



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

195th Council Meeting Moku Pepa
June 27- 29, 2023

1 MCGREW RICE

The charter and recreational fishing fleets have a dilemma with the State of Hawaii's new nonresident fishing license requirement. The State will implement the license at the end of the year and will begin collecting fees from tourists. The charter fleet knows they will bring in the most revenue through the new license, but they feel that the legislators who passed this law do not understand the fishery. David and Bryan were very good and held public meetings in Kona, where they took a lot of fire, but the general concern was who would benefit from the revenue. As he stated in the past, Hawaii's harbors need a lot of love and have provided DLNR with other ideas. The one that makes the most sense is to increase their harbor fee by 1%. This way, it will charter vessels in harbors, including the dive and snorkel boats. The chart fleet feels that the dive and snorkel boats have gotten a free ride while the fishermen continue to get taxed. He understands the money will go into a pot similar to the sportfish restoration fund, but fishers need to see how it will help the fishermen creating the funds. DLNR DAR said they allocate 15% of SPR for fixing boat ramps, but 50% of the time, fishermen use it, and the other 50% by snorkel and dive boats who do not pay into the sportfish restoration fund. The charter fleet has recommended the State hold off on its implementation phase and develop a task group of fishermen, legislatures, and state agency representatives to hash out the proposed spending plan to ensure it is fair to all harbor users.

With the implementation of this new license, the enforcement issue will negatively affect their customers. As it is, now there may be little compliance and enforcement, and when an officer comes to our boats to see their licenses, this is not Mexico.

The State needs to regulate the fuel dock like they are supposed to. Our fuel price is a dollar more than road diesel at Costco. We are not allowed to bring in fuel on trucks, so the fuel dock has a monopoly. If not regulated by the State, they can charge what they want. The State, according to our permits, is to regulate that. I have more, but I am tired of butting heads with the State to help an industry that brings in \$100 million to the State every year, directly and indirectly. Also, in the last month, we have had three break-ins on boats and gear stolen no security in our harbor.

A funny note doesn't follow your GPS into the harbor. You will get wet.