

NOAA Fisheries Service

Pacific Islands Regional Office

REPORT TO THE 159TH WESTERN PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) is responsible for assisting the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) in the development of fishery management plans and amendments, initiating Federal fishing regulations, issuing Federal fishing permits, and monitoring fisheries through the observer program. Other major responsibilities include the conservation and recovery of protected species, conservation and restoration of marine habitats, including the Pacific marine national monuments, and coordination with international organizations to implement fishery agreements and treaties. The following information is provided to update the Council on NMFS and PIRO activities since the 158th Council meeting.

RULEMAKING

Anyone may view proposed and final rules, supporting documents, and public comments at www.regulations.gov.

On September 23, 2013, NMFS issued a final rule (78 FR 58240) effective October 23, 2013, establishing a catch limit of 3,763 mt of bigeye tuna for vessels in the U.S. pelagic longline fisheries operating in the western and central Pacific Ocean for each of the calendar years 2013 and 2014.

On December 30, 2013, NMFS published in the *Federal Register* a notice of availability for Amendment 7 to the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific, seeking public comments through February 28, 2014 (78 FR 79388). If approved, Amendment 7 and its implementing regulations would create a management framework process consistent with conservation and management decisions of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission for specifying annual catch and fishing effort limits and accountability measures for pelagic fisheries in American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

To implement Amendment 7, on January 8, 2014, NMFS published a proposed rule and proposed specifications, seeking public comments through February 24, 2014 (79 FR 1354). NMFS would establish a catch limit of 2,000 mt for bigeye tuna caught by longline gear for each territory in 2014, and specify that a territory may allocate up to 1,000 mt of that limit to U.S. longline fishing vessels. The proposed rule and proposed specifications are intended to implement Section 113(a) of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriation Act of 2012, consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation

and Management Act. View the proposed rule and specifications, supporting documents, and public comments at www.regulations.gov by searching for [NOAA-NMFS-2012-0178](#).

On January 14, 2014, NMFS announced that the annual harvest guideline for the commercial lobster fishery in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands for calendar year 2014 is zero lobsters (79 FR 2382). View the *Federal Register* notice at www.regulations.gov by searching for [NOAA-NMFS-2014-0002](#).

On January 27, 2014, NMFS published the final 2014 annual catch limit specifications for Pacific Island bottomfish, crustacean, precious coral and coral reef ecosystem fisheries, and accountability measures to correct or mitigate any overages of catch limits (79 FR 4276). The catch limits and accountability measures support the long-term sustainability of fishery resources of the U.S. Pacific Islands. View the final specifications and supporting documents at www.regulations.gov by searching for [NOAA-NMFS-2013-0156](#).

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Sustainable Fisheries

On October 25, 2013, PIRO issued a Special Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishing Permit to Kampachi Farms, LLC. The permit authorizes the harvest of up to 2,000 individual Kona Kampachi using a mesh-net cage tethered to a feed vessel which is anchored approximately 5.5 nm west of Keauhou, HI, and operated as described in the environmental assessment and in accordance with permit conditions. The permit expires October 24, 2014. View the environmental assessment and related documents at www.regulations.gov by searching for [NOAA-NMFS-2013-0125](#).

On January 8 - 9, 2014, PIRO participated in the National Electronic Monitoring Workshop in Seattle. The workshop brought together people from diverse interests, fisheries, and regions to discuss ways to move forward with implementing electronic reporting and electronic monitoring in federal fisheries from around the country. You may view the conference proceedings at www.eminformation.com.

On January 31, 2014, PIRO reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on 2013 seabird interactions in the Hawaii shallow-set longline fishery. The report is required annually as a term of a permit issued by the FWS in August 2012 under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; the permit expires on March 31, 2015. The fishery is permitted to take 191 black-footed albatrosses, 430 Laysan albatrosses, and one short-tailed albatross over the term of the permit, and no more than 10 sooty shearwaters and 10 northern fulmars annually. In 2013, the fishery took 75 seabirds, including 28 black-footed albatrosses, 45 Laysan albatrosses, and two unidentified shearwaters.

PIRO participated in several NMFS-wide working groups formed to provide input on high priority National Standard 1 issues identified in response to the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on May 3, 2012 (77 FR 26238). NMFS will consider the working groups' proposals in developing potential adjustments to the National Standard 1 Guidelines.

In 2013, PIRO provided protected species workshops to 232 Hawaii longline vessel owners and captains, either at the Pier 38 Service Center in Honolulu Harbor, or on line. One CNMI-based captain completed his annual PSW certification on line. Another 85 vessel owners, captains and crew members completed the training in American Samoa. In 2014, from January 1 through February 7, PIRO provided workshops to 43 Hawaii longline vessel owners and captains, either at Pier 38 or online. Another 16 vessel owners, captains and crewmembers completed their training in American Samoa.

For updated Information on fish catch limits in Pacific Island fisheries, see: www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_regs_3.html.

For up-to-date information about interactions between the shallow-set longline fishery and sea turtles, see: www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_turtleint.html.

PIRO continues to host monthly non-commercial fishing constituent meetings at Pier 38. Meeting days are the second Thursday of every month from 6 to 8 pm. Meetings highlight a topical issue of concern to the recreational/non-commercial fishing community. For example, the January 2014 meeting featured a discussion of monk seal-fishing interactions with PIRO and PIFSC monk seal experts.

PIRO participated in a workshop to review progress and plan future research cruises in support of the goals and objectives of the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation's Bycatch Project to reduce non-target and small tuna mortality in large-scale purse seine fisheries.

Hawaii longline permit holders may now apply to renew their permits on line. PIRO is sending instructions to permit holders on how to apply on line at the National Permit System. You may find more information on the National Permits System at www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/fis/projects/permits.html.

Pacific Islands Fishing Permits

(As of February 11, 2014. Current permit status, applications, and other information is available at www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_permits_index.html.)

Permit	Number
<i>Pelagic</i>	
Hawaii longline (limited entry)	135 (of 164 available)
American Samoa longline (limited entry)	46 (of 60 available)
Western Pacific general longline	0
Receiving vessel	28
PRIA troll & handline	3
Pelagic squid jig	0
<i>Hawaii</i>	
MHI non-commercial bottomfish	3
Special coral reef ecosystem	1
Precious coral	1
Crustaceans	1 lobster, 5 shrimp
<i>American Samoa</i>	
Special coral reef ecosystem	0
Precious coral	0
Crustaceans	0 lobster, 0 shrimp
<i>Mariana Islands</i>	
GU large vessel bottomfish	2
NMI bottomfish	0
Special coral reef ecosystem	0
Precious coral	0
Crustaceans	0 lobster, 0 shrimp
<i>Pacific Remote Island Areas</i>	
Bottomfish	1
Special coral reef ecosystem	0
Precious corals	0
Crustaceans	0 lobster, 0 shrimp
<i>Monuments</i>	
Non-commercial and recreational charter	0

Protected Resources

Hawaiian Monk Seal Critical Habitat Proposed Revision (ESA)

On July 9, 2008, NMFS received a petition from Center for Biological Diversity, Kahea, and the Ocean Conservancy to revise critical habitat for the Hawaiian monk seal. On June 12, 2009, NMFS published a 12-month finding announcing that a revision was warranted (74 FR 27988). On June 2, 2011, NMFS published a proposed rule to revise critical habitat for the Hawaiian monk seal by adding critical habitat in the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) and extending critical habitat in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (76 FR 32026). Public comment periods were open for 150 days, and six public hearings were held. *NMFS continues to consider all public comments received, and is working to ensure that any new information is incorporated and significant issues are addressed.*

Proposed Rule to List 66 Corals (ESA)

On October 20, 2009, NMFS was petitioned by the Center for Biological Diversity to list 83 species of coral under the ESA. A proposal was published in the Federal Register on December 7, 2012, announcing the proposed listing of 66 coral species, 59 of which are found in the Pacific, and 7 in the Caribbean. In the Pacific, 7 species are proposed as endangered and 52 as threatened. Three species are proposed in Hawaii as threatened, 30 in Guam as threatened, 29 in CNMI (28 as threatened, 1 endangered), and 46 in American Samoa (43 as threatened, 3 endangered). A total of 19 public hearings were held nationally in January and February 2013, including 11 in Hawaii, Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa. In response to high public interest, the public comment period was extended to April 6, 2013, for a total of 120 days. NMFS received about 1,200 verbal and written public comments, not counting about 32,000 identical form letters that were included as an attachment to the comment letter from the petitioner. On September 20, 2013, NMFS announced a six-month extension to the deadline for the final listing rule due to substantial scientific disagreement, and to solicit additional data and information to help resolve that disagreement. *The Council and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council hired coral expert Dr. Charlie Veron to provide new distribution and abundance information for 64 of the 66 species, and his draft report was received by PIRO on January 22, 2014. This new information will help inform the final listing rule, which is due in June 2014.*

Scalloped Hammerhead Proposed Rule (ESA)

On August 14, 2011, NMFS received a petition from WildEarth Guardians and Friends of Animals requesting that the scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*) be listed as endangered or threatened under the ESA, and that critical habitat be designated. The petitioners requested that we list either the entire global species, or any of the Distinct Population Segments (DPSs). On November 28, 2011, NMFS made a positive 90-day finding (76 FR 72891), determining that the petitioned action may be warranted. A comprehensive status review was conducted to inform the 12-month finding and underwent peer review. On April 5, 2013, NMFS published a 12-month finding and proposed rule (78 FR 20718) to list four of six identified DPSs. In the Pacific Islands region, the Indo-West Pacific DPS (which includes the U.S. Pacific territories & all PRIAs except Johnston Atoll) is proposed as threatened, the Central Pacific DPS (which includes the Hawaiian archipelago

and Johnston Atoll) is not warranted for listing, and the Eastern Pacific DPS is proposed as endangered. The public comment period closed on June 4, 2013 and approximately 670 comments were received. *The final rule is statutorily due on April 5, 2014.*

Eight Reef Fish Species Petition to List (ESA)

On September 14, 2012, NMFS received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity to list 8 species of pomacentrid reef fish, including 1 orange clownfish and 7 damselfish, as threatened or endangered under the ESA and that critical habitat be designated concurrently with any listing (1 species is in the Caribbean and 7 in the Pacific). The 90-day finding was statutorily due by December 13, 2012 to the maximum extent practicable. On September 25, 2013, NMFS received from CBD a 60-day Notice of Intent to sue for failure to issue a timely 90-day finding. *PIRO is currently evaluating the petition and reviewing information to determine if the petition presents enough information to indicate that a listing may be warranted.*

Humphead Wrasse Status Review (ESA)

On Nov 1, 2012, NMFS was petitioned by WildEarth Guardians to list the humphead wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) as either endangered or threatened under the ESA. NMFS reviewed the petition and on Feb 28, 2013, announced that the petitioned action may be warranted (78 FR 13614). A 60-day public comment period was open until April 29, 2013, and eight comments were received. *A status review of the species is underway to inform the 12-month finding.*

Great Hammerhead Petition to List (ESA)

On Dec 21, 2012, NMFS was petitioned by WildEarth Guardians to list the great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) as either endangered or threatened under the ESA. Petitioners also claim that if scalloped hammerheads are listed under the ESA, then the great hammerhead should be listed under the similarity of appearance clause of the ESA. NMFS received a second petition from Natural Resources Defense Council on March 15, 2013, to list the species. After reviewing the petitions and information, NMFS determined that the petitioned action may be warranted and published a positive 90-day finding on April 26, 2013 (78 FR 24701). Public comments were accepted until June 25, 2013. *A status review of the species is underway to inform the 12-month finding.*

Loggerhead Turtle - Critical Habitat Proposed Rule (ESA)

On September 22, 2011, NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a final rule to list nine distinct population segments (DPSs) of the loggerhead turtle under the ESA, in response to two 2007 petitions (Center for Biological Diversity and turtle Island Restoration Network). A proposed rule was published on July 18, 2013 (78 FR 43005). Specific areas proposed for designation include 36 occupied marine areas within the range of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean DPS. *The 60-day public comment period, and an extended 60 day period has ended and public comments are currently under review. There is no proposed critical habitat in the Pacific Islands Region for loggerhead turtle DPSs.*

Green Turtle Status Review (ESA)

On February 15, 2012, NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received a petition from the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs to classify the green sea turtle in Hawaii as a DPS and delist the DPS. On August 1, 2012, NMFS and Fish and Wildlife published a 90-finding that the petitioners present substantial scientific and commercial information indicating that petitioned action may be warranted. *A global status review of the species is being conducted.*

Humpback Whale Status Review (ESA)

On April 17, 2013, NMFS received a petition from the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition, Inc. to delist the north Pacific population of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). After reviewing the petition and information in the files, NMFS determined that the petitioned action may be warranted and published a positive 90-day finding on August 29, 2013 (78 FR 53391). *A status review of the species to determine if an endangered listing is still appropriate for the global taxon, will inform the 12-month finding.*

Programmatic EIS for Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Actions (ESA)

On August 19, 2011, NMFS released the Draft PEIS for public comment. The Draft PEIS considers a suite of actions to improve juvenile monk seal survival and help prevent the extinction of the species. The actions include vaccination studies, de-worming, temporary archipelago-wide seal translocations, and a seal behavioral modification program to discourage undesirable seal behavior in the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI). NMFS held six public hearings on five islands and close to 60 meetings with government agency staff, stakeholders, volunteers, and community members on 6 islands to answer questions and talk story about the proposed actions and related issues. NMFS has also undertaken a process to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 and to revise the cultural impacts analysis of the PEIS. Meetings were held in communities on Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Hawaii in October and November 2012. *NMFS will consider the comments received during the public comment period and the community meetings about cultural impacts as it prepares the Final PEIS, which is expected to be published for public review and comment in early 2014. The associated ESA-MMPA permit is also expected to be finalized in mid 2014.*

Main Hawaiian Islands Hawaiian Monk Seal Management Plan (ESA)

The Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Plan (2007) directs NMFS to create a MHI Hawaiian Monk Seal Management Plan that addresses the full scope of monk seal management needs in the MHI. PIRO is developing management strategies and policies to address threats to monk seals in the MHI. In September 2012, a non-profit organization, the Monk Seal Foundation, hosted a three-day workshop to facilitate community involvement in monk seal management and conservation by bringing NMFS staff together with experts from partners, stakeholders, and the community to develop key components of the plan. PIRO has and will continue to engage important groups, such as fishermen, ocean safety, law enforcement, partner agency staff, and the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team. *The MHI*

Hawaiian Monk Seal Management Plan will serve as a non-regulatory guiding document to the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Program and partners. A draft version of the plan is expected to be completed by mid 2014.

Sea Turtle Recovery Program (ESA)

The Sea Turtle Management and Conservation Program continues to provide oversight and support to multiple projects which implement priority activities of the U.S. Sea Turtle Recovery Plans. The following sea turtle recovery-based projects are ongoing: near shore fishery mitigation in Japan and Baja California, Mexico; leatherback turtle conservation and monitoring in the Solomon Islands; aerial surveys of the Sulu Sulawesi to assess leatherback foraging habitat; hawksbill turtle conservation and monitoring in Hawaii; community educational outreach and public management in Hawaii; and U.S. territory programs (Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa). PIRO also continues to implement the "Fishing Around Sea Turtles" program. This is a multi-agency program that includes NOAA, the State of Hawaii (including DOCARE), USFWS, and the Council. The program provides mitigation options to recreational hook-and-line fishers through practical fishing tips, increased awareness, and best practice suggestions to reduce injury to sea turtles following an accidental interaction. For additional information, visit: http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_fishing_around_sea_turtles.html.

2014 Proposed List of Fisheries (MMPA)

The proposed 2014 LOF was published on December 6, 2013 (78 FR 73477). Proposed changes to the region's fisheries include: notation indicating the MHI insular false killer whale stock no longer drives the Hawaii deep-set longline fishery's Category I classification (though the fishery remains Category I because of mortality and serious injury of HI pelagic false killer whales); a revision to the list of species injured/killed in the Hawaii and American Samoa longline fisheries based on updated observer data, MMAP reports of species not accounted for by observed interactions, and updated bycatch estimates (2007-2011 data from draft 2013 SARs); removal of several high seas fisheries because the fishery categories (gear types) are no longer valid under HSFCA permits; and updates to the number of participants in high seas fisheries (# HSFCA permits).

Dolphin SMART Program (MMPA)

The Dolphin SMART program is a collaborative effort among NMFS, National Marine Sanctuaries Program, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, and the Dolphin Ecology Project. It is a voluntary education program for tour operators and other businesses to promote and engage in responsible wildlife viewing. This program's mission is to reduce activities that may cause harassment to wild dolphins under the MMPA by having tour operators voluntarily follow a set of criteria aimed at reducing these impacts, as well as engage in responsible advertising in order to reduce the expectation of close interactions with wild dolphins. Hawaii currently has five Dolphin SMART operators on three islands and thirteen organizations that are Dolphin SMART Proud Supporters. Continued expansion of the program on Kauai and Maui, as well as implementation on the Island of Hawaii, and possibly other areas within the Pacific Islands region, including Guam, is expected over the next year.

Habitat Conservation Division

Habitat Blueprint Initiative

NOAA's Habitat Blueprint provides a framework for NOAA to effectively improve habitats for fisheries, marine life and coastal communities. NOAA selects Habitat Focus Areas to prioritize long-term habitat science and conservation efforts. *On February 4, 2014, NOAA selected two sites in the Pacific Islands region as the next Habitat Focus Areas: West Hawaii and the Manell-Geus watershed on the southern tip of Guam. Implementation planning for the selected focus area sites will take place in 2014.*

Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP):

NMFS continued to implement local projects to promote conservation of coral reefs/habitat in the Region.

In American Samoa this included successfully completing: a three-day Environmental Discoveries summer camp for high school students; a Two-Samoas Workshop for Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) managers, which focused on identifying needs and strategies to develop MMAs in the Samoan archipelago; and a GeoSpatial Bootcamp to leverage NOAA's geospatial products and services to address coastal management needs, and contributing to the Habitat Blueprint Initiative.

In Guam this included working with the Jurisdictional Capacity Assessment Team (JCAT) for Coral Reef Conservation, contributing to the Habitat Blueprint Initiative, monitoring and coordinating a response to a serious coral bleaching event on reefs around the island, with participation by the Community Coral Reef Monitoring group.

In CNMI this included working with the JCAT for Coral Reef Conservation, coordination with PRD on the Habitat Blueprint Initiative, assessing impact of vessel groundings in Tinian, and completion of a workplan for the Rota Creel Pilot Project.

NMFS' Pacific Islands Marine Protected Area Community (PIMPAC) Coordinator in Hawaii supported compliance and enforcement training in the Marshall Islands, finalization of a coastal management plan in Pohnpei, and a socio-economic training in Kosrae.

NMFS Scientific Divers also conducted quantitative reef fish and coral assessments for the Kwajalein Missile Impact Scoring System impact site, to evaluate impacts to fish community, including protected species, of cable alignment alternatives for missile scoring, as mandated by the USAKA Environmental Standards.

International Fisheries

PIRO hosted the 2013 meeting of the Permanent Advisory Committee (PAC) to advise the U.S. Commissioners to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) on October 28-29, 2013, in Honolulu. The PAC provided input regarding the outcomes of

the 9th regular session of the Technical and Compliance Committee to the Commissioners for consideration in developing U.S. positions for the 10th regular session of the WCPFC.

PIRO supported the U.S. delegation at the 10th regular session of the WCPFC December 2-6, 2013 in Cairns, Australia. The Commission adopted ten Conservation and Management Measures including a measure for tropical tunas, a measure prohibiting retention of silky sharks, a measure limiting catch of Pacific bluefin tuna, and a measure to continue strengthening the compliance monitoring scheme. Other measures adopted were a measure related to the record of fishing vessels, a measure requiring a unique vessel identifier for vessels greater than 100 gross tonnage or gross registered tonnage, a measure on daily catch and effort reporting requirements, and two measures related to the special requirements of Small Island Developing States and Territories. WCPFC11 will be held in December 2014 in Apia, Samoa.

PIRO led the U.S. delegation to the second commission meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) in Manta, Ecuador, 27-31 January 2014. The first meeting of the Compliance and Technical Committee and the Eastern Sub-regional Management Committee were also held during the week. The U.S. participated as a cooperating non-contracting party. Six conservation and management measures were adopted including a follow-on measure for the management of jack mackerel, a measure for bottom fishing, a measure on seabird bycatch, a measure on port state inspections, a measure on the development of a vessel monitoring system, and a measure for the establishment of a SPRFMO record of fishing vessels. SPRFMO3 will be held in New Zealand.

Observer Program

The coverage for 2013 for the Deep Set fishery was 20.4% coverage with 272 vessels observed out of 1334 departures. The coverage in the Shallow Set fishery was 100%, with 53 departures observed, 21 of which departed from and returned to California. The coverage for the American Samoa fishery was 19.4%, with 19 of 98 trips observed.

Deployed observers are collecting blood and tissue samples for blue, striped and black marlin. The objective of this project is to determine the post-release survival of large Pacific blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) and striped marlin (*Kajikia audax*) released from pelagic longline gear using biochemical correlates of morbidity and mortality from tissue plugs and blood. This will enable the development of biochemical techniques that are portable and applicable to the rapid analyses of post-release survivorship in many pelagic species.

PIRO attended the 2013 Regional Observer Coordinators Workshop (ROCW) meeting in Rorotonga, Cook Islands. The annual meeting brings together participants from different Pacific Island Observer Programs. The 2014 ROCW will be held in Noumea, New Calidonia and hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

PIRO supported the U.S. Navy's Pacific Partnership Humanitarian Deployment by facilitating an observer planning / debriefing workshop in the Solomon Islands. The workshop contributed to capacity building efforts in the region.

Marine National Monuments Program

Marianas Trench Marine National Monument

The Marianas Trench Advisory Council meeting scheduled for December 18, 2013 is being rescheduled but the draft management plan/environmental assessment is in preparation.

In December, a Japanese recreational trimaran grounded inside the caldera at Maug in the Islands Unit of the Monument. The owner and a passenger onboard the vessel were rescued by the Japanese Coast Guard. The vessel reportedly had approximately 200 gallons of fuel on board that was spilled. The U.S. Coast Guard assessed the owner a penalty for the release of the fuel, and the NOAA and the USFWS are currently investigating any other potential legal repercussions from this incident.

NMFS PIRO has reviewed and commented on five International Research Requests since the last Council meeting. All five requests were from Japan; three were from the Japanese Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, while one each were from the Fishery Agency of Japan and the Japanese Meteorological Agency. The proposed research projects for these requests included: biological studies on the neon flying squid and the Japanese eel, oceanographic studies on climate change and material cycling in the Pacific, and geophysical studies of the Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench.

Pacific Remote Islands Area Marine National Monument

The USFWS recently completed the removal of three shipwrecks at Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef. The three vessels removed were: the longliner Hui Feng No. 1 that grounded in 1991, and a WWII-era pontoon boat that grounded on an unspecified date, at Palmyra Atoll; and the remains of an unidentified teak fishing vessel that was abandoned after catching fire, and eventually grounded on Kingman Reef in 2007. The NOAA is presently waiting on an update, and the data collected from the removals, to assess the state of the reefs post-move.

Papahanoumokuakea Marine National Monument

As of the February 1, 2014, 21 applications for work in the PMNM were submitted:

- 5 Conservation and Management (2 issued)
- 7 Research
- 5 Special Ocean Use
- 3 Native Hawaiian Practices
- 1 Recreational Activities (allowed only at Midway Atoll)

Two applications were submitted but subsequently withdrawn. NMFS submitted one permit application for shark removal activities at French Frigate Shoals. All submitted PMNM permit applications will be reviewed by NMFS to ensure compliance with ESA, MMPA, and MSA regulations.