

## Proposed Land Acknowledgement Statement

### Introduction and Background

Land acknowledgement statements are a conscious recognition that the area the Council operates in has indigenous, ancestral caretakers and pays respect to these indigenous roots. These statements are read at the beginning of meetings or are included in other parts of the meeting or emails and expresses a commitment to connecting with their descendants today.

The purpose of this Land Acknowledgement Statement is to recognize the existence and sovereignty of the indigenous people of the Western Pacific and the Council's commitment to incorporating indigenous knowledge.

In a conscious effort to ensure equity of our work, the Council may decide to incorporate a land acknowledgement statement into its meetings by providing the statement prior to the start of each meeting. A draft statement is provided below that may be adapted to meet the needs of the Council.

### Draft Land Acknowledgement Statements

The Council should provide a statement that is place-specific that acknowledges the place where the meeting is held and the indigenous peoples of that area. The Council may make a general land acknowledgement statement at each of their meetings and tailor them to each of the islands where the meetings are held. The following provides a template for development of a specific land acknowledgement statement that should provide specifics to the culture and place where each meeting is held:

*"We respectfully acknowledge the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council operates in the waters and territories of Indigenous Peoples. The Island of **ISLAND** is home to the **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**. We would also like to acknowledge and honor all the ancestral stewards whose care and keeping of the land and ocean for millenia allows us to meet here today. As we work to ensure the sustainability of the fishery resources of their waters, the Council strives to build relationships with the **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE** and foster an environment that perpetuates and advocates for the incorporation of indigenous knowledge within contemporary fishery management practices. The Council welcomes members of the **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE of ISLAND** and their input to our meetings."*

For the 200<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the land acknowledgement statement could be tailored to address the area that the meeting is being held and the peoples of Hawaii:

***“We respectfully acknowledge that the 200<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is being held in the area known as Kālia, in the ahupua‘a of Waikīkī, in the Kona Moku of the mokupuni of O‘ahu. Kālia was traditionally home to Indigenous Hawaiian fishermen and many fishponds including Ka‘ihikapu and Pāweo.***

***We would like to acknowledge and honor these ancestral stewards whose care and keeping of the land and ocean for millenia allows us to meet here today. As we work to ensure the sustainability of the fishery resources of their waters, the Council strives to build relationships with the Kanaka Maoli and foster an environment that perpetuates and advocates for the incorporation of indigenous knowledge within contemporary fishery management practices. The Council welcomes the Kanaka Maoli and their input to our meetings.***

***We further recognize that Hawai‘i remains an illegally occupied state of the United States government and holds space in fishery management in waters around this archipelago until these lands and waters are rightfully restored to the Kanaka Maoli as generational stewards of the lands, waters, and natural and cultural resources.”***

***“We respectfully acknowledge that the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council operates in the waters and territories of Indigenous Peoples of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and CNMI. The Council recognizes and honors the Kanaka Maoli, Samoan, Chamoru, and Carolinian as ancestral stewards of these areas whose care and keeping of the land and ocean for millenia allows us to meet here today. As we work to ensure the sustainability of the fishery resources of their waters, the Council strives to build relationships with the indigenous people and foster an environment that perpetuates and advocates for the incorporation of indigenous knowledge within contemporary fishery management practices. The Council welcomes members of the Kanaka Maoli, Samoan, Chamoru, and Carolinian and their input to our meetings and holds space for them in fishery management.”***