

## **WEAVING CULTURAL VALUES AND TRADITIONS TO SUSTAIN FISHING**

**Description:** Fishing has always had a significant role in the lives of the Pacific Islanders. In earlier times, societies depended on wise management of fishery resources for their very survival. Local culture, tradition, and knowledge kept fish populations at sustainable levels. Islanders had a connection with the resource that faded away as societies have changed.

These days getting kids (or even adults) excited about fishing and learning about aquatic resources depends a lot on the successful experience of being able to catch fish or see them in their natural environment. Another challenge is the Pacific Island groups of Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas, are separated by thousands of miles, but there are remarkable similarities in traditional management practices related to fishing. Each one of these island groups has seen the value of integrating the unique culture and deep traditional knowledge that exists in the Pacific into fishing and aquatic education programs. Traditional fishing methods have been replaced by modern fishing programs has enhanced their relevance and allowed for perpetuation of culture in a changing world. The preservation of traditional fishing knowledge and values depends on today's stewards.

Join us to look at the evolution of fishing in the islands and efforts to retain, recruit, and reactive fishing opportunities locally. We will share activities that demonstrate how a knowledge and understanding of some traditional cultural values can still be relevant and important today as we strive to help restore sport fish populations in the Pacific.

**Location:** Scott Peak Room

**Session Time:** Wed., 3:30 PM

**Presenters:** Rosemary Camacho & Vilma Ordonez, CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife