

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Scientific and Statistical
Committee



Western Pacific Region: Membership comprises Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, CNMI & Hawaii (Total Population of citizens and % native)

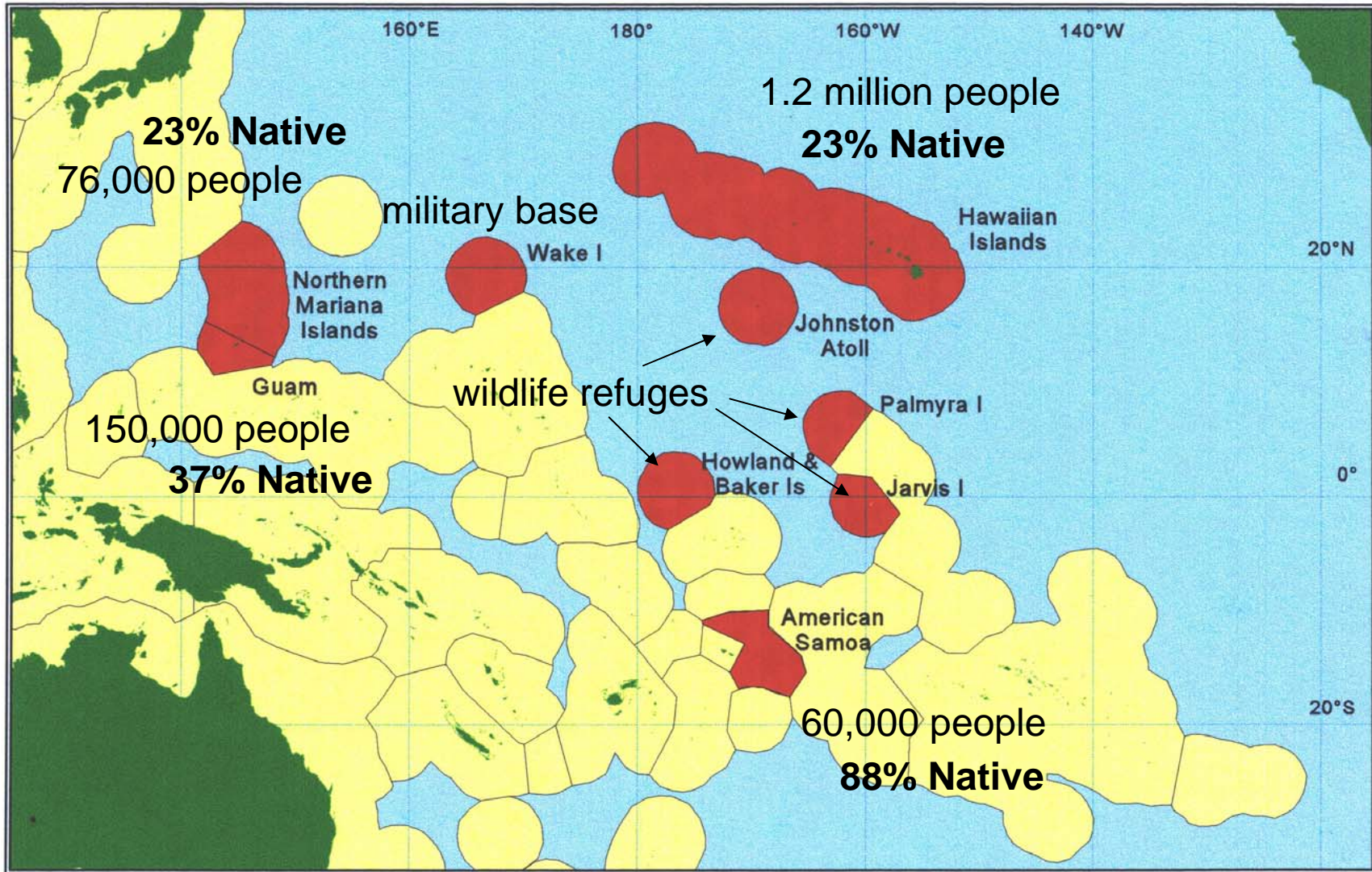
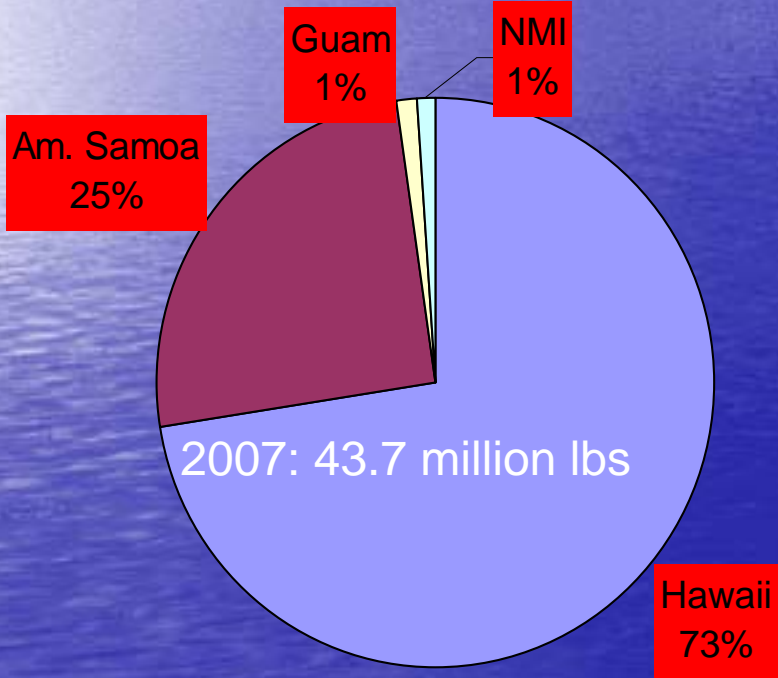


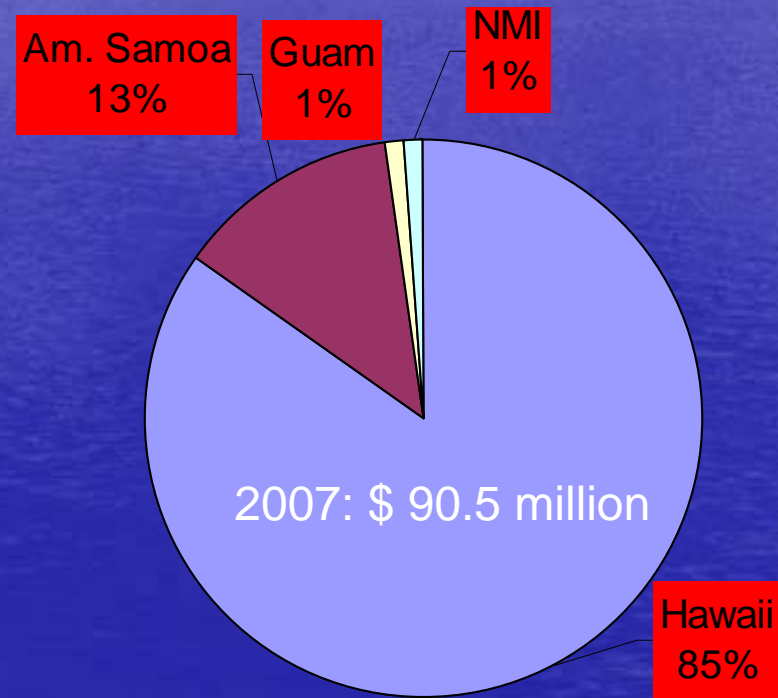
Figure 1. Exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of the Pacific Islands. Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council EEZ area shown in red.

Western Pacific domestic fisheries production by A: volume (lbs) & B: value (\$)

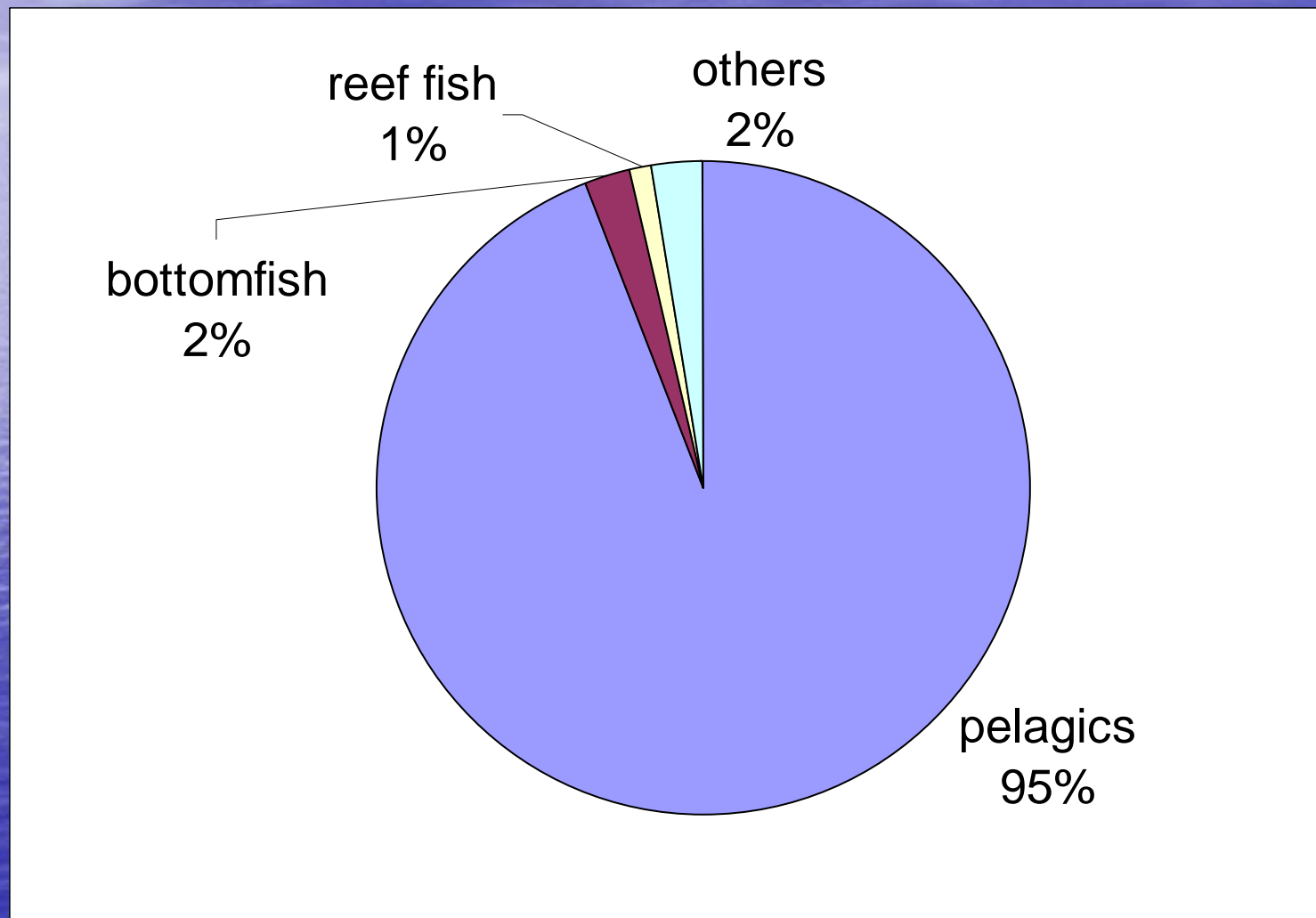
A



B



Fish landings by volume in the WPR



The Council's SOPP requires an SSC composed of scientists and specialists representing a wide range of disciplines. The SOPP further specifies that the SSC shall:

- A. Identify scientific resources required for the development of management plans and amendments and recommend resources for Plan Teams;
- B. Provide multi-disciplinary review of management plans or amendments and advise the Council on their scientific content;
- C. Assist the Council in evaluation of such statistical, biological, economic, social, and other scientific information as is relevant to the Council's activities, and recommend methods and means for the development and collection of such information; and
- D. Recommend to the Council the composition of Plan Teams.

SSC Composition:

- 14 - 18 members approved by the Council and reviewed every two years
- Vacancies filled from recruits suggested by SSC, Plan Teams, Council staff, and other Council Family participants
- Chair appointed by Council Chair in consultation with the Council's Executive Committee

Current membership by discipline, residence:

Discipline	SSC members	Country	SSC members
Anthropology	1	Australia	1
Archeology/Anthropology	1		
Biology	2	Guam	3
Economics	1	Hawaii	8
Fish Pop-dy	1	Mariana Island	1
Fish Biology	4	New Caledonia	1
Fish Physiology	3	Samoa	1
Genetics	1	Tahiti	1
Sociology	1	US Mainland	2
Statistics	1		
Trophic Ecology	1		
Turtle Biology	1		

and affiliation:

Affiliation	SSC Members
Academia	7
RFMOs	2
Federal Gov.	3
State/Territorial Gov.	3
Private Sector	3

SSC Meeting Arrangements:

- Three day meetings are held three times a year in Hawaii
- SSC members are seated around a rectangular table.
- Audience seating is located behind the table, opposite the chair=s position. A sound system and separate audience viewing screen are provided.
- Staff is seated at the SSC table or at separate tables near the chair.
- Staff and others who make presentations sit at the SSC table along with members. Rostrums are not used.
- Agendas are prepared by staff in consultation with the Executive Director and the SSC Chair for timely publication in the Federal Register.
- Documents are circulated to members prior to the meeting via hard copy, thumb drive and Council web-sight access.
- A stenographer records a comprehensive transcript of all SSC discourse including public comment. This document constitutes the official SSC record/minutes.

SSC Process, Function and Procedure:


- There is no SSC SOPP document. Meeting procedures have arisen over time and reflect a consensus style common to Pacific island tradition.
- Votes are not taken. Business is conducted by consensus. Generally the Chair declares consensus on an issue whenever there is no overtly expressed objection.
- One or more rapporteurs for each agenda section are appointed by the Chair. Rapporteurs are responsible for capturing the essential wording and reasoning for any SSC recommendation arising under that agenda item.
- Public comment is allowed at the Chair's discretion during SSC deliberations. Public comment is solicited on each agenda action item before final SSC consensus is reached.
- Rapporteur reports are submitted in writing on the last day of the meeting. They are dealt with sequentially. Each report and its associated recommendations are discussed and reviewed in detail by the entire SSC.
- If necessary minority opinions are often incorporated into recommendations in order to facilitate consensus. The Chair declares a consensus on each recommendation after determining that members have no further expressed objection.

SSC Reports to the Council:

- Council staff, in consultation with the SSC Chair, prepares final SSC Reports to the Council. These Final Reports contain SSC recommendations and other advice along with introductory and supporting material.
- Final SSC Reports to the Council are emailed to members directly following the meeting.
- The SSC Chair or his designee delivers the SSC Reports to the subsequent Council meeting.
- Over time the wording used in SSC Reports has come to reflect a hierarchy of relative importance.

Hierarchy of SSC recommendations and suggestions

- A most important and firmly held SSC consensus:
 - The SSC recommends....@
 - The SSC continues to recommend....@
 - The SSC reiterates its previous recommendation....@
- A slightly less important or less firmly held consensus:
 - The SSC expresses concern....@
 - The SSC reiterates its previous concern....@
 - The SSC calls the Council's attention to@
 - The SSC notes that....@
 - The SSC believes that....@
- A widely held but not universally held SSC opinion:
 - Some members felt that....@
 - It was noted that....@



Thank you for your attention!