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## Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Mourns Passing of Senator Daniel Inouye

HONOLULU (18 December 2012) Executive Committee members of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council today expressed their condolences to the family of the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, who passed away yesterday in Maryland. Council Chair William Aila (Hawai`i), Arnold Palacios (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), Ed Ebisui (Hawai`i), William Sword (American Samoa), Michael Duenas (Guam) and Council Executive Director Kitty Simonds noted how valuable Sen. Inouye was to fisheries conservation, management and development in Hawai`i and the other US Pacific Islands in the region.

“Senator Inouye was truly a giant of a public servant for not only Hawai`i but for all of the US Pacific Islands for decades,” Palacios said.

“He was instrumental in the passage of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976, which was the precursor of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA),” Simonds added. He also supported amendments to the MSA that added tuna, a resource of extreme importance to Pacific islanders, as a federally managed species in 1990 and that recognized US Pacific Islands indigenous communities and their special knowledge and relationship with fishery resources in several sections of the 1996 and 2006 reauthorization of the Act.

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council was established by Congress to manage fisheries in offshore waters around Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the US Pacific remote island areas. Recommendations made by the Council are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval. For more information on the Council, visit [www.wpcouncil.org](http://www.wpcouncil.org) or contact the Council at [info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov](mailto:info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov); phone (808) 522-8220, or fax (808) 522-8226.

**Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council:** Appointees by the Secretary of Commerce from nominees selected by American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and Hawaii governors:, Michael Duenas, Guam Fishermen’s Cooperative Association (Guam); Richard Seman, education and outreach specialist (CNMI); William Sword, recreational fisherman/civil engineer/manager (American Samoa) (Vice Chair); Edwin Ebisui, attorney (Hawaii); Julie Leialoha, environmentalist (Hawaii); and F. McGrew Rice, charter fisherman (Hawaii). Designated state officials: Arnold Palacios, CNMI Department of Land & Natural Resources (Vice Chair); Mariquita Taitague, Guam Department of Agriculture (Vice Chair); William Aila, Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources (Interim Chair); and Ray Tulafono, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources. Designated federal officials: Michael Tosatto, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office; Don Palawski, U.S. Fish and Wildlife; RAdm Charles Ray, U.S. Coast Guard 14th District; and Bill Gibbons-Fly, US Department of State.