



**WESTERN  
PACIFIC  
REGIONAL  
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COUNCIL**

**Critical importance for the Hawaii longline fishery of maintaining access to the US EEZ in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands**

- Forcing the Hawaii longline fishery out of the US EEZ around the NWHI results in increased competition with other foreign longline fleets that are fishing adjacent to the US EEZ around the Hawaiian Archipelago
- The US EEZ around the NWHI is a historically important fishing ground for the Hawaii longline fleet that is relatively close to Honolulu, which means shorter trip lengths, better quality fish and lower fuel costs.
- The 2008 establishment of the Pacific Remote Islands Monument and subsequent expansion thereof reduced available fishing grounds in the US EEZ (EEZ around Johnston Atoll completely closed to Hawaii longline fishery)
- As the high seas are common property managed by the global community, there are increasing demands for closure or significant restrictions on fishing on the high seas.
- Such outcomes would leave very few fishing grounds available to the Hawaii longline fishery, and as such maintaining US EEZ waters to the Hawaii longline fleet is critically important.