

Managed Species

TUNAS

Bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*)

Yellowfin (*T. albacares*)

Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

Albacore (*T. alalunga*)

Pacific Bluefin (*T. orientalis thynnus*)

Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*)

Other Tuna Relatives (*Auxis spp.*;
Scomber spp.; *Euthynnus spp.*)

BILLFISH

Shortbill Spearfish (*Tetrapturus angustirostris*)

Striped Marlin (*T. audax*)

Swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*)

Sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*)

Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*)

Black Marlin (*M. indica*)

SHARKS

Pelagic Thresher (*Alopias pelagicus*)

Bigeye Thresher (*A. superciliosus*)

Common Thresher (*A. vulpinus*)

Silky Shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*)

Oceanic Whitetip (*C. longimanus*)

Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*)

Shortfin Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)

Longfin Mako (*I. paucus*)

Salmon Shark (*Lamna ditropis*)

OTHER PELAGIC SPECIES

Dorado/Mahimahi
(*Coryphaena spp.*)

Moonfish (*Lampris spp.*)

Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*)

Oilfish (Family *Gempylidae*)

Pomfret (Family *Bramidae*)

Neon Flying Squid (*Ommastrephes bartramii*)

Diamondback Squid (*Thysanoteuthis rhombus*)

Purple Flying Squid (*Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis*)



Photo by D. Itano



Key Fishing Regulations

All Longline Vessels

- Longline gear must be marked
- Must carry and use dip nets, line clippers, bolt cutters and other mitigation gear, and follow handling, resuscitation, and release requirements for incidentally hooked or entangled sea turtles and seabirds
- Federal permits and logbooks required
- Mandatory annual protected species workshops for all vessel owners and operators

General Longline (Guam, CNMI and PRIA)

- Longline exclusion zone around Guam out to 50-100 nm from shore

Hawaii Longline

- Limited entry fishery with a maximum of 164 vessels
- Maximum vessel size 101 feet in length
- Longline exclusion zones throughout the Hawaii Archipelago out to 25-75 nm from shore
- Mandatory notification to NMFS at least 72 hours (not including weekends and federal holidays) before leaving port to fish in the EEZ
- Shallow-set fishery
 - Mandatory observer program with 100% coverage
 - Annual hard cap of 17 loggerhead and 16 leatherback sea turtle interactions
 - Other gear requirements to minimize incidental bycatch of sea turtles (circle hooks and mackerel-type bait) and seabirds (either side-set or use blue-dyed bait, strategically discard offal and set at night)
- Deep-set fishery
 - Mandatory observer program with 20% coverage
 - Follow shallow-set fishery seabird mitigation requirements when fishing north of 23 deg. N

American Samoa

- Limited entry of vessels in four different size classes for longline vessels
- Mandatory notification to NMFS at least 72 hours (not including weekends and federal holidays) before leaving port to fish in the EEZ
- Large pelagic vessel (>50 ft) exclusion out to zone 50 nm from shore

Troll and Handline

- Federal permits and logbooks required when operating in the PRIA

A complete listing of federal fishing regulations applicable to the Western Pacific Region can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50: Wildlife & Fisheries, Chapter 7, Part 665, which can be accessed at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>.

The Council has approved measures to manage fish aggregation devices (FADs) in the Western Pacific Region. These measures define FADs as any artificial or natural floating object that has been enhanced for flotation and/or instrumented; require all FADs to be registered; and ban purse-seine fishing around FADs in US EEZ waters that are still open to purse-seining except for US built hulls engaged in FAD fishing around the PRIA as part of a cooperative research project. The Council has also approved adjusting the Hawaii shallow-set longline annual cap for loggerheads to 46 and to implement a longline exclusion zone 0-30 miles offshore around CNMI. Recommendations by the Council are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval.



**Western Pacific Regional
Fishery Management Council**

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Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plan



THE PACIFIC PELAGIC FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN (FEP) WAS DEVELOPED TO REGULATE THE HARVESTS OF PELAGIC SPECIES BY US VESSELS OPERATING IN THE OFFSHORE WATERS OF THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN THROUGH AN ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACH. BECAUSE ECOSYSTEMS VARY OVERTIME, THIS FISHERIES MANAGEMENT APPROACH IS ADAPTIVE AND TAKES ACCOUNT OF ECOSYSTEM KNOWLEDGE AND UNCERTAINTIES, CONSIDERS MULTIPLE EXTERNAL INFLUENCES (DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL), AND STRIVES TO BALANCE DIVERSE SOCIAL OBJECTIVES.

THE PACIFIC PELAGIC FEP

- IDENTIFIES MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES,
- DELINEATES GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES,
- FOSTERS INCREASED COORDINATION AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION THROUGH VARIOUS ADVISORY BODIES AND AN APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE,
- DESIGNATES MANAGED SPECIES, AND
- DETAILS APPLICABLE FISHERY REGULATIONS



ECOSYSTEM – A geographically specified system of organisms (including humans) and their environment and the processes that control its dynamics



Management Objectives

1. To maintain biologically diverse and productive marine ecosystems and foster the long-term sustainable use of marine resources in an ecologically and culturally sensitive manner through the use of a science-based ecosystem approach to resource management.
2. To provide flexible and adaptive management systems that can rapidly address new scientific information and changes in environmental conditions or human use patterns.
3. To improve public and government awareness and understanding of the marine environment in order to reduce unsustainable human impacts and foster support for responsible stewardship.
4. To encourage and provide for the sustained and substantive participation of local communities in the exploration, development, conservation, and management of marine resources.
5. To minimize fishery bycatch and waste to the extent practicable.
6. To manage and co-manage protected species, habitats and areas.
7. To promote the safety of human life at sea.
8. To encourage and support appropriate compliance and enforcement with all applicable local and federal fishery regulations.
9. To increase collaboration with domestic and foreign regional fishery management and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, communities, and the public at large to successfully manage marine ecosystems.
10. To improve the quantity and quality of available information to support marine ecosystem management.

Geographical Boundaries

The Pacific Pelagic FEP encompasses all areas of pelagic fishing operations in the US exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and on the high seas for any domestic vessels that a) fish for, possess or transship Pacific Pelagic managed species within the EEZ waters of the Western Pacific Region, or b) land Pacific Pelagic managed species within the Western Pacific Region. The Western Pacific Region includes the State of Hawaii, the Territories of American Samoa and of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the US Pacific remote island area (PRIA), consisting of Johnston, Midway, Palmyra and Wake Atolls; Baker, Howland and Jarvis Islands; and Kingman Reef.

Management Structure and Community Participation

The management structure of the Pacific Pelagic FEP fosters collaboration with territorial, federal and international governments and non-government organizations to address the social, cultural, economic, biological, ecological and other scientific issues related to successful ecosystem management. Ecosystem issues include both human and non-human factors. They range from climate change and its impacts on the ocean's primary productivity areas; to fishing impacts on bycatch, forage fish and protected species; to non-fishing activities that lead to pollution, nutrient loading, marine debris and ocean acidification.

The FEP structure also facilitates enhanced involvement in the decision-making process by communities, especially those who rely on the environment for their livelihood, social relations, cultural identity and nutrition. The Pelagic FEP uses a bottom-up approach to fisheries management. It begins with recommendations from communities during public meetings and through several advisory groups, including recently established Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committees.

FEP Advisory Panel

The FEP Advisory Panel (AP) provides the Council with advice on fishery management issues and on the content and likely effects of management measures. It is comprised of several subpanels. The Pelagic Ecosystem subpanel has 16 members. Each member serves a two-year term.

Pelagic FEP Plan Team

The Pacific Pelagic FEP Plan Team oversees the ongoing development and implementation of the Pacific Pelagic FEP and is responsible for reviewing information pertaining to the performance of the fisheries and the status

of the stocks managed under it. The FEP Plan Team is made up of federal and local government and non-government specialists who are appointed by the Council and serve indefinite terms.

Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committees

The Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committees (REACs) include Council members and representatives from federal and local government agencies; businesses; and non-governmental organizations with responsibility and interest in land-based and non-fishing activities that potentially affect the area's marine environment, including the pelagic environment. Separate Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committees are established in Hawaii, American Samoa and the Mariana Archipelago (Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands).

Science and Statistical Committee

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) is composed of scientists from local and federal agencies, academic institutions, and other organizations. These scientists represent a range of disciplines required for the scientific oversight of fishery management in the Western Pacific Region.

FEP Standing Committees

The Pacific Pelagic Ecosystem and International Fisheries Standing Committee is composed of Council members who, prior to Council action, review relevant information and data including the recommendations of the FEP Advisory Panel, the Plan Teams, REACs and the SSC. The recommendations of the Standing Committees and the other advisory bodies are presented to the full Council for consideration prior to its taking action on specific measures or recommendations.

Indigenous and Community Program

The Western Pacific Region's Community Development Program, Community Demonstration Projects Program, and Marine Education and Training Program are designed to foster increased fishery participation by indigenous communities in the US Pacific Islands.

In 2006 and 2007, the Council hosted the Ho'ohano I Na Kupuna (Honor Our Ancestors) Puwalu (conference) series to develop a consultation process with Native Hawaiian communities in the ecosystem-based management of fisheries. Participants supported the traditional Aha Moku approach to natural resources management, which is place-based, community-based and adaptive.

International Management and Research

The Council actively participates in the development and implementation of international agreements and research regarding marine resources. The most important international issues for the Pacific Pelagic FEP is the management of highly migratory species (particularly tunas) and conservation of protected species (especially, sea turtles and whales). Since the start of the new millennium, tuna management in the Pacific Ocean has been divided between two international Regional Fishery Management Organizations: the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

To become involved, visit the Council website at www.WPCouncil.org, or contact the Council staff at (808) 522-8220 or email info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov.