



Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Round-up Session:

1. Current Activities
2. Future Priorities
3. Additional NOAA Resources/Support Required



Current Activities

- International Management – Disproportionate Burden
- Management Issues – Fisheries w/o BiOps
- MSA Reauthorization
- 5-Year Program Plan and Multiyear Budget
- Fisheries Development and Capacity Building



International Management

- In the WCPFC, the US (NOAA & DOS) government failed uphold its promise to block consensus with regards to further reductions in the Hawaii longline fishery
- Hosting Workshop on Disproportionate Burden w/International Economists – Sept 2014
- Concept of Disproportionate Conservation Burden being used by Pacific island countries as strategic leverage against USA and other developed countries in regards to bigeye conservation
 - Hawaii longline fishery is the pawn in larger geopolitical game over WCPO purse seine skipjack/yellowfin fishery
 - Hawaii longline fishery is being disproportionately burdened for reductions in bigeye quota

Management Issues



- Delayed Processing of ESA Section 7 Consultations puts the Two Largest Fisheries in the WP Region in Jeopardy of Operating w/o current BiOps
 - Since 2011 NMFS has not reinitiated consultation for American Samoa Longline Fishery
 - Hawaii Deep-set Longline Fishery consultation ongoing since June 2013 due to duplicative requirement to obtain MMPA take authorization

MSA Reauthorization

- Testified in Senate Hearings on Pacific Region MSA Priorities
- Commented on Draft House Bill
- Commented on Draft Senate Bill

5 yr Program Plan and Budget

- Council Approved its Program Plan and Priorities that will direct activities in 2015-2019
- Now finalizing 5 year plan and Multiyear budget for transmittal to NMFS in June
- Major Program Elements:
 - 1) Pelagic Fisheries;
 - 2) Island Fisheries;
 - 3) Ecosystem (Protected Species, Habitat, Human Dimensions, Science, Climate Change);
 - 4) Fishing and Indigenous Communities (Community and Fishery Development, Capacity Building, Indigenous); and
 - 5) Education and Outreach

Communities and Fishery Development

- Fishery infrastructure, training, feasibility assessments;
- Community-Based Management Planning;
- Capacity Building – grade schools, undergraduate/graduate student support, internships, teacher workshops, community monitoring
- Cooperative demonstration/development projects



Future Priorities

- Council Program Plan
 - Conduct reviews of Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs)
 - Integrate ecosystem information into the FEPs
 - Support monitoring, data collection and research
 - Support capacity building and fishery development
 - Support US fisheries on the international level related to highly migratory species (HMS) management, trade and compliance
- Management Plan for Sea Turtles
- Climate Change

Additional NOAA Resources/Support Required

- Funding directed to support the WP Regional Strategic Plan for Fishery Data Collection and Research
- Funding directed to Marine Mammal Stock Assessments
- Funding directed to Electronic Log Reporting Projects
- Change the SK allocation and the way projects are solicited