



Accomplishments of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

1976 Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) is established by Congress through the **Fishery Conservation and Management Act** with authority over fisheries seaward of state waters of the State of Hawai‘i, Territory of American Samoa, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the eight islands and atolls that comprise the Pacific Remote Islands Areas (PRIAs).

1977-1982 Works with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on preliminary management plans for billfish, precious coral, crustaceans and bottomfish and seamount groundfish.

1983 Establishes two Fishery Management Plans (FMPs):

Precious Corals FMP includes management unit species (MUS) and area and classifies known beds.

- **1988** – Amendment 1 adds all species of the genus *Corallium* and provisions for experimental fishing permits
- **1991** – Amendment 2 defines overfishing for established beds (when the total spawning biomass of all species combined has been reduced to 20% of its unfished condition).
- **1998** – Amendment 3 establishes a framework procedure to adjust fishery management measures.
- **2002** - Framework Measure 1 revises the definitions of “live coral” and “dead coral,” suspends the harvest of gold coral at Makapu‘u Bed, applies minimum size restrictions only to live precious corals, prohibits the harvest of black coral with a stem diameter of less than 1 inch or a height of less than 48 inches (with certain exceptions), prohibits the use of non-selective fishing gear to harvest precious corals, and applies the minimum size restrictions for pink coral to all permit areas.
- **2002** - Amendment 5 prohibits the harvest of precious coral MUS in the no-take marine protected areas (MPAs) established under the Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP in areas around Rose Atoll in American Samoa, Kingman Reef, Jarvis Island, Howland Island, and Baker Island. Similar provisions the NWHI (including Midway) west of 160°50' W longitude are disapproved because they would be inconsistent with or duplicate, certain provisions of Executive Orders 13178 and 13196 that established the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve.

- **2006** – Amendment 6 establishes new permitting and reporting requirements for vessel operators targeting precious corals around the CNMI and the PRIAs.
- **2008** –Amendment 7 designates Au‘au channel as an established bed and establishes quota for black coral and five-year moratorium on gold coral.
- **2012** – Begins specifying annual catch limits (ACLs) for precious coral and accountability measures to correct or mitigate any overages of catch limits.

Crustaceans FMP includes management measures for the NWHI: federal permit requirements; a minimum size limit for spiny lobsters; gear restrictions; a ban on the harvest of egg-bearing female spiny lobsters; the closure of waters within 20 nautical miles (nm) of Laysan Island, all NWHI waters shallower than 10 fathoms (fm) and all NWHI lagoons, to fishing for spiny lobsters; a mandatory logbook program; and a requirement to carry a fishery observer.

- **1983** - Amendment 1 and 2 adopts the State of Hawai‘i lobster fishing regulations for the federal waters around the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) and modifies the allowable trap opening dimensions with the intent of minimizing the risk of harm to the Hawaiian monk seal while allowing sufficient flexibility in trap design.
- **1985** - Amendment 3 revised the minimum spiny lobster size specifications for the NWHI management area to a limit on tail width (5.0 cm).
- **1986** - Amendment 4 applies existing NWHI closed areas to slipper lobsters.
- **1987** - Amendment 5 implements a minimum size for slipper lobster (5.6 cm tail width), required the release of egg-bearing female slipper lobsters, required escape vents in all lobster traps, and revised some of the permit application and reporting requirements. It also changed the name of the FMP from “Spiny Lobster Fisheries” to “Crustaceans Fisheries.”
- **1991** - Amendment 6 defines recruitment overfishing for lobster stocks in terms of reference points expressed in terms of the spawning potential ratio (SPR). The minimum SPR threshold, below which the stock would be considered recruitment overfished, is 20%.
- **1992** - Amendment 7 establishes a NWHI limited access program, adjustable fleet-wide annual harvest guideline, and a closed season (January through June), limited entry to 15 permits (and vessels), and maximum trap limit per vessel (1,100), and revisions to reporting requirements, and other provisions.
- **1994** - Amendment 8 eliminates the NWHI minimum landings requirements for permit renewal, allowed the catch per unit effort (CPUE) target that is used to set the harvest guideline to be changed through the framework process, and modified reporting requirements.
- **1996** – Amendment 9 establishes a risk-based quota system by which the annual harvest guideline would be set based on 13% harvest of the exploitable population based on a specified acceptable risk of overfishing. It sets this risk level at 10% and

specified that annual harvest guidelines be published by NMFS no later than February 28 of each year. Earlier in-season adjustment procedures were eliminated. In 1997, NMFS rule under Amendment 9 implements a vessel monitoring system (VMS) program for the NWHI crustacean fishery and allowed vessels with active VMS systems to remain on open lobster grounds until they are closed rather than requiring that they exit the area prior to this date. Establishes VMS for the NWHI lobster fishery that allows for fishing vessels to be in the NWHI prior to the fishery opening. Also allows for reporting of daily lobster catches to monitor quota.

- **1999** – Amendment 10 implements of the 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).
- **2002** - Amendment 11 prohibits the harvest of crustaceans MUS in the no-take MPAs established under the Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP in areas around Rose Atoll in American Samoa, Kingman Reef, Jarvis Island, Howland Island, and Baker Island. Similar provisions the NWHI (including Midway) west of 160°50' W longitude are disapproved because they would be inconsistent with or duplicate, certain provisions of Executive Orders 13178 and 13196 that established the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve.
- **2006** – Amendment 12 establishes new permitting and reporting requirements for vessel operators targeting crustaceans around the CNMI and the PRIAs.
- **2008** - Amendment 13 adds the deep-water shrimp genus *Heterocarpus* as a crustaceans MUS and required federal permits and reporting for deep-water shrimp fishing in federal waters of the Western Pacific Region (WPR). This amendment improves monitoring of deep-water shrimp fisheries and provides a mechanism for the implementation of additional management measures should they become necessary.
- **2012** - Begins specifying ACLs for crustaceans and accountability measures to correct or mitigate any overages of catch limits.

1984 Co-hosts the first of three international marine debris conferences in Honolulu.

1986 Establishes the **Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish FMP** that a) prohibits certain destructive fishing techniques, including explosives, poisons, bottom trawl nets, and bottom-set gillnets in the entire US exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around the US Pacific Islands, an area of approximately 1.5 million square miles comprising about half of the US EEZ; b) establishes a moratorium on the commercial harvest of seamount groundfish stocks at the Hancock Seamounts; and c) implements a permit system for fishing for bottomfish in the NWHI.

- **1987** - Amendment 1 establishes a system to allow implementation of limited access systems for bottomfish fisheries in EEZ waters around American Samoa and Guam within the framework measures of the FMP.

- **1988** - Amendment 2 divides the EEZ around the NWHI into the Ho‘omalau and Mau zones with limited access established for the Ho‘omalau Zone, non-transferable permits and landing requirements for permit renewal and for new entry into the fishery. Access to the Mau Zone was left unrestricted, except for vessels permitted to fish in the Ho‘omalau Zone. New entrants to both fisheries must complete a protected species workshop prior to receiving permits.
- **1991** - Amendment 3 defines recruitment overfishing as a condition in which the ratio of the spawning stock biomass per recruit at the current level of fishing to the spawning stock biomass per recruit that would occur in the absence of fishing is equal to or less than 20%.
- **1991** - Amendment 4 requires vessel owners or operators to notify NMFS at least 72 hours before leaving port if they fish in the “protected species study zone” that extends 50 nm around the NWHI to allow federal observers to be placed on board bottomfish vessels to record interactions with protected species if this action is deemed necessary.
- **1999** – Amendment 5 establishes the limited entry program for the Mau Zone in the NWHI, community development programs under which 20% of Mau Zone is referred to CDP and vessel replacement in the Mau Zone to a with maximum length of 60 feet.
- **1999** – Amendment 6 implements of the 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act to the MSA.
- **2004** - Amendment 7 prohibits the harvest of bottomfish and seamount groundfish MUS in the no-take MPAs established under the Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP.
- **2005** - Issues control date to notify persons who entered the bottomfish fishery in EEZ waters around the MHI that after June 2, 2005, that they would not necessarily be assured of continuing participation if a limited entry program were subsequently implemented for the fishery.
- **2006** – Amendment 8 establishes new permitting and reporting requirements for vessel operators targeting bottomfish species around CNMI and the PRIAs to improve understanding of the ecology of these species and the activities and harvests of the vessel operators that target them.
- **2006** - Amendment 9 prohibits vessels greater than 50 feet in length overall from targeting bottomfish MUS within 50 miles of Guam and requires these vessels to obtain federal permits and to submit federal logbooks effective. This amendment was intended to prevent localized depletion of nearshore bottomfish stocks by large vessels, as well as to improve available information on the large vessel fishery.
- **2007** – Asks the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to temporarily close the MHI bottomfish fishery for the seven species affected by overfishing (the Deep 7) to immediately address overfishing while a long-term management plan was being developed.

- **2008** - Amendment 10 prohibits commercial fishing for bottomfish from vessels greater than 40 feet in length in waters 0-10 miles around the Southern Islands of the CNMI and 0-10 miles around the Northern Island of Alamagan. Commercial bottomfishing vessels over 40 feet in length must carry active VMS units owned, installed and maintained by NMFS. Operators of all vessels commercially fishing for bottomfish in EEZ waters around CNMI must obtain federal permits and complete federal logbooks. This amendment was intended to prevent localized depletion of nearshore bottomfish stocks by medium and large sized vessels, as well as to improve available information on CNMI bottomfish fishing.
- (Amendments 11-13 became moot due to changing conditions.)
- **2008** - Amendment 14 addresses bottomfish overfishing in the Hawai'i Archipelago through a total allowable catch limit (TAC), federal non-commercial permits and reporting requirements, non-commercial bag limits and a closed season for fishing for MHI Deep 7 species; defines the MHI bottomfish fishing year as Sept. 1-Aug. 31; and requires permits and reporting.
- **2008** - Requests that NMFS issue a temporary rule closing the MHI Deep 7 bottomfish fishery because 2007-2008 fishing year's TAC had been reached.
- **2008** - Requests that NMFS issue a temporary rule to delay the reopening of the MHI Deep 7 bottomfish fishery to allow NMFS to update its stock assessment prior to Council action to recommend the fishery's 2008-2009 TAC.
- **2012** - Begins specifying ACLs for bottomfish. The catch limits and accountability measures support the long-term sustainability of fishery resources of the US Pacific Islands.

1987 Undertakes efforts to promote native fishing rights by establishing advisory committees to provide guidance to the Council.

Establishes the **Pelagic Fishery Management Plan** that sets the pelagic MUS as billfish, wahoo, mahimahi and oceanic sharks; prohibits drift gillnet fishing within the entire 1.5 million square miles of the US EEZ; and prohibits foreign longline fishing within certain areas from 12 to 150 miles offshore in the EEZ.

- **1991** - Amendment 1 defines recruitment overfishing for each pelagic MUS. Defined the optimum yield for PMUS.
- **1991** - Amendment 2 implements requirement for pelagic longline fishing and transshipment Federal permits and logbooks, and, if fishing within 50 nm of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, to have observers on board if directed by NMFS. Requires longline gear to be marked with the official number of the permitted vessel, and incorporates waters of the EEZ around CNMI into the area managed under the FMP.

- **1991** - Amendment 3 creates a 50 nm longline exclusion zone around the NWHI to protect endangered Hawaiian monk seals and created framework provisions for establishing a mandatory observer program to collect information on interactions between longline fishing and sea turtles. The zone additionally protected seabirds, sea turtles and juvenile swordfish.
- **1991** - Amendment 4 establishes a three-year moratorium on new entry into the Hawai‘i-based domestic longline fishery and a framework for mandatory VMS for domestic longline vessels fishing in the Western Pacific Region. The Council’s use of VMS was the first use on fishing vessels, which has now become adopted worldwide.
- **1992** - Amendment 5 creates longline exclusion zones around the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) ranging from 50 to 75 nm and 50 nm around Guam and its offshore banks. Seasonal reduction of the longline closure between October and January is prohibited within 25 nm of the windward shores of all MHI except O‘ahu, where it is prohibited within 50 nm from the shore.
- **1992** - Amendment 6, under Congressional authorization, designates all tuna species as fish under U.S. management authority and included tunas and related species as pelagic MUS under the FMP. It also applied the longline exclusion zones of 50 nm around Guam and the 25-75 nm zone around the MHI to foreign vessels
- **1994** - Amendment 7 replaces Amendment 4 moratorium with a limited entry program for Hawai‘i-based domestic longline fishery with transferable permits, a limit of 164 vessels and a maximum vessel size of 101 feet in length overall. It also establishes a framework procedure for use with implementation of certain new regulations.
- **1999** - Amendment 8 implements of the 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act to the MSA.
- (Amendment 9 would have established a trip limit for non-blue sharks and implemented a harvest limit of 50,000 fins for blue sharks.)
- **2002** - Framework Measure 1 prohibits fishing for pelagic species by vessels greater than 50 feet in length overall within EEZ waters 0-50 nm around the islands of American Samoa. An exception is made for vessels that landed pelagic MUS in American Samoa under a federal longline general permit prior to Nov. 13, 1997. This measure intends to prevent localized depletion of nearshore stocks by large fishing vessels, as well as gear interactions between large and small fishing vessels in nearshore waters.
- **2002** - Regulatory Amendment 1 incorporates the reasonable and prudent alternative of the NMFS March 2001 biological opinion (BiOp). To mitigate interactions with sea turtles, shallow set pelagic longlining was prohibited north of the equator by vessels managed under the FMP and in waters between 0° and 15° N from April through May of each year; sea turtle handling requirements were instituted for all vessels using hooks to target pelagic species in the region’s EEZ waters; and the protected species workshop requirement was extended to include the operators of vessels registered to longline general permits.

- **2002** -Framework Measure 2 incorporates the terms and conditions developed by the Council and included in a Nov. 28, 2000, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) BiOp that requires Hawai‘i-based pelagic longline vessel operators to use blue-dyed bait, strategic offal discards and line shooters with weighted branch lines to mitigate seabird interactions when fishing north of 23° N and all Hawai‘i-based longline vessel owners and operators to annually attend a NMFS protected species workshop.
- **2002** - Amendment 10 prohibits the harvest of pelagic MUS in the no-take MPAs established under the Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP in areas around Rose Atoll in American Samoa, Kingman Reef, Jarvis Island, Howland Island, and Baker Island. NMFS disapproved similar provisions in the Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP portion that governs fishing in the NWHI (including Midway) west of 160°50' W longitude because it would be inconsistent with or duplicate certain provisions of EO 13178 and 13196 that established the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve.
- **2002** - Regulatory Amendment 2 establishes federal permit and reporting requirements for any vessel using troll or handline gear to catch pelagic MUS in EEZ waters around the PRIAs of Kingman Reef, Howland, Baker, Jarvis, Johnston and Wake Islands, and Palmyra and Midway Atolls. The intent of this amendment was to increase available information regarding these fisheries.
- **2005** – Requests NMFS to issue control dates to notify persons who entered any non-longline commercial pelagic fishery in EEZ waters around the Hawai‘i archipelago and who entered pelagic and purse seine fisheries in U.S. EEZ waters of the WPR. After that date, fishermen may not be assured of continuing participation if a limited entry program were subsequently implemented for their fishery.
- **2005** - Amendment 11 establishes a limited access system for pelagic longlining in EEZ waters around American Samoa. Initial entry criteria were based on historical participation in the fishery and limited vessel upgrades were allowed. Longline vessel operators are required to obtain federal permits, to complete federal logbooks, to carry and use vessel monitoring systems installed, owned and operated by NFMS on vessels greater than 40 feet in length, to carry federal observers if requested by NMFS, and to follow sea turtle handling and resuscitation requirements. The objectives of this amendment are to stabilize the fishery and to allow the opportunity for substantial fishery participation by residents of American Samoa.
- **2005** - Regulatory Amendment 4 includes a range of measures to minimize interactions with turtles by non-Hawai‘i based domestic longline vessels operating in the WPR under general longline permits. Vessels with longline general permits making shallow sets north of the equator are required to use 18/0 circle hooks with mackerel-type bait and dehookers to release any accidentally caught turtles. Both operators and owners of vessels with general longline permits are required to annually attend protected species training workshops. Operators of vessels with general longline permits are required to carry and use specific mitigation gear to aid in the release of sea turtles accidentally hooked or entangled by longlines, including dip nets, long-handled line clippers and bolt cutters (with allowances for boats with < 3

feet of freeboard). Operators of non-longline pelagic vessels (e.g. trollers and handliners) are required to follow handling guidelines and remove trailing gear wherever they fish.

- **2007** – Council requests that NMFS set a control date to notify persons who entered the Hawai‘i-based pelagic charter fishery after that date that they would not necessarily be assured of continuing participation if a limited entry program was subsequently implemented for their fishery. The control date is issued in response to concerns regarding significant expansion of the charter vessel fleet and its potential to impact billfishes and other pelagic species.
- **2007** - Amendment 14, partially approved, develops in response to NMFS notifications that Pacific-wide bigeye and Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) yellowfin tuna are subject to overfishing. It 14 implements control dates for Hawai‘i’s non-longline commercial pelagic vessels and purse seine and longline vessels, as well as requirements for federal permits and reporting for Hawai‘i-based non-longline commercial pelagic vessels. NMFS disapproves the Amendment’s international measures as premature given ongoing international negotiations as well as the development of a memorandum of understanding by the Councils and the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State, regarding participation in U.S. delegations and other issues. NMFS disapproves Amendment 14’s domestic permit and reporting requirements as duplicative of existing requirements imposed by the State of Hawai‘i and stated that it is working with the State to improve their data collection and processing system. NMFS also noted that Amendment 14 met the requirements of the MSA regarding overfishing of fisheries that have been determined to be subject to overfishing due to excessive international fishing pressure. NMFS changes WCPO yellowfin tuna to not overfishing in the third quarter of 2007.
- **2007** - Regulatory Amendment 7 provides pelagic fishery participants the option of using NMFS approved electronic logbooks in lieu of paper logbooks. This measure improves the efficiency and accuracy of catch reporting.
- **2008** – Requests that NMFS issue a second control date to notify persons who entered the Hawai‘i-based pelagic charter fishery after that date that they would not necessarily be assured of continuing participation if a limited entry program was subsequently implemented for their fishery. The control date is issued in response to concerns regarding significant expansion of the charter vessel fleet and its potential to impact billfishes and other pelagic species. This control date supersedes the March 16, 2007, control date.
- **2008** – Requests that NMFS issue a control date to notify persons who entered the CNMI longline fishery after that date that they would not necessarily be assured of continuing participation if a limited entry program was subsequently implemented for their fishery. The control date is issued in response to concerns regarding the potentially uncontrolled expansion of the CNMI-based pelagic longline fishery and

the potential interactions with, and impacts on, small-boat pelagic fisheries and localized depletion of pelagic fish stocks.

- **2008** - Amendment 15 adds pelagic squid species *Ommastrephes bartramii*, *Thysanoteuthis rhombus*, and *Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis* as pelagic MUS and requires owners of U.S. vessels greater than 50 feet in length overall that fish for pelagic squid in U.S. EEZ of the WPR to obtain federal permits, carry federal observers and report any Pacific pelagic squid catch and effort either in Federal logbooks or via existing local reporting systems.
- **2009** – Amendment 18 removes 2,120 set limits and implemented new sea turtle hard caps.
- (Amendment 16 did not move forward. It was comprehensive amendment to all FMPs to establish framework processes.)
- **2011**- Amendment 17 partially approved to implement Mariana 30-mile longline and total EEZ purse seine closures was partially approved

1992 Facilitates the establishment by Congress of the Pelagic Fisheries Research Program at the University of Hawai‘i to support fisheries research in the WPR.

1993 Engages in UN Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

Closes NWHI lobster fishery to implement new management regime.

Convenes in Honolulu the Workshop to Consider Management of Blue Marlin in the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council Area.

1996 Reauthorized MSA recognizes indigenous fishing rights for native peoples and the unique historical, cultural, legal, political, and geographical circumstances of the Pacific Insular Areas and the critical importance of fisheries resources for their economic growth. It includes a Community Development Program (CDP), Community Demonstration Project Program (CDPP) and Pacific Islands Area Fishing Agreements (PIAFAs).

1997 Initiates program to reduce albatross interactions with longline fisheries and supports project on Hawai‘i longline vessels to test mitigation techniques.

1998 Convenes Pacific Islands Gamefish Tournament Symposium.

Convenes the first international black-footed albatross population dynamics workshop in Honolulu.

Hosts the Pacific Islands Gamefish Tournament Symposium in Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i.

1999 Convenes Recreational Fishing Data Task Force to work with State of Hawai‘i to re-implement the NMFS Recreational Fisheries data survey, which is later re-established in 2002.

Hosts the Fourth Session of the Multilateral High-Level Conference for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Central and Western Pacific Ocean (MHLC) in February in Honolulu. This is the first of four sessions the Council will hosted leading to the Honolulu Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Species in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Hosts the Fifth MHLC Session in September in Honolulu which is the second of four sessions to be hosted by the Council.

2000 Co-hosts the second of three international marine debris conferences in Honolulu.

Hosts the Sixth MHLC Session in Honolulu which is the third of four sessions held by the Council.

Hosts the Seventh and Final MHLC Session August/September in Honolulu at which time the convention became open for signature.

Adopts international turtle research and mitigation resolution.

Closes the NWHI lobster fishery as a precautionary measure to prevent overfishing. The closure continued through 2002 with a 2003 announcement that no harvest guideline would be published.

2001 Establishes the **Coral Reef Ecosystems FMP**, the first ecosystem plan for U.S. fisheries, which prohibits destructive and non-selective gears, establishes no-take and low-take MPAs and protects NWHI, Marianas, American Samoa and the PRIA marine resources protected, ensuring near pristine predator-dominated ecosystems prior to establishment of marine monuments.

2002 Convenes first Pacific International workshop on Sea Turtle Conservation in Honolulu.

Convenes the Second International Fishers Forum in Honolulu to transfer best practices for reducing seabird and sea turtle bycatch.

Awards four Community Demonstration Projects to the Guam Fishermen’s Cooperative Longline Feasibility Project, He‘eia Kea Fishpond Restoration Project, CNMI Remote Fishing Station Project, and Hawai‘i Aku Boat Training Project.

2003 Establishes the Sea Turtle Advisory Committee to guide Council activities related to sea turtle conservation and related fishery management initiatives. Sea turtle conservation projects funded included the following:

- Nesting beach and foraging ground conservation projects implemented since 2003 in Melanesia, Indonesia, Japan and Mexico for loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles.
- Instrumental in circle hook exchange program in South American artisanal longline fisheries.
- Turtle tagging database for Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia developed and maintained through WPRFMC partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

2004 The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Convention, which resulted from the series of MHLC sessions, enters into force in June.

Convenes Second Pacific International workshop on Sea Turtle Conservation in Honolulu.

Co-hosts the third of three international marine debris conferences in Honolulu.

Awards five Community Demonstration Projects to Ewa Beach Limu Project (EBLP), American Samoa Cold Storage Installation Project, Saipan Traditional Fishing Education Project, Niche Marketing to Reduce American Samoa Longline bycatch, and Saipan Fishermen's Cooperative.

2005 Establishes the Marine Mammal Advisory Committee to recommend measures to minimize interactions between marine mammals and pelagic longline fisheries. Various research recommendations are generated prior to NMFS establishing the False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team required under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Hosts Fisheries Legislation and Community-Based Fisheries Management Workshop in Honolulu with support from FAO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

Convenes first of a series of ecosystem based management (EBFM) workshops in Honolulu on data and modeling needs for EBFM in the Western Pacific Region. First workshop focused on bio-physical needs.

Convenes Third Pacific International workshop on Sea Turtle Conservation in Honolulu.

Convenes the Third International Fishers Forum in Japan to transfer best practices for seabird and sea turtle bycatch, sustainable tuna and shark fisheries, cetacean depredation, and illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries.

Awards five Community Demonstration Projects including Traditional Fishing Practices for Chamorros and Carolinians, Wai'anae Aku Boat Project, He'eia Fishpond Revitalization Project, and Small Scale Longline Fishery Development for the Manu 'a Islands.

2006 Convenes first workshop on South Pacific albacore longline fisheries in Honolulu.

Instrumental in establishing the Honolulu Derelict Net Recycling Program.

Initiates the Puwalu series that brought together traditional lawai‘a (fishermen) and mahiai (farmers) from across the State to share their knowledge of traditional fishing and farming practices and management. The first Puwalu Ekahi: Lae‘ula (Experts) of five Puwalu was held in August 2006. The five Puwalu series resulted in the renaissance of traditional resource management being applied in today’s context.

Hosts the second of five Puwalu ‘Elua: Ke Kumu Ike Hawai‘i (Educators) in November in Honolulu.

Hosts the third of five Puwalu ‘Eku: Lawena Aupuni (Policymakers) in December in Honolulu.

Convenes second of a series of ecosystem based management (EBFM) workshops in Honolulu on data and modeling needs for EBFM in the Western Pacific Region. Second workshop focused on social science needs.

2007 Hosts the fourth of five Puwalu ‘Eha: Kukulu Ka Upena (Building the Structure) in April in Honolulu.

Hosts the fifth of five Puwalu ‘Elima: E Ho‘oni I Na Kai ‘Ewalu! E Ho‘ale Ka Lepo Popolo (Stir up the Eight Seas! Rise up the Makaanana!) in October/November in Honolulu.

Approves Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs), transitioning from species-based to place-based conservation. Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committees formed for each archipelago to increase participation by communities and agencies not typically involved in fisheries management (e.g., county governments, non-government organizations, businesses, universities and colleges, and the Offices of Samoan, Hawaiian, Chamorro and Carolinian Affairs).

Convenes traditional cultural practitioners from throughout Hawai‘i to discuss the establishment of cultural community consultation process with educators and policymakers.

Convenes International Pacific Marine Educators conference in Honolulu which launches the International Pacific Marine Educators Network (IPMEN).

Hawai‘i longline fishery evaluated against the UN FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and determined to be 94% compliant.

Convenes third of a series of ecosystem based management (EBFM) workshops in Honolulu on data and modeling needs for EBFM in the Western Pacific Region. Third workshop on policy needs.

Convenes the Fourth International Fishers Forum in Costa Rica to transfer best practices for seabird, sea turtle, cetacean and shark bycatch mitigation.

2008 Council-led IPMEN holds successful conference in Townsville, Australia.

Coordinates and hosts the first national workshop of all the Scientific and Statistical Committees in Honolulu. The workshop focused on the review of MSA requirements regarding SSCs, and using stock assessments and a peer review process in SSC determination of fishing level recommendations.

2009 Amends species-based **FMPs** to restructure as four **Archipelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEP)** for Hawai‘i, Marianas, American Samoa and the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA), and one Pacific Pelagic FEP, shifting WPRFMC’s management focus to an ecosystem-based conservation approach.

Convenes technical workshop on mitigating sea turtle bycatch in coastal net fisheries in Honolulu.

Hosts a data workshop in Honolulu aimed to determine whether the data collection systems implemented in all jurisdictions are sufficient to address the requirements of catch limit based management.

2010 Omnibus Amendment 1 to American Samoa, Hawai‘i, Mariana and Pelagic FEPs establishes eligibility requirements and procedures for reviewing and approving community development plans. The intent is to promote participation of island communities in fisheries that they traditionally depend on, but may not have the capabilities to support continued and substantial participation

2011 Omnibus Amendment (Pelagic FEP Amendment 4, American Samoa FEP Amendment 2, Hawai‘i FEP Amendment 3, Mariana FEP Amendment 3, PRIA FEP Amendment 1) establishes a WPR process for specifying ACLs and accountability measures; adopts the ecosystem component species classification for subsequent FEP amendment; and identifies MUS with statutory exceptions to the ACL and AM requirements.

Amendment 2 to the Pelagic FEP Disapproved. Would have established a 75-nm purse-seine closure around American Samoa to prevent localized stock depletion and reduce catch competition and gear conflicts between US purse-seine vessels and American Samoa-based local longline and trolling fleets. NMFS stated that it disapproved the amendment because it was inconsistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act’s National Standard 2.

Amendment 3 to the Pelagic FEP prohibits pelagic longline fishing within approximately 30 nm of the islands of the CNMI. By establishing a longline fishing prohibited area around the CNMI, the Council aimed to reduce the potential for nearshore localized fish depletion from longline fishing, and to limit catch competition and gear conflicts between the CNMI-based longline and trolling fleets.

Amendment 5 to the Pelagic FEP establishes sea turtle mitigation measures for the American Samoa longline fishery including minimum float line and branch line lengths, number of hooks between floats, and distance between floats and adjacent hooks. The rule also limits the number of swordfish taken. The action is intended to ensure that longline hooks fish deeper than 100 meters (m) to reduce interactions with Pacific green sea turtles.

2010 Council-led IPMEN holds successful conference in Fiji.

Convenes the Fifth International Fishers Forum in Taipei to facilitate information exchange on marine spatial planning and bycatch mitigation.

2011 Implements sea turtle mitigation measure (minimum set depth at 100m) in the American Samoa longline fishery under the Pelagic FEP to minimize interactions with green turtles.

Publishes book on ecosystem-based fishery management in the Western Pacific.

Meets MSA deadline by amending **FEPs** to establish the acceptable biological catch (ABC) control rules and ACL and accountability measure specification process.

Convenes an ACL Workshop in Honolulu for the data limited coral reef fisheries.

2012 Specifies ACLs for 109 management unit species/species groups/stock complexes meeting the 2006 MSA ACL deadline requirement.

Implements ACL for the Main Hawaiian Islands “Deep-7” bottomfish fishery that considers management uncertainty and socioeconomic considerations.

Hosts the First Stewards Conference for coastal peoples to address climate change at the National Museum of American Indian, Washington DC.

Approves first CDP submitted to region under the CDP regulations.

2013 Amendment 6 to the Pelagic FEP, Amendment 3 to the American Samoa and Mariana FEP and Amendment 2 to the PRIA FEP establishes non-commercial fishing within the Pacific Remote Islands, Rose Atoll and Marianas Trench Marine National Monuments.

Leads the creation of the joint Endangered Species Act (ESA) Working Group of the Council Coordination Committee, Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to improve transparency of ESA Section 7 consultations for fishery management actions which led to the national policy on ESA consultations.

Establishes the Fisheries Data Collection and Research Committee and assembled a technical committee to improve fishery data collection and coordinate fishery research and monitoring for the Western Pacific region.

2014 Provides scientific and socio-economic information that supported efforts to keep 287,000 square miles around the US Pacific Remote Islands open to US commercial fishermen after President Obama announced plans to expand the Pacific Remote Island Marine National Monument.

Establishes a Regional Operating Agreement between the Council, Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center (PIFSC) to document the roles and responsibilities of the Council and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in developing, approving and implementing fishery management actions under the MSA.

Amendment 7 to the Pelagic FEP establishes the process to specify the catch and effort limits and accountability measures for pelagic fisheries in American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands and authorize each of those governments to allocate a portion of its specified catch or effort limit to U.S. fishing vessels through a specified fishing agreement. Specifies a catch limit of 2,000 metric tons (mt) of longline-caught bigeye tuna for each of the U.S. Pacific Island territories, and authorized each territory to allocate up to 1,000 mt of that limit to eligible U.S. longline fishing vessels.

Establishes and convenes the Fishing Industry Advisory Committee as required by the MSA to address local, regional and national issues impacting the commercial fishing industry in the Pacific Island region.

Initiates the process to review the Council's FEPs by contracting services to independently review their structure and content of the FEPs and engage the Council family and broader community in reviewing the FEPs in each archipelago area.

Convenes workshop with world-renown coral expert to submit best available science for consideration to final decision to list reef building corals under the ESA, which led to a smaller number of corals being listed.

Convenes international workshop on Disproportionate Burden of WCPFC Conservation and Management Measures in Honolulu.

Assists Cook Islands Ministry of Fisheries establish a satellite office in Pago Pago, AS.

Develops a data poor approach to support estimation of MSY for the data-limited coral reef fish using the Biomass Augmented Catch-MSY approach (Sabater and Kleiber 2014). This CIE reviewed method used for specifying ACLs for the coral reef fisheries, non-deep 7 bottomfish in Hawai'i, and spiny lobsters for fishing year 2015-2018.

Finalizes and publicly vets Malesso, Guam, Community-based Resource Management Plan.

2015 Coordinates two international workshops focused on purse seine bigeye management in the WCPO. The workshops held in April 2015 (Honolulu) and August 2015 (Majuro),

with industry and government participants from Asia, Pacific Islands, European Union, United States, and Latin American.

Convenes a meeting for a briefing on the Vessel Day Scheme from Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA).

Convenes informational workshop on catch shares for Hawai'i longline industry.

Coordinates and hosts the fifth national workshop of all the Scientific and Statistical Committees in Honolulu. The workshop focused on the evaluation of the catch process and uncertainty characterization, National Standard 2 implementation, incorporation of climate change and habitat information in the fishery management process.

Updates the WPSAR policy and protocol to incorporate fishermen's knowledge and better address the development and production of stock assessments in the WPR.

Develops a multi-year human dimensions (socioeconomic) plan.

- Revitalizes the Council's Social Science Planning Committee (SSPC).
- Develops a suite of social, economic, and cultural data elements to be monitored via the Council's annual fishery ecosystem annual reports (and created a process whereby the SSPC reviews the draft reports)
- Revises the five FEPs to include explicit mention of human dimensions considerations.

Launches Council Internship Program – Fishery Internship and Student Help (FISH) – to provide opportunities to college underclassmen to intern at the Council to learn more about fishery management while gaining experience in a real-world setting working on a project with staff mentors.

Initiates the WPSAR Tier 3 review of the 2015 Territorial Bottomfish Stock Assessment Updates. The 3-man-panel review was held at the Council Office in August 2015.

Amends Pelagic FEP to allow access of longline vessels to within 12 nm of the American Samoa Archipelago to improve fishery performance.

Publishes Council's approach to estimating MSY for data poor stocks in a CRC Press book on the interrelationships between corals and coral reef fisheries.

Expands contents of Pelagic and Archipelagic Annual Reports (SAFE Reports) to include protected species information, social and cultural data, marine planning, habitat, and climate change indicators.

Establishes the Pacific Island Fisheries Research Program that aims to enhance research opportunities to address the Council's 5 year research priorities as required by MSA.

2016 Amendment 8 to the Pelagic FEP allows large federally permitted U.S. longline vessels greater than 50 feet to fish in waters between 12 and 50 nm from shore of the Large Vessel Prohibited Area (LVPA) around American Samoa.

Amendment 4 to the Mariana FEP removes the CNMI medium and large vessel bottomfish protected areas.

Amendment 4 to the Hawai‘i Archipelago FEP refines descriptions of EFH and HAPC for bottomfish and seamount groundfish MUS.

Requests that NMFS specify an ACL of 326,000 lb for Deep 7 bottomfish in the MHI for the 2015–16 fishing year. As an accountability measure, if the ACL is projected to be reached, NMFS would close the commercial and non-commercial fisheries for MHI Deep 7 bottomfish for the remainder of the fishing year.

Establishes a process to evaluate when to trigger revisiting the risk of overfishing level used to set annual catch limits and initial action on options to modify or retains the existing control rules.

Expands contents of Pelagic and Archipelagic Annual Reports (SAFE Reports) to include chapter that analyzes fishery performance against environmental indicators.

Begins process to amend the Pelagic and Hawai‘i FEPs to include fishing regulations for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument expansion area.

Implements four fishery data collection improvement projects in Guam and the CNMI, including improved creel surveys to collect better spearfishing data, estimation of catch and effort at the Guam Naval base, estimation of seasonal fishery production and improved commercial dealer reporting.

Convenes Rare Events Bycatch Workshop aimed at teasing out expected variability and actual changes for species with less than a handful to no interactions observed annually.

Collaborates with the University of Guam, local fishermen and students to fund a project teaching students about the traditional manahak fishery.

Provides funding for a fisheries development projects including a fishing platform in Hagatna Guam, longline vessel dock extension in American Samoa, etc.

Partners in a study on the feasibility of a non-commercial fishing registry, permit or license system for Hawai‘i.

Assists villages in Guam, CNMI and American Samoa with development and support of their community-based fishery management plans.

Participates in the IUCN World Conservation Congress as a member, educating participants about sustainable fisheries at an exhibit booth and by helping with an excursion at the Honolulu fish auction.

Hosts the Ke Holomua 'Ana Ka 'Aha Moku Puwalu (Moving the 'Aha Moku Forward Conference) to strengthen Native Hawaiian participation in the fishery management process.

Continues for the 10th year to run, in partnership with local organizations and educational institutions, high school summer courses on marine resources and management and student art contests and to produce traditional lunar calendars for fishermen and classrooms in American Samoa, Guam, CNMI and Hawai'i.

Completes the third year of the US Pacific Territories Capacity-Building Scholarship Program developed by the Council's Education Committee, which provides internships at the Council to learn about federal fisheries management, marine science related degrees from Universities in Hawai'i and Guam, and two years of local employment in fisheries management to college students from American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI.

Transitions production of the *Pacific Islands Fishery News*, the Council's quarterly newsletter that began in 1984, into an e-newsletter

Adds four volumes to its *Pacific Islands Fishery Monographs* series (volumes 5–8 on fishing fleets and fisheries, fisheries development, the Council's indigenous program, and coral reef fisheries management and research).

Continues the successful Fishermen Code of Conduct campaign with requested translations in eight languages and signage at harbors, lifeguard stations, hotels and churches throughout the region.

2017 Begins process to amend the FEPs to designate some management unit species as ecosystem components in order to streamline the annual catch limit specification process.

Hosts the Hawai'i Fish Flow Workshop, in partnership with the NMFS, to improve understanding of local and imported seafood in Hawai'i.

Completes a cooperative research study that uses fishery independent aerial surveys to estimate the abundance of akule (bigeye scad) around the island of O'ahu.

Joins the celebration of the United Nations inaugural World Tuna Day with production of a commemorative poster and a resolution that highlights the importance of tuna to the region and the Council's contributions to its management.

Continues a variety of outreach efforts, including the sponsorship of weekly radio fish talk shows, fishing derbies and fishing and seafood festivals as well as the hosting of Fishers Forums three times each year.