

WPRFMC *Out in the Community!*



Fishers Forums in the Mariana Islands

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council held its first in-person Fishers Forums in the Mariana Islands since 2018 in conjunction with the March 2023 meeting on Saipan and Guam. Both free and family friendly outreach events focused on the history of bottomfishing, different fishing gears and methods, and the science and management of bottomfishing in the region. Local newspapers and a Guam TV station covered the events.

The CNMI forum, held March 27 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel's Hibiscus Ballroom, was opened by Council Chair John Gourley and emceed by CNMI Advisory Panel Vice Chair Richard Farrell. Six partner government and private organizations joined the Council as exhibitors to share their



conservation and management messages with approximately 60 community members. Attendees enjoyed a buffet dinner sponsored by Governor Palacios.

Renowned Saipan deep bottom fishers Lino Tenorio and Tony Guerrero gave a brief training session on their gear preparation, best bait and techniques used to catch bottomfish. They shared their knowledge on using environmental cues and ocean characteristics to determine the best time to fish for certain snappers, especially onaga, opakapaka, lehi, gindai and the ubiquitous monchong (pomfret). Monchong is better known in the Mariana Islands as Wonder Woman, a name coined by Tenorio.

Guam Department of Agriculture Director and Council member Chelsa Muña opened the forum at the Guam Museum March 30,

which was emceed by Council member Judith Guthertz. Approximately 100 participants enjoyed hearing from 13 exhibitors from government and private organizations. Master bottomfisher Tenorio shared his knowledge with a rapt audience and made connections with attendees for future training sessions.

Community outreach to draw awareness to the two events included street banners, in-studio and call-in radio interviews, a Trivision large digital screen ad, and radio ads. Fishers Forum flyers were shared extensively on social media and with fishing chat rooms in the CNMI and Guam. The events were also posted on the Council's website. Donated prizes from vendors combined with Council items to recognize participation were given away to lucky attendees.



American Samoa DMWR Flag Day Fishing Tournament

On April 14-15, 2023, the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) hosted its annual Flag Day Fishing Tournament, which had a fantastic turnout of both fishers and community members. Despite the rainy weather, participants still managed to land a good amount of fish during the event. The tournament showcased various fishing categories, including the largest marlin, sailfish

around 90 feet long and are powered by a team of rowers who use their strength and coordination to navigate the waters. The race was a thrilling display of Samoan culture and tradition, as teams from different villages competed against each other in a test of strength, skill and teamwork. The race was a testament to the rich maritime heritage of American Samoa and was enjoyed by both locals and visitors alike. Manulele Tausala from the village of Nu'uuli was victorious this year.



practices and raise awareness about marine resource management. The Malaloa Fishing Marina hosted activities for both children and adults throughout the day. Participants were able to take part in boat rides, visit educational tables and enjoy a range of games.

Several divisions within DMWR organized educational booths along with representatives from the newly formed Search and Rescue Department, and the Department of Public Safety's Marine Patrol Division, who were giving out presentations on protected species in American Samoa. The Coral Reef Advisory Group conducted an outreach program on managing coastal fisheries and also provided a fishing game in which kids used a toy fishing rod to "catch" and name a species of fish.

Council staff joined DMWR in educating the public with an outreach table sharing information about the Council through handouts, cookbooks, newsletters and 2023 lunar calendars. Adults and students both tested their knowledge with crossword puzzles and word find games designed to help participants learn more about concepts and terms related to fisheries management.



and yellowfin tuna. It was a great opportunity for the participants to demonstrate their skills and passion for fishing.

The second day of the tournament kicked off with a traditional fautasi race, a long-standing Samoan tradition that is deeply rooted in the country's history and culture. A fautasi is a traditional Samoan longboat that was once used for both transportation and racing. Now used strictly as racing vessels on Flag Day each year, the boats are typically

Following the races, day two of the fishing tournament began and the fishermen continued their pursuit of the biggest fish. The largest fish was a massive 428.8-pound marlin, caught by the skilled crew of the F/V Deep Calling. This impressive catch was just two pounds shy of breaking the all-time record for largest fish ever caught in American Samoa.

The tournament is not just a fun-filled event, but it also serves as an opportunity to promote sustainable fishing



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Bishop Museum Science and Sustainability Festival

The Bishop Museum in Honolulu organized its annual Science and Sustainability Festival on Earth Day, April 22, 2023. It was a huge success with 2,112 registrants and attendees, the result of an extensive outreach campaign the Museum’s Communication Team organized through social media, website and TV promotions.

The one-day festival featured keiki (children) activities, workshops, exhibition highlights, special presentations, and interactive performances with scientists and cultural practitioners to highlight biodiversity research and conservation efforts in Hawai’i.

Council staff joined more than 30 community partners that had educational booths throughout the Museum’s central grassy areas and buildings. Magnet making was a huge hit at the table and visitors of all ages lined up to color and create mementos of their pledge to support local seafood. Visitors also learned about different inside and outside parts of a fish and took home Council 101 handouts, newsletters, fish facts and recipe handouts, 2023 lunar calendars, fish activity sheets, and more.

Maui Spring Wahine Fishing Tournament

Hawai’i Advisory Panel member Amanda Padilla participated in the 2nd annual Spring Wahine (Woman) Fishing Tournament since the pandemic on April 22, 2023. Twenty-three boats registered this year and Padilla’s boat F/V Shiso Phat placed 3rd with ‘ahi. She also organized a fishing education table with information from the Council, NOAA and the Hawai’i Division of Aquatic Resources. The materials including lunar calendars were a huge hit with adults and kids alike. 🐟

