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FINAL Report of the Hawaii Archipelago FEP Advisory Panel Meeting

Friday, June 9, 2023

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (HST)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Gil Kualii, Hawaii Advisory Panel (AP) Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. Members in attendance included Clay Tam (AP Chair), Amanda Padilla, Abraham Apilado, Carrie Johnston, Khang Dang, Nathan Abe, Len Nakano, and Nathan Tsao. Cherise Van Kuren was absent.

Others in attendance include Zach Yamada, Joshua DeMello, Mark Fitchett, and Asuka Ishizaki (Council staff); Thomas Remington (Lynker); Marlowe Sabater, Adam Ayers (NMFS PIFSC); Melissa Snover, Pua Borges, Richard Hall, Elena Duke, Savannah Lewis (NMFS PIRO), Bryan Ishida (Hawaii DAR)

Public member in attendance included Tammy Harp.

2. Review of the Last AP Recommendations and Meeting

Zach Yamada, Council staff, provided a review of the last AP recommendations from its meeting on February 24, 2023. Regarding Kona crab status determination criteria (SDC), the Council took up the AP recommendation and will be taking final action at its June meeting to amend it Hawaii FEP. For gold coral management, the Council supported the AP's recommendation for a moratorium. Regarding tuna allocation options, the Council partially supported the AP's recommendation and directed staff to analyze a 1,500 mt transfer limit.

Regarding fishery issues, the Council did not take up the AP's recommendation on the request for PIFSC to conduct an economic analysis to understand the impacts of false killer whales better. The Council did take up the AP's request for PIFSC to study how many sharks can be removed from the stock while achieving MSY. The Council received a response to the letter stating there are existing assessments, but PIFSC has yet to plan to assess other species of sharks not included in those analyses.

There was no discussion from the AP.

3. Hawaii AP Project and Activities Update (AP Plans)

The vice Chair requested updates on AP priorities and issues identified for the 2023-2026 plan.

Council staff reported support from PIFSC for further FishMap development and Fisher Observations documentation. The Hawaii AP has been compiling a list of fishing tournaments they could provide outreach to the community on Council and AP fishery issues.

An AP member said they found an oio fishing map they could include in the FishMaps matrix. Another member reported a meeting in Kona where fishers discussed significant fishing areas. He said the AP could collaborate with the group through the development of FishMaps. The AP should continue to get the community involved to help the initiative and protect their fishing areas.

An AP member said there would be a kid's tournament in July, and the AP could provide outreach. He said this tournament will have around 100 to 2022 kids, not including their parents.

4. Feedback from the Fleet

A. Second Quarter Hawaii Fishermen Observations

The vice Chair requested the AP members provide fishing observations regarding the ecosystem, fish, and ocean conditions from April to June 2023.

For Oahu, an AP member reported that the longline fleets are catching more fish with shorter fishing trips. The fish quality could be better than they would like. Another member noted that fishing has been slow, and some folks are catching smaller game fish. An AP member said fishers caught fish off Kaneohe in the current line among floating debris and observed a late mahimahi season. There were fewer ono, and ahi was sporadic.

For Kauai, there has been an increase in pilot whales and dolphin sightings with pod sizes of up to 30. Fishing for ahi has been good, but the fish have been coming in burnt, although they get them on ice. Fishermen have been catching less ono.

For Maui, the ono bite has been good, with more sardines in the water. An AP member recently went fishing for bottomfish but could not get one fish in the boat due to shark depredation. They found that the sharks are also eating ulua and kahalas. She said the humpback whales have gone back to Alaska, and there are fewer tour boats. Another AP member reported that the mahimahi bite was good, although most were smaller.

For Kona, Hawaii, an AP member reported that the ocean currents had returned to normal in its south-to-north direction (Kohala current). The change in currents did some interesting things with juvenile fish recruitment. He reported there are a lot of sharks following boats, although they may not be catching fish. He said that moi has been spawning earlier than usual, and the aquaculture moi is in sync with the wild-caught species. Another member reported an increase of sharks off south Kona, while some people have minimal shark interactions. The weather has been expected, with light rain on the land.

For Hilo, Hawaii, an AP member reported unusually calm weather. He said the State of Hawaii had replaced three of five missing FADs. They have been catching bigger mahi and a few ones.

B. Hawaii AP Fisheries Issues and Priorities

The vice Chair asked AP members about fisheries issues and priorities.

An AP member said the State of Hawaii had issued more harbor permits to the Manta Ray tour boats. He said these people have too much control over the harbor and use only some slots. He noted limited parking for fishing boats and issues with ocean users at Keauhou Bay. Other

members said they were having the same problems competing around the State. An AP member reported two cars went into the harbor and thought it was due to the lack of lights at the pier. He said replacing the last broken light at the ramp took years. He said the harbors are underfunded and need more support. It is human nature to maintain these harbors. Another AP member recommended the AP form a working group to discuss harbor infrastructure issues and ask DLNR to participate as a member to discuss challenges faced by the agencies and users.

On Kauai, the harbor agent for Port Allen has recently retired, and there needs to be representation for three of five harbors. Another member said the working group could work on creating a list of recommendations that the State of Hawaii could address. There is a need for better dialogue to ensure the needs of the community are met.

The Hawaii AP agreed to form a working group to discuss the issue of harbor infrastructure and include additional workgroup members from DLNR, DOBOR, and other interested parties. The AP will use the work group to understand the issues and challenges at harbors, develop a list of concerns to be addressed, and brainstorm potential solutions.

5. Hawaii Fishery Issues and Activities

A. Hawaii Deep-set Longline Fishery Final Biological Opinions

Melissa Snover, PIRO Protected Resources Division, provided an overview of the final Hawaii deep-set longline (DSL) fishery Biological Opinion (BiOp). The Hawaii AP reviewed the draft BiOp at the March meeting. The final BiOp concluded that the DSL fishery is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). PIRO modified the reasonable and prudent measure (RPM) that would have required mandatory observer coverage in the insular false killer whale (IFKW) overlap area; in the final BiOp, the RPM directs NMFS to determine the minimum level of observer coverage reliable for estimating IFKW interactions and to provide observer coverage at this level within two years.

Council staff reported that Council, PIRO PRD, and SFD staff are coordinating RPM implementation, including the overlap area observer coverage, crew training, and minimizing trailing gear. These RPMs may necessitate regulatory changes and, if so, are expected to be considered and implemented through the Council process. As the development progresses, the Hawaii AP will have opportunities for further input.

There was no discussion from the AP.

B. False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team Meeting Report

Elena Duke, PIRO Protected Resources Division TRT coordinator, provided an overview of the FKWTRT meeting convened on March 28-31, 2023. The TRT made several consensus recommendations, including using Electronic Monitoring (EM) to improve data collection for false killer whale interactions and crew training for marine mammal handling and release. However, the TRT did not come to a consensus on measures to reduce MSI to below PBR, and multiple sets of non-consensus recommendations were made by two primary caucuses of TRT members. One set of non-consensus recommendations (supported by a Council representative to the TRT) focused on the use of fighting line devices combined with clear handling guidance and stronger leader material to reduce line breakage. Another set of non-consensus recommendations focused on effort reduction. Both sides made recommendations on the analysis needed to

evaluate the potential effectiveness of effort control measures as well as tradeoffs to such measures. NMFS is expected to develop proposed FKW Take Reduction Plan modifications based on the TRT's consensus and non-consensus recommendations. However, the timeline for the next steps is uncertain.

An AP member said the TRT had a robust conversation on the consensus recommendation. He said the AP should continue to defer to the most informed people in the room on how they should proceed.

An AP member asked if the crew were trained to handle the protected species and who would incur the cost. Duke said PIRO SFD holds protected species workshops that teach captains and crew.

An AP asked if fishers were trained to use the fighting line device at sea. He said it might work on smaller animals, but he is still determining how it will apply to whales or turtles. Duke acknowledged his comment and said it would be a challenge to see the success of the fighting line device.

Asuka Ishizaki, Council staff, said a group of longline fishermen came up with the idea and developed the fighting line device. They worked on different design versions and actively tested them on the boats. They tested the device on sharks and found that it helped prevent flyback. For crew training, HLA was involved in devising the fighting line device, and they are trying to get funding through a federal grant to do the initial round and will need to be a federal program if required. The idea is to do hands-on training with the crew at the docks at Pier 38 on what they need to do when they encounter. The captains and owners are required to take the annual protected species workshop, which is heavy and dense with information from species identification to how to handle the data. Regarding guidance on handling protected species, NOAA did not want to provide specific guidance since they did not know the outcome. HLA developed a video and had suggestions on how it could be deployed, but there needed to be more clarity on the level of detail necessary.

Regarding the effects of the shortline fishery, an AP member asked how many sets the shoreline boats put out in the water in an average trip. He has fished on a shortline vessel and said the operation completely differs from the longline fishery. Duke said shortline vessels may deploy five to six sets a trip and need to defer to the State of Hawaii. Bryan Ishida, DLNR DAR Aquatic Biologist, said only a few shortline vessels are in operation. These vessels use the shortline gear primarily at the seamounts, but they are a mixed-gear fishery. The use of shortlines is relatively low statewide, and although it is described as a short longline, it is very different. An AP member said there are times when shortline vessels will not deploy the shortline gear if the fishing other fishing gears are more productive and perform well.

C. 2022 Hawaii Annual SAFE Report

Thomas Remington, Lynker, reported the highlights of the Hawaii Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) report for 2022. For bottomfish, there was a slight increase in fishing trips and catch for the Deep 7 fishery compared to the three-year average, but there was a decrease in catch and trips for uku. For crustacean management unit species (MUS), the SAFE report will report Kona crab and deepwater shrimp separately. There was an increase in licenses but a decrease in trips and catches for the Kona crab fishery. There was low catch and effort for

deepwater shrimp but a high CPUE. For the deep-set longline fishery, there was the same number of vessels as in 2021, but there was a slight decrease in trips, sets, and catch. There has been an observed decrease in bigeye tuna since 2016, and the net revenue decreased by about ten million dollars. For shallow-set longline fishery, there was an increase of vessels from 17 to 22 in 2022, and there was an observed increase in trips, set, catch, and revenue driven by the uptick in the average fish price. For the pelagic small boat fishery, there was a slight reduction in the catch but consistent revenue. Both the MHI handline and offshore handline fisheries had an increase in catch and revenue. He encouraged the AP to look at the online data portal for further clarification on data.

An AP member asked what caused the downward trend of bottomfish and if there was a correlation with catch reports. Remington said there were challenging weather conditions, increasing shark depredation, declining participation, and demand due to covid impacts.

An AP member asked if the SAFE report covers the number and pieces of bottomfish caught. Throughout the pandemic, people were targeting smaller fish for the home market, and the window of opportunities to sell fish was with the absence of the filet market. Within the last few years, the fishers found a strong recruitment of opakapaka, and this year, they have seen a bigger fishery. Remington said some reports cover the number of pieces, and the Archipelagic Plan Team (APT) discussed the recruitment at its last meeting. The APT encouraged the AP to look at the report and provide comments.

AP members said seeing all the data throughout the pandemic with the changes to El Nino would be interesting. Remington said the socioeconomic scientists were interested in the COVID impacts and are now dealing with the La Nina impacts.

An AP member said the impacts of Typhoon Mawar on Guam were tragic. Following its passage, power has not been restored to the whole community as restaurants and hotels are closed, lines for the gas stations are long, and there is no ice for fishers to keep their fish cool if they want to go fishing.

An AP member asked if there was a correlation between the uptick of opakapaka and the downtick of uku with the opening of the BRFA and weather. Remington said you could see a slight uptick with the opening of the BRFA, but they are still determining if it has a direct connection.

Another AP member said uku depredation would be significant. If the fish does not make it into the boat, then it does not count. It is terrible when fishers have to stop when they start feeding the sharks. There is a need for better reporting of depredation, especially if there are lower landings.

An AP member said numbers negatively impact the public, and there is a need to educate the people that overfishing is not occurring. The outreach effort could show that targeting these species is difficult and the fishery is sustainable. Remington said the SAFE report also explains why things are going down.

An AP member asked for clarification on the non-commercial catch estimate. Remington said uku was only being tracked commercially with the ACL. Still, there was a drive to understand the non-commercial side better, and the only data stream includes Hawaii marine recreational fishing survey (HMRFS). The APT recognized the need to track uku HMRFS data for the annual catch limit (ACL), and this report will be the first one to include that data. Council staff reported that PIFSC received funding to do this survey to understand the fishery and will report to the AP.

Adam Ayers, PIFSC CIMAR, presented the final narratives from the 2022 Fisher Observation Summit held in February. There were 18 participants, with additional responses provided after the meeting. The summit's findings included social-fishing infrastructure, changes in social networks, customary exchange, economic conditions, and a good biological year for juvenile and adult recruitment across the board. Overall it was a good year for fishing, although there were issues with depredations. Fishers found changes to migratory patterns and oceanographic currents off West Hawaii that affected the akule and opelu fishery. Fishers observed higher water temperatures with big storms with regular winds. There was an increase in freshwater flow. For management, there needed to be more marlin data due to the absence of the weigh-in station at Honokohau small boat harbor. Fishers said the opening of the BRFA's did not change the nature of the fishery. PIFSC is currently reviewing the report and requested additional input from the AP.

An AP member said fishers are in the new age of social media, and the older guys are not used to posting their catch. That platform will be a good media that could be utilized for fisher observation.

Another AP member said she uses social media to follow where fishers are going; that is how she knows where to go.

6. Council Fishery Issues and Activities

A. Specifying Annual Catch Limits for MHI Kona Crab 2024-2026

Zach Yamada presented options for specifying an ACL, ACT, and AM for MHI Kona crab for fishing years 2024-2026. In June 2019, the HI AP previously recommended the Council specify an ACL of 30,802 lb and ACT of 25,491 lb which is 10% lower than the P* and SEEM analysis, to provide a buffer with the State remove the no-take of females.

An AP member said the State of Hawaii had not lifted the prohibition on taking female Kona crabs nor extended the closed season. Council staff said the State of Hawaii is going through the Chapter 91 process to change its regulations. Unfortunately, the proposed rule changes for Kona crab are paired with their herbivore management plan. Another AP member said the fishermen requested that DLNR DAR separate the rulemaking from the herbivore package. Another AP member said if the State allows the take of female crabs, then it would benefit the stock and the fishery.

An AP member said they need to encourage fishing in Hawaii, and option 3 would provide the best opportunity for fishers to invest in its development. Another AP member agreed and said the catch should be the same or more. Once the fishery gives something away, getting it

back over time is hard. He said Kona crab is culturally vital for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Celebrations.

An AP member said that based on historical catches, most of the fishery was based on Oahu when the fish auction was located in Chinatown. Two high liners supplied the markets. Many changes have been made to the fishery, including changes in minimum size, retention of male-only, and the prohibition on carrying kona crab gear on BF vessels as part of the BFRA State management regulations and closed seasons. These regulatory changes made it economically unfeasible for commercial fishery to continue and created a shift towards the non-commercial sector. This shift created a lot of uncertainty since the non-commercial sector is not required to report their catch.

Another AP member said it was ridiculous to set an ACL when they do not know the whole picture. There are a bunch of fishermen who are not reporting their catch. If the State allows the take of female crabs, then that might be more feasible for commercial fishermen.

An AP member asked what the female-to-male sex ratio was. Remington said the Poseidon Fisheries Research found a 49/51 male-to-female ratio. Within the catch data, they found a shift in catch when the State implemented the prohibition on taking female Kona crabs. This meant that if the restriction of no take of females was resented, the potential for doubling of Kona Crab landings could occur.

An AP said people who sell Kona crab sell all of their catch. He was unsure if this was being captured but did not think the fishery needed an ACL due to the lack of participation. With that in mind, the AP wants to ensure they comply with MSA.

The AP preferred option 3 to provide more catch for the fishermen. Further, the AP recommended that the Council request the State of Hawaii expedite its plans for revising its Kona crab regulations, including the change in season and the take of non-berried females.

B. MHI Kona Crab Status Determination Criteria

Thomas Remington, Lynker, presented on the development of status determination criteria (SDC) for Kona crab in the MHI.

At its February meeting, the AP supported option 2 and provided additional research on the non-commercial catch, full range of the stock, and sex ratio to be conducted to inform the next stock assessment. The Council took up the AP's recommendation, identified option 2 as its preliminary preferred alternative, and directed staff to develop an amendment with the appropriate alternatives for final action.

An AP member said there should be more research on Kona Crab to understand the history and dynamics of the fishery. The project could look at how regulatory and legislative changes, whether positive or negative, affected the fishery. Remington said there is a need to establish historical actions in the fishery to provide context to the catch.

An AP member said the ciguatera toxin was one of the most significant challenges that impacted shoreline fishing. Ciguatera stopped the ulua and reef fish from the auction, and that is where you will see a decline in commercial reef fish fisheries.

Another AP member said Hawaii Fishing News has an archive of their articles that could be utilized if there is a literature review.

An AP member asked if it would be beneficial for the AP to request PIFSC to create a Kona crab ecosystem and socioeconomic profile report card similar to uku. Another member said that collating that type of information would be beneficial.

A member said many people are catching Kona crab at 500 pounds at a time. If the State of Hawaii allows the take of female crabs, he asked if the current ACL will account for the catch. Council staff said that Kapur et al. (2019) account for the take of Kona crab.

The AP recommended option 2; Further, the AP recommends that PIFSC develop an Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profile Report Card for the Main Hawaiian Kona Crab Fishery.

C. Options for revising Uku Essential Fish Habitat

Thomas Remington, Lynker, provided options for revising Uku EFH in the MHI. The need for this action is to ensure the Hawaii FEP complies with regulatory guidelines, implementing regulations, and NS 2 requires the Council and NMFS to review EFH provisions of the FEP. This action is needed to support the economic and social benefits of the uku fisheries and other activities that take place while ensuring the long-term sustainability of the stock and habitat.

An AP member said Option 1 was not viable, and Option 5 provided the most information.

Another member asked if other survey methods were included in determining the range of uku in Hawaii. Remington said there were no other methods. The Archipelagic Plan Team recommended the Action Team consider an overlay of CPUE for additional content.

An AP member asked how the data overlay and EFH refinement would validate if the fish were spawning. He wondered if the refinement included EFH in the NWHI monument. Remington said spawning at Penguin Bank was general knowledge based on a literature review, and the EFH designation in the NWHI would be different since it is a monument. An AP member said the Council should consider under National Standard 3 and manage the uku stock over its entire habitat range. Since the management of the NWHI is covered under the fishery ecosystem plans, fishery research should also be conducted there.

An AP member said that uku are like salmon. During their spawning season, they will lay their eggs in the sand, where sand will get stuck to their stomachs. He found that uku return to their original spawning areas. He said there is an area off Kona in a gulch where they regularly spawn. Uku is the bully of that area, and palu ahi fishermen will also catch uku in the shallow. Uku can also be found on the same grounds as Kona crab in Kauai.

An AP member asked if this uku EFH refinement could be used for place-based management instead of species-based management. Remington said the Council's action is meant for something other than either type of management. He clarified that this action would refine the definition of uku habitat by providing more ecologically meaningful areas to focus conservation

recommendations. The AP member said they were leery about how managers could interpret data in species management. Council staff said the EFH refinement would not be helpful to come up with area-based closures. This action would help to refine EFH out of areas like docks and harbors.

An AP member said Niihau, Lehua, and Penguin Banks are known places for uku to grow to maturity. If the AP cared about protecting uku, there should be more focus on freshwater flowing down from the mountains. Freshwater flow plays an essential role for bait fish, and uku is usually where the baby opelu are. He said Kauai has a lot of habitats since there is freshwater flow. Remington said uku is extremely strong, but they need to address protecting those areas to ensure they can grow to a mature age.

An AP member said they should figure out an ecosystem-based approach as they enter an El Nino season. There should be more focus on the impacts of the shift in climate on opelu and halalu. Remington said that is something the action team is breaking into as more data becomes available.

An AP member said a research paper focused on the correlation between rainfall and akule landing. The study found that years with high rainfall had high halalu recruitment. Remington noted that uku is the centerpiece for ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) work to integrate fishery data with ecosystems and socioeconomics.

Regarding the Refinement of Uku EFH, the Hawaii Advisory Panel recommended option 5. This option provides the most amount of information. Further, the Hawaii AP

- ***Request NMFS provide clarification on uku EFH designation in the NWHI;***
- ***Request the Action plan expand the analysis to the NWHI***

7. Review of Research Priorities

Mark Fitchett, Council staff, provided an overview of the Council's research priorities and plans. He said the Council will develop the five-year research plan based on the 2020-2024 plan for the 2025-2029 draft to be approved by the SSC and transmitted to NMFS. Council staff started with the Pelagic Fishery Research Plan that will fold into the MSA priority plan. Council staff had a discussion with the Council family that resulted in linking management objectives to research priorities. Council staff will work on developing the management objectives and including socioeconomic research priorities that need to be included. Local food and livelihood security is the primary objective, strengthening underserved fishing communities (to meet equity and environmental justice), informing US international positions and management, enhancing climate-ready fisheries, optimizing fishery performance and efficiency, and developing dynamic/adaptive management opportunities. He asked for further guidance on applying this process for the other program areas in the MSA five-year research priorities.

An AP member said the most significant data gap in the fishery is the recreational and non-commercial data. There is a need for more cooperative research that would work with clubs, tournaments, and the community to fill those data gaps. With each project, the lead researcher should report their results to the communities to provide a reciprocal relationship between the community and researchers.

An AP member asked what happened to the equity and environmental justice (EEJ) application regarding closures and the communities that depend on the fish. Another member asked how management would react to initiatives like Executive Order 14008: America the Beautiful. He said the proposed PRIA sanctuary would be tragic to the American Samoa community. There is a need for fishermen-based interaction in the process and policy. The AP has talked about fisher observations, which are vital for fishermen's representation and engagement. Some management decisions are made in silos, and assumptions are made about the community's fisheries. The community should represent their fisheries to help their industry.

Another AP member agreed and said more people feel disenfranchised and less inclined to follow the rules. If the AP quietly sits back and lets their brothers and sisters continue to be impacted by sanctuaries, then that would lead to anarchy.

8. Other Business

Adam Ayers, PIFSC CIMAR, reported on the PIFSC Uku Economic and Social Profile draft report. Uku plays a socially important role in the bottomfish fishery and is a gateway for other fisheries. The uku economic and social profile draft report summarizes the fishery with important information on how the fishery is doing and its relations to other species. The report identifies key indicators and discusses in role in Hawaii's fisheries.

An AP member said this socioeconomic data is important to keep track of changes in the fishery. The impacts of change could be the catalyst to call for changes in policy and regulations. As users, they may not know when there is a depletion, but it is crucial to manage the fishery and understand the impacts from the micro and macro levels.

Another member said this report card would be good to track the uku landing by islands and see if there is a correlation in motives for catching it.

Zach Yamada, Council staff, reported that NOAA published an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) for National Standards 4, 8, and 9. The proposed rulemaking provided questions on the effects of climate change and equity and environmental justice. This includes clarifying the effects of climate change on allocations and refining the definition of fishing communities. At its 194th meeting, the Council recommended forming a working group, and the staff will be tapping on certain members of the AP to participate in the working group. The deadline for comments is due by September 2023.

Gil Kualii, HI AP Vice Chair, announced the next formal meeting will be on Friday, September 8, 2023.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Discussion and Recommendations

The Hawaii Advisory Panel made the following recommendations:

Regarding Uku EFH:

- **The Hawaii AP recommended the Council select option 5, noting that this option provides the most comprehensive information for EFH. *Further, the Hawaii AP***

Status: At its 195th Council meeting, the Council did not take up the AP's recommendation and recommended Option 2 that refine EFH utilizing the level 1 data, as a preliminarily preferred alternative and requested NMFS provide clarification. The action team will work on completing the amendment and potential revise option 5 for review at the December Council meeting.

- ***Request NMFS provide clarification on uku EFH designation in the NWHI;***
- ***Request the Action team expand the analysis to the NWHI***

Status: At its 195th meeting, the Council took up the AP's recommendations and included it in the PIRO Omnibus dated July 11, 2023. PIRO responded on August 2, 2023 stating the current analysis only covers the MHI, so any revision that may lead to a change in uku EFH will only be for the MHI and the NWHI definition of EFH would remain the same until new BSIA is available for the NWHI

Regarding Kona Crab SDC:

- **The Hawaii AP recommended option 2**

- **The Hawaii further recommends the Council request PIFSC develop an Ecosystem and Socioeconomic Profile Report Card for the Main Hawaiian Kona Crab Fishery.**

Regarding Kona Crab ACLs:

- **The Hawaii AP recommended the Council select option 3 to allow fishermen to catch the maximum amount of Kona crab.**

- **The Hawaii AP further recommended the Council request the State of Hawaii expedite the Kona crab rule changes separately from other fishery packages.**

Regarding Research Priorities:

- **The Hawaii AP recommended the Council prioritize research that addresses gaps in non-commercial data.**

Regarding Hawaii Fishery Issues:

- **The Hawaii AP agreed to form a working group to discuss the issue of harbor infrastructure and include additional work group members from DLNR, DOBOR, and other interested parties.** The AP will use the work group to understand the issues and challenges at harbors, develop a list of concerns to be addressed, and brainstorm potential solutions.