



Pelagics Plan Team Meeting

May 2-4, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Council Office

Honolulu

Pelagic Plan Team: Final Report Recommendations and Action Items

Region-wide Recommendations

Data Time Series

1. For the 2016 SAFE report, the Pelagic Plan Team should use the entire time series but move to the 10 year fishery data time series for the 2017 report for consistency between fishery chapters.

Essential Fish Habitat

3. The Pelagic Plan Team recommends that Council staff explore a minimum depth for the definition of pelagic EFH that excludes depths seldom occupied by PMUS.

Socio Economics and Human Dimensions

3. The Pelagic Plan Team recommends the incorporation of the following items into the Socio-Economics module of the 2017 SAFE report

- Community Content
- Fishery Participant Descriptions/and or Demographics
- Costs of Fishing
- Economic Performance Metrics
- 2016 publication list

American Samoa Large Vessel Pelagic Area Recommendation

4. The Pelagic Plan Team should investigate commercial versus non-commercial catch in the American Samoa small boat fishery and seek further review and clarification from WPacFIN and DMWR.

Action Items

Hawaii

1. Explain in Section 2.4.1, that the longline data include California and Hawaii landings but the revenue information pertains only to Hawaii landings.

2. If Oceanic White Tip sharks are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) then catches reported on longline logsheets should be included in the SAFE report.
3. Make the 2017 SAFE report figures for Hawaii in color.
4. Make the definition of Hawaii longline fishery as used in this report clear to the reader (in section 2.4.1).

Guam

None

CNMI

1. WPacFIN and CNMI fisheries should try to reduce the number of duplicate counts of “fishermen” in the commercial invoice summary reported in figure 4 of the Powerpoint presented by CNMI staff.
2. Mahimahi landings documented from the receipt books in 2016 should be checked, especially from January to April.

American Samoa

1. Delete Figure 2 (Fig 18) and keep Figure 3 (Figure 19). For Figures 15a and b, retain only the active permits in a single figure.
2. On Figure 20, remove the 2016 wahoo data point and provide explanation in a footnote that on one day an unrepresentative volume of wahoo were caught (Keith to add language).
3. The Table summarizing interviews and expansions should be put back in the fishery appendix.
4. Clarify in the Figure 25 caption that these data represent the creel survey only.
5. Figure 26 should be changed to a stacked bar figure and there needs to be some clarification about what this figure represents.

International

1. Include eastern Pacific Ocean yellowfin and bigeye tuna assessments in the SAFE report for the stock status table. Use the NMFS letters to determine which reference points were used for the status determinations.
2. International module will contain purse seine, longline, and pole-and-line catches for 2015 in the 2016 report. Add a footnote with a URL to direct readers to the location where the data will be found when it becomes available.

Recreational

1. The HMRFS data presentation should emphasize the relative magnitude of recreational fishing compared to commercial fishing in Hawaii.

Environment and Climate Variables

Protected Species

The Pelagic Plan Team notes that the following will be added to the protected species module:

The Guam pelagic fishery data based on the offshore creel survey show a gradual increase in annual estimated total landings for tuna PMUS from 2005-2016 (Figure 52). This increase is in large part attributed to an increase in troll vessels targeting skipjack tuna (Figure 55). The increase in troll fisheries targeting skipjack tuna are unlikely to result in increased potential for protected species interactions due to rapid retrieval of catch. Additionally, the estimated number of trolling boats (Figure 51) as well as the estimated number of trolling trips (Figure 62) and hours (Figure 63) over the last decade has been variable and has not exhibited an increasing trend. Therefore, available data on fishing effort and other operational characteristics do not indicate an increase in potential impacts to protected species from the Guam fishery.

Fishing activities and Facilities

Move 3.5.4 to Chapter 2 and expand beyond Guam to include other locations and facilities that have affected fisheries.

The Pelagics SAFE report will not adopt the dashboard approach.

Need to include data sources and calculations in international and recreational modules.

Rose Atoll No-take Regulations

PIRO has received no requests for non-commercial permits to fish within the Rose Atoll MNM. Further, inquiries in American Samoa showed that there was no indication that the 12 nm closure around Rose is limiting fishing. Thus there is no interest to fish within the monument boundaries.

The PPT will defer decisions on Rose Atoll until after the Administration reviews and makes any decisions on the monument provisions.

Socio Economics Module

Maintain the Socio-Economic module and incorporate economic information for the four fishery modules.