternatives for the ACL specification in the deepwater shrimp and precious coral fisheries:

Alternative 1: No action – do not specify ACLs for the deepwater shrimp and precious coral fisheries in fishing years 2022-2025

Alternative 2: Status quo – roll over the current ACLs for deepwater shrimp and precious corals for fishing years 2022-2025

| MUS | 2019-21 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Deepwater Shrimp | 250,773 | 250,773 | 250,773 | 250,773 | 250,773 |
| <i>Established Bed</i> | | | | | |
| Auau Channel – Black coral | 5,512 | 5,512 | 5,512 | 5,512 | 5,512 |
| Makapuu Bed – Pink and red coral | 2,205 | 2,205 | 2,205 | 2,205 | 2,205 |
| Makapuu Bed – Bamboo coral | 551 | 551 | 551 | 551 | 551 |
| <i>Conditional Beds</i> | | | | | |
| 180 Fathom Bank – Pink and red coral | 489 | 489 | 489 | 489 | 489 |
| 180 Fathom Bank – Bamboo coral | 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 |
| Brooks Bank – Pink and red coral | 979 | 979 | 979 | 979 | 979 |
| Brooks Bank – Bamboo coral | 245 | 245 | 245 | 245 | 245 |
| Kaena Point Bed – Pink and red coral | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 |
| Kaena Point Bed – Bamboo coral | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 |
| Keahole Bed – Pink and red coral | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 | 148 |
| Keahole Bed – Bamboo coral | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 37 |
| <i>Exploratory Area</i> | | | | | |
| Hawaii precious corals | 2,205 | 2,205 | 2,205 | 2,205 | 2,205 |

¹ Tagami, D.T. and S. Ralston. 1988. An assessment of exploitable biomass and projection of maximum sustainable yield for *Heterocarpus laevigatus* in the Hawaiian Islands. Southwest Fisheries Center Administration Report H-88-14, 22 pp.

² Grigg, R. W. (2004). Harvesting Impacts and Invasion by an Alien Species Decrease Estimates of Black Coral Yield off Maui, Hawai'i. Pacific Science 58(1), 1-6. University of Hawai'i Press. Retrieved August 14, 2018, from Project MUSE database.

² Grigg, R. W. (2002). Precious corals in Hawaii: discovery of a new bed and revised management measures for existing beds. Marine Fisheries Review, 64(1), 13-20.