



WESTERN  
PACIFIC  
REGIONAL  
FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL

## 159th Meeting of the Scientific and Statistical Committee

March 17-19, 2026

Honolulu, HI

### DRAFT AGENDA

*Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. HST*

Time	No.	Agenda Item
8:30 AM	1	Introductions
8:40 AM	2	Approval of Draft Agenda and Assignment of Rapporteurs
8:45 AM	3	Status of the 158th SSC Meeting Recommendations
8:50 AM	4	PIFSC Director's Report

#### 5 Island Fisheries

9:00 AM	5.A	American Samoa BMUS Stock Assessment Update WPSAR Terms of Reference Review
9:20 AM	5.B	MHI Kona Crab ABC for 2027-2030 ( <b>Action Item</b> )
9:40 AM	5.C	Marine Recreational Information Program Update
10:00 AM	5.D	Guam Territory Fishery Management Plan
10:30 AM	5.E	Public Comment
10:40 AM	5.F	SSC Discussion and Recommendations

*BREAK 10:45 AM – 11:00 AM*

#### 6 Program Planning and Research

11:00 AM	6.A	Commercial Fishing in the Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument ( <b>Action Item</b> )
	6.B	Council IRA Project Updates
11:30 AM	6.B.1	<i>Scenario Planning for the American Samoa and Hawaii Longline Fisheries</i>
11:45 AM	6.B.2	<i>Regulatory Review Status Report</i>
12:00 PM	6.C	Shark Depredation Workshop Report

*LUNCH BREAK 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM*

1:30 PM	6.D	Alignment of Science and Management Priorities
2:00 PM	6.E	SSC Special Projects
	6.E.1	<i>Summary and status of 2025 Special Projects WGs</i>
	6.E.2	<i>Review of Special Projects List for 2026</i>
	6.F	MSRA Research Priorities Update
2:30 PM	6.F.1	<i>SWFSC Research Activities Report</i>

2:45PM	6.F.2	<i>PIFSC Update on Research Plans and Progress on Addressing Council's Research Priorities</i>
3:00 PM	6.F.3	<i>SSC Discussion on MSRA Research Priorities Update</i>
3:30 PM	6.G	Public Comment
3:40 PM	6.H	SSC Discussion and Recommendations

**4-5 PM: Reserved for SSC Special Projects WG Work Sessions**

*Tuesday, March 18, 2026, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. HST*

**7 Protected Species**

9:00 AM	7.A	SSC Special Projects Protected Species WG Report
9:30 AM	7.B	Main Hawaiian Islands Insular False Killer Whales Abundance Estimates
10:00 AM	7.C	DSLL ESA Reconsultation for Oceanic Whitetip Shark and Leatherback Turtles
10:15 AM	7.D	IRA Protected Species Workshop Report
10:45 AM	7.E	HICast: Dynamic Fishing and Bycatch Avoidance Tool
11:15 AM	7.F	Public Comment
11:20 AM	7.G	SSC Discussion and Recommendations

*LUNCH BREAK 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM*

**8 Pelagic & International Fisheries**

	8.A	Electronic Monitoring Updates
12:30 PM	8.A.1	<i>Review of the Revised Vessel Monitoring Plan</i>
12:45 PM	8.A.2	<i>EM Special Projects WG Review of the VMP</i>
	8.B	Secondary Pelagic Species
1:00 PM	8.B.1	<i>Mahimahi Catch Patterns Across Hawaii Fisheries</i>
1:30 PM	8.B.2	<i>Secondary Pelagic Species Assessment and Indicators Project</i>
2:00 PM	8.C	Public Comment
2:10 PM	8.D	SSC Discussion and Recommendations

**2:30 PM – 5 PM: Reserved for Rapporteur work sessions / SSC Special Projects WG (as needed)**

*Thursday, March 19, 2026, 8:30 a.m. –12 p.m. HST*

**9 Other Business**

9.A	SSC Meeting Schedule and Potential Working Groups
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**10 Summary of SSC Recommendations to the Council**

**Remote Access Option through WebEx:**

<https://tinyurl.com/159SSCMtg>

Event number: 2865 735 1647; Event password: SSC159mtg