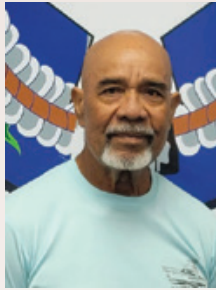




Roger Dang



Pedro Itibus

**The U.S. Department of Commerce has appointed two new members to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.**

Council members

are appointed to both obligatory (state-specific) and at-large (regional) seats. Council members serve a three-year term and can be reappointed to serve three consecutive terms. The current term is from Aug. 11, 2023, to Aug. 10, 2026. The Council members are:

### At-Large Seats

- **Roger Dang** (Hawai'i)\*
- **Pedro (Pete) Itibus** (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)

\*reappointment

At its 195th Council meeting, the Council appointed the following members as its officers for the remainder of 2023:

- **William Sword**, chair
- **Archie Soliai**, vice chair, American Samoa

It also appointed **Charles Littnan**, NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center director, to the Scientific and Statistical Committee as an ex-officio member.

**Doy Farwell** will be retiring in September after providing professional transcription services to the Council for more than 23 years. The Council extends its recognition and sincerest appreciation to Doy for her years of service and contribution to the fishing communities of the Western Pacific Region and bids her a fond FAREWELL, tight lines, aloha a hui hou, olomwaay, un dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase and tofa soifua fa'afetai.



Doy (fourth from left) with Council members and staff in 2018.

**Sean Macduff**, recently hired as Superintendent for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, begins his position mid-September 2023. Sean was a contractor and part of the Council family between the years 2013-2015. While a staffer at CNMI Division of fish and Wildlife, Sean and Richard Farrell, Council Advisory Panel Vice Chair collaborated on collecting data in Tinian and Rota. Sean was instrumental in sourcing funding for electronic catch reports. While earning his PhD in zoology at the University of Hawai'i, Sean was a member of the Council's Fishery Data Collection Technical Committee from 2013 to 2015 and the Mariana Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team from 2014 to 2015. Congratulations, Sean!

### Roy Morioka to Receive the 2023 Richard Shiroma Award



First given out in 2006, the **Richard Shiroma Award** is in recognition of exemplary dedication and performance of a Council member or advisor. The award honors the service the late Richard Shiroma dedicated to the Council as the chair of its Recreational Data Task Force and vice chair of its Advisory Panel.

**Roy Morioka** was chosen as the 2023 award winner because he is an advocate for all fishermen and ocean users, particularly the small-boat fishing fleet out of Hawai'i. As a member of the Council's Advisory Panel, a Council Member, and Council Chair over the past 25 years, Uncle Roy has helped guide the Council in its regional issues as well as those at national and international levels.



Roy founded the Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition (HFACT) to promote the interests of fishermen and provide them with representation to the different management agencies. Through his participation in the Waialua Boat Club (WBC), he has also worked with club members on developing and improving a smartphone application that aims to bring the fishing community together through various features, including catch reporting and distress signaling. Through HFACT and the WBC, Roy organized annual Fishing for Hawaii's Hungry Tournaments that exemplified the fishing community's culture and tradition to "Share the Catch!" 🐟