

1.1 MARINE PLANNING

1.1.1 INTRODUCTION

Marine planning is a science-based management tool being utilized regionally, nationally and globally to identify and address issues of multiple human uses, ecosystem health and cumulative impacts in the coastal and ocean environment. The Council's efforts to formalize incorporation of marine planning in its actions began in response to Executive Order 13547, Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes. Executive Order 13158, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), proposes that agencies strengthen the management, protection, and conservation of existing MPAs, develop a national system of MPAs representing diverse ecosystems, and avoid causing harm to MPAs through federal activities. MPAs, or marine managed areas (MMAs) are one tool used in fisheries management and marine planning.

At its 165th meeting in March 2016, in Honolulu, Hawai'i, the Council approved the following objective for the FEPs: Consider the Implications of Spatial Management Arrangements in Council Decision-making. The following sub-objectives apply:

- a. Identify and prioritize research that examines the positive and negative consequences of areas that restrict or prohibit fishing to fisheries, fishery ecosystems, and fishermen, such as the Bottomfish Fishing Restricted Areas, military installations, NWHI restrictions, and Marine Life Conservation Districts.
- b. Establish effective spatially-based fishing zones.
- c. Consider modifying or removing spatial-based fishing restrictions that are no longer necessary or effective in meeting their management objectives.
- d. As needed, periodically evaluate the management effectiveness of existing spatial-based fishing zones in Federal waters.

In order to monitor implementation of this objective, this annual report includes the Council's spatially-based fishing restrictions or MMAs, the goals associated with those, and the most recent evaluation. Council research needs are identified and prioritized through the 5 Year Research Priorities and other processes, and are not tracked in this report.

To meet the EFH and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) mandates, this annual report tracks activities that occur in the ocean that are of interest to the Council and incidents or facilities that may contribute to cumulative impact. While the Council is not responsible for NEPA compliance, monitoring the environmental effects of ocean activities for the FEP's EFH cumulative impacts section is duplicative of the agency's NEPA requirement, and therefore, this report can provide material or suggest resources to meet both mandates.

1.1.2 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no standing Council recommendations indicating review deadlines for Pelagic MMAs.

At its 147th meeting in March 2010, the Council recommended a no-take area from 0-12 nautical miles around Rose Atoll with the Council to review the no-take regulations after three years.

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 has been limiting fishing. Thus there is no interest to fish within the monument boundaries. The Pelagics Plan Team deferred decision on Rose Atoll in 2017 until after the Administration reviews to make any decision on the monument provisions.

At its 162nd meeting in March 2015, the Council recommended a regulatory amendment for the temporary exemption to the Large Vessel Protected Area (LVPA) by American Samoa longline limited entry permitted vessels greater than 50 feet in length. The Council has examined the LVPA exemption with regards to, but not limited to: catch rates of fishery participants; small vessel participation; and fisheries development initiatives. The LVPA regulations have been vacated through legal action, and Council action following the court's ruling is described at further length below.

At its 173rd meeting in June 2018, regarding the LVPA applicable to the American Samoa limited entry vessels, the Council:

- Recognized the LVPA rule has led to disagreement within the American Samoa fishing community and was the subject of litigation. The Council noted that last year's court decision requires the consideration and protection of American Samoa cultural fishing. To this end, the Council requested PIFSC conduct research on American Samoa cultural fishing practices to facilitate understanding and potential impacts of opening some restricted fishing areas within the US EEZ for American Samoa vessels that primarily target albacore. PIFSC presented the results of this research at the Council's 172nd meeting in March 2018, which indicate that all fishing in American Samoa has cultural importance, whether commercial longline, commercial alia vessels, troll or other fishing sectors, because catch from all locally-based fishing sectors flows into the American Samoa community for cultural purposes.
- Did not receive a response from the American Samoa government to its request for an option that would address its concern over the proposed action. The Council received one response from the American Samoa government in October 2017 that Council member Henry Sesepasara is the point of contact on cultural fishing, but did not receive responses to the Council's requests to consult with the American Samoa government on cultural fishing on July 6 and November 17, 2017.
- Recommended a regulatory amendment to provide a four-year exemption for vessels permitted under the American Samoa longline limited entry program to fish within the LVPA seaward of: 12 nmi around Tutuila, 12 nmi around Manua, 12 nmi around Swains, and 2 nmi around the offshore banks.
- Recommended annual monitoring of the American Samoa longline and troll catch rates, small vessel participation, and local fisheries development.

NMFS has appealed a federal district court's 2018 decision that invalidated the 2016 LVPA reduction to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Oral arguments are scheduled to be heard in early 2020 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

At its 176th meeting in March 2019, the Council directed staff and the spatial working group (SWG) to develop a white paper describing the following recommendations to be set as guidelines for any existing or proposed spatial management activity:

- Prior to developing spatial management areas, objectives and performance metrics must be explicitly specified to evaluate the effectiveness of spatial management. Performance metrics must concurrently address conservation objectives (e.g. increase in abundance or decrease in bycatch), economic objectives (e.g. net economic benefit, price per pound, quality of product), social objectives (e.g. crew safety, equitable access, food security, cultural value, transfer of local/cultural knowledge).
- Monitoring of performance metrics is needed with regularity to gauge efficacy of existing closures and suitability for future spatial fishing closures or modifying existing closures. Monitoring needs to account for changes in performance metrics before and after management action, such as counterfactual analyses.
- Modifying fishing gear or methods are likely to be more effective to minimize protected species bycatch rather than permanent closed areas.
- Maintain flexibility in regulations so that industry can find voluntary means to reduce bycatch interactions and have input in the development of mitigation measures.
- Research should evaluate whether existing closures meet stated objectives and performance metrics.
- Prior to implementing any closure or other spatial management action of any kind, compliance monitoring and enforcement should be planned and tenable.

At its 178th meeting in June 2019, the Council endorsed a workshop developed by the SSC Spatial Working Group on “Spatial Management of Blue Water Ecosystems” with the themes spatial management objectives and performance metrics, alternatives to spatial management, evaluation and monitoring, and policy and outreach approaches to spatial management, and directed Council staff to explore sources of funding and venues for a this workshop.

International negotiations are underway to incorporate area-based management tools in blue water ecosystems (including closing areas to fishing) to improve the governance of natural resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction. At present, science-based guidelines to plan, evaluate, identify unintended consequences, and monitor area-based management implementation discussed in these negotiations are lacking. Such guidelines and decision-making tools are imperative for regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (RFMO/As) to evaluate and weigh objectives, identify performance metrics, and develop plans to address consequences of spatial management. In order to elucidate appropriate employment of area-based management measures in blue water ecosystems, a publishable paper: “Road Map to Effective Area-Based Management in Blue Water Ecosystems”, is to be developed by a team of experts, followed by a workshop of global leaders on the subject matter in mid-2020.

1.1.3 MARINE MANAGED AREAS

Council-established MMAs are shown in Figure 182, and are compiled in Table 83.

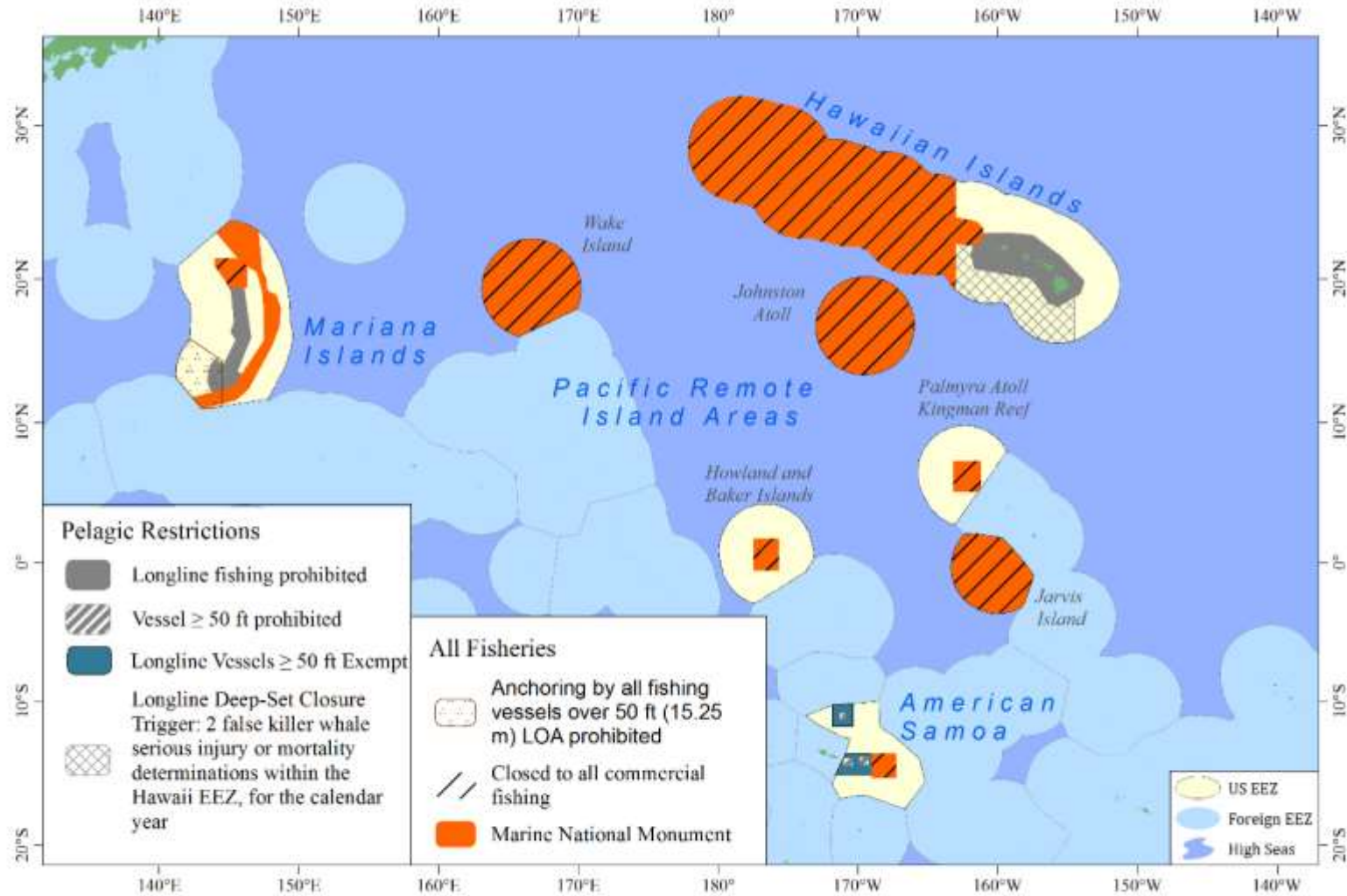


Figure 1. Regulated Fishing Areas of the Western Pacific Region

Table 1. MMAs established under FEPs from [50 CFR § 665](#)

Name	FEP	Island(s)	50 CFR /FR /Amendment Reference	Marine Area (km ²)	Fishing Restriction	Goals	Most Recent Evaluation	Review Deadline
Pelagic Restrictions								
NWHI Longline Protected Species Zone	Pelagic (Hawai'i)	NWHI	665.806(a)(1) 56 FR 52214 76 FR 37287 Pelagic FMP Am. 3	351,514.00	Longline fishing prohibited	Prevent longline interaction with monk seals.	1991	-
MHI Longline Prohibited Area	Pelagic (Hawai'i)	MHI	665.806(a)(2) 57 FR 7661 77 FR 71286 Pelagic FMP Am. 5	248,682.38	Longline fishing prohibited	Prevent gear conflicts between longline vessels and troll/handline vessels.	1992	-
Guam Longline Prohibited Area	Pelagic (Marianas)	Guam	665.806(a)(3) 57 FR 7661 Pelagic FMP Am. 5	50,192.88	Longline fishing prohibited	Prevent gear conflicts between longline vessels and troll/handline vessels.	1992	-
CNMI Longline Prohibited Area	Pelagic (Marianas)	Mariana Archipelago	665.806(a)(4) 76 FR 37287 Pelagic FEP Am. 3	88,112.68	Longline fishing prohibited	Reduce 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.	2011	-

Name	FEP	Island(s)	50 CFR /FR /Amendment Reference	Marine Area (km ²)	Fishing Restriction	Goals	Most Recent Evaluation	Review Deadline
Large Vessel Prohibited Area	Pelagic (American Samoa)	Tutuila, Manu'a, and Rose Atoll	665.806 (b)(1) 81 FR 5619	74,857.32	Vessels ≥ 50 ft. prohibited	Prevent gear conflict with smaller alia vessels; longline vessels >50 ft. exempted from 12 to 50 nm to improve the viability of the American Samoa longline fishery and achieve optimum yield from the fishery while preventing overfishing.	Jan 29, 2016	-
Large Vessel Prohibited Area	Pelagic (American Samoa)	Swains Island	665.806 (b)(2) 81 FR 5619 Pelagic FEP	28,352.17	Vessels ≥ 50 ft. prohibited	Prevent gear conflict with smaller alia vessels; longline vessels over 50 ft. exempted between 12 and 50 nm due to improve the viability of the American Samoa longline fishery and achieve optimum yield from the fishery while preventing overfishing.	Jan 29, 2016	-
Other Restrictions								
Howland Island No-Take Marine Protected Area (MPA)/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Howland Island	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) 69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (FMP) 78 FR 32996 PRIA FEP Am. 2	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; commercial fishing prohibited within 12 nautical miles (nmi).	2013	-

Name	FEP	Island(s)	50 CFR /FR /Amendment Reference	Marine Area (km ²)	Fishing Restriction	Goals	Most Recent Evaluation	Review Deadline
Jarvis Island No-Take MPA/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Jarvis Island	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) 69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP 78 FR 32996 PRIA FEP Am. 2	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; commercial fishing prohibited within 12 nmi.	2013	-
Baker Island No-Take MPA/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Baker Island	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) 69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP 78 FR 32996 PRIA FEP Am. 2	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; commercial fishing prohibited within 12 nmi.	2013	-
Rose Atoll No-Take MPA/Rose Atoll Marine National Monument	American Samoa Archipelago/ Pelagic	Rose Atoll	665.99 and 665.799(a)(2) 69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP 78 FR 32996 American Samoa FEP Am. 3	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; commercial fishing prohibited within 12 nmi.	June 3, 2013	June 3, 2016
Kingman Reef No-Take MPA/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/Pelagic	Kingman Reef	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) 69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP 78 FR 32996 PRIA FEP Am. 2	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; all fishing prohibited within 12 nmi.	2013	-

Name	FEP	Island(s)	50 CFR /FR /Amendment Reference	Marine Area (km ²)	Fishing Restriction	Goals	Most Recent Evaluation	Review Deadline
Guam No Anchor Zone	Mariana Archipelago	Guam	665.399 69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP	138,992.51	Anchoring by all fishing vessels ≥ 50 ft. prohibited on the offshore southern banks located in the U.S. EEZ off Guam	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources.	2004	-
Johnston Atoll Low-Use MPA/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Johnston Atoll	69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP 78 FR 32996 PRIA FEP Am. 2	-	Special Permit Only	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; superseded by prohibiting fishing within 12 nmi in Am. 2.	2013	-
Palmyra Atoll Low-Use MPAs/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Palmyra Atoll	69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP 78 FR 32996 PRIA FEP Am. 2	-	Special Permit Only	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; superseded by prohibiting fishing within 12 nmi in Am. 2.	2013	-
Wake Island Low-Use MPA/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/Pelagic	Wake Island	69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP 78 FR 32996 PRIA FEP Am. 2	-	Special Permit Only	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; superseded by prohibiting fishing within 12 nmi in Am. 2.	2013	-

1.1.4 ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES OCCURRING IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

In the Western Pacific Region, wild fisheries compete with other activities for access to and use of fishing grounds. These activities include, but are not limited to, military bases and training activities, commercial shipping, recreational activities and off-shore energy projects. Between the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and NMFS, most permits for offshore energy and aquaculture development, dredging, or mooring projects that occur in the waters of the U.S. are captured. Department of Defense activities are assessed in environmental impact statements (EISs) on a five-year cycle and are available through the Federal Register. Due to the sheer volume of ocean activities and the annual frequency of this report, only major activities on multi-year planning cycles or those permitted by NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division are tracked in this report. Activities which are no longer reasonably foreseeable or have been replaced with another planning activity are removed from the report, though they may occur in previous reports.

1.1.4.1 AQUACULTURE FACILITIES

Hawaii has one offshore aquaculture facility operating in Federal waters that was owned by Ocean Era (formerly Kampachi Farms), but the associated Special Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishing Permit (SCREFP) been transferred to Forever Oceans (see Table 2).

Table 2. Offshore aquaculture facilities near Hawaii

Name	Size	Location	Species	Status
Forever Oceans, transferred from Ocean Era (formerly Kampachi Farms)	Shape: Cylindrical Height: 33 ft. Diameter: 39 ft. Volume: 36,600 ft ³	5.5 nautical miles (nm) west of Keauhou Bay and 7 nm south-southwest of Kailua Bay, off the west coast of Hawaii Island (19°33' N, 156° 04' W). Mooring scope is 10,400-foot radius.	<i>Seriola rivoliana</i>	On July 6, 2016, NMFS authorized SCREFP for culture and harvest of 30,000 kampachi over two years on July 6, 2016. Array broke loose from mooring and net pen sank in 12,000 feet of water on Dec. 12, 2016. The mooring was redeployed under guidance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in late 2018 and stocked with a cohort of 10,000 fish in early 2019. On March 30, 2017, NMFS authorized transfer of the two-year SCREFP from Ocean Era to Forever Oceans. Forever Oceans in currently in the process of renewing the SCREFP cooperatively with NMFS in order to harvest of two cohorts of fish, and the final determination on the renewal is expected in early 2020.

1.1.4.2 ALTERNATIVE ENERGY FACILITIES

There are no alternative energy facilities in state or Federal waters, proposed or existing, in American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, or the PRIA.

Hawaii previously had four proposed wind energy facilities in federal waters through BOEM. On June 24, 2016, BOEM published a “Call for Information and Nominations” to seek additional nominations from companies interested in commercial wind energy leases within the Call Area offshore Hawaii, and pursued public comment on site conditions, resources, and existing uses of the area associated with BOEM’s wind energy development authorization process (BOEM, 2017). However, these projects were disengaged in 2018. There are still three existing alternative energy facilities (Table 3).

Table 3. Alternative Energy Facilities and Development in the Western Pacific region

Name	Type	Location	Impact to Fisheries	Stage of Development	Source
Makai Ocean Engineering, Inc., Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA)	120 kW OTEC Test Site/ 1 MW OTEC Test Site	Ke’ahole, North Kona, West Hawaii	Intake	120 kW OTEC operational; Final EA for 1 MW OTEC Site using existing infrastructure submitted July 2012 and lease negotiations being finalized; HEPA Exemption List memo Dec. 27, 2016.	NELHA Energy Projects Final Environmental Assessment, NELHA, July 2012
Honolulu Sea Water Air Conditioning (SWAC)	SWAC	4 miles S of Kaka’ako, Oahu	Benthic impacts; intake	USACE Record of Decision (ROD) signed in 2015. In October 2018, HSWAC and the State of Hawaii finalized an agreement to provide seawater air conditioning for eight state buildings. Construction to start in late-2019 or early-2020 and planned to take an estimated 18-22 months.	Honolulu SWAC Press Room Final Environmental Assessment, June 2014
Marine Corps Base Hawaii Wave Energy Test Site (WETS)	Shallow- and Deep-Water Wave Energy	1, 2 and 2.5 km N of Mokapu, Oahu	Hazard to navigation	Shallow and Deep-water wave energy units operational in mid-2015. 1.25 mW Ocean Energy 35 Buoy planned to be connected in early 2020.	Final Environmental Assessment, NAVFAC PAC, January 2014 E&E News Hawaii Natural Energy Institute

1.1.4.3 MILITARY TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES AND IMPACTS

The Department of Defense (DOD) major activities are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. DOD major activities in the Western Pacific region

Action	Description	Phase	Impacts
Guam and CNMI Military Relocation SEIS	Relocate Marines to Guam and build a cantonment/family housing unit on Finegayan/Andersen Air Force Base, a live-fire individual training range complex at the Ritidian Unit of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge.	<p>ROD published August 29, 2015 after release of Final SEIS on July 18, 2015.</p> <p>Lawsuit filed for segmentation and range of reasonable alternatives under NEPA. DOJ asked US District Court for the NMI to dismiss the plaintiff's complaint with prejudice to prevent refileing. The case was lost in 2018 after a judge from the district court of CNMI agreed with the military that the Guam buildup and proposed training in the CNMI aren't connected actions. The case was appealed, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced it might hear oral arguments in early 2020. (http://www.saipantribune.com/index.php/doj-federal-court-lacks-jurisdiction/; https://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2019/10/08/cnmi-training-range-lawsuit-could-heard-us-court-appeals-hawaii/3905566002/).</p>	<p>Surface danger zone established at Ritidian – access restricted during training. Access will be negotiated between the Navy and USFWS.</p> <p>Northern District Wastewater Treatment Plant is non-compliant with NPDES permit; until plant is upgraded, increased wastewater discharge associated with buildup will significantly impact nearshore water quality. DOD to fund plant upgrades – see Economic Adjustment Committee Implementation Plan.</p>
Mariana Islands Training and Testing – Supplemental	The supplement to the 2015 Final EIS/OEIS is being prepared to support ongoing and future activities conducted at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla (FDM) beyond 2020. New information, including an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data, and evolving and emergent BSIA, will be used to update the MITT.	<p>The 2019 MITT Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS is expected in spring 2020.</p> <p>Open House Public Meetings took place in March 2019. Public Comment was extended from March 18, 2019 to April 17, 2019 and is now closed.</p> <p>Meetings are ongoing to discuss FDM research activities and exercises. Meetings were previously held to discuss the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan and plans for future surveys around FDM.</p>	<p>Access and habitat impacts likely similar to previous analysis in 2015 EIS/OEIS.</p>
Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise	Multinational, sea control/power projection fleet exercise that has been performed biennially for over 40 years and headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii. RIMPAC exercise locations are present throughout the State of Hawaii.	RIMPAC Programmatic EA developed in 2002 and a Supplemental Programmatic EA was finalized in 2006 (71 FR 31170). Biennial exercises continue through the present.	Programmatic Environmental Assessment, June 2002
Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT)	Increase naval testing and training activities, including the use of active sonar and explosives.	Record of Decision available in December 2018 to conduct training and testing activities as identified in Alternative 1 of the HSTT Final EIS/OEIS published in October 2018 (83 FR 66255).	The 2018 HSTT EIS/OEIS predicts impacts to access and habitat impact similar to previous analysis in the 2013 HSTT EIS/OEIS .
Long Range Strike Weapon Systems Evaluation Program (WSEP)	Conduct operational evaluations of Long Range Strike weapons and other munitions as part of Long Range Strike WSEP operations at the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Kauai, Hawaii.	Comment period closed Feb. 6, 2017, and final rule on Aug. 22, 2017, for NMFS authorization to take marine mammals incidental to conducting munitions testing for their Long-Range Strike Weapons Systems Evaluation Program (LRS WSEP) over the course of five years, from August 21, 2017 through August 22, 2022 (82 FR 1702 ; 82 FR	<p>Access – closures during training.</p> <p>Final Environmental Assessment, October 2016</p>

Action	Description	Phase	Impacts
		39684).	NMFS Biological Opinion, August 2017
CNMI Joint Military Training	Establish unit and combined level training ranges on Tinian and Pagan.	<p>Revised Draft EIS was expected in late 2018 or early 2019, but there is no new information on the EIS status.</p> <p>Lawsuit filed for segmentation and range of reasonable alternatives under NEPA. DOJ asked US District Court for the NMI to dismiss the plaintiff's complaint with prejudice to prevent refileing. The case was lost in 2018 after a judge from the district court of CNMI agreed with the military that the Guam buildup and proposed training in the CNMI aren't connected actions. The case was appealed, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced it might hear oral arguments in early 2020.</p> <p>Several meetings have been held with DFW and military officials to discuss relevant natural resource, land use, and social concerns regarding the proposed activities and prompted the reconsideration of proposed alternatives.</p>	Significant access and habitat impacts.
Garapan Anchorage	Military Pre-Positioned Ships anchor and transit.	Expired Memorandum of Understanding with the CNMI government. As of 2019, a new MOU had not been signed.	Access, invasive species, unmitigated damage to reefs
Farallon de Medinilla	Restricted airspace covering the island to 12 nmi radius to conduct military training scenarios using air-to-ground ordnance delivery, naval gunfire, lasers and special operations training.	<p>Final rule published March 13, 2017, effective June 22, 2017, designating a new area, R-2701A, that surrounds existing R-2701, encompassing airspace between a 3 nmi radius and 12 nmi radius of FDM (82 FR 13389).</p> <p>Proposed surface danger zone to 12 nmi. Meetings with military officials established that the 12 nmi radius is closed when exercises are being conducted, but a 3 nmi closure would instead be in effect year-round when exercises are not being conducted.</p> <p>Damage to submerged lands and fisheries to be included within consultation establishing continued US interest in the island and compensation to the CNMI (Report to the President on 902 Consultations, 2017)</p>	Access – to fishing grounds and transit to fishing grounds - and damage to submerged lands.
Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements, Marianas	Improvements to airport and seaport (improving roads, installing fuel line) in CNMI for expanding mission requirements in Western Pacific.	The USAF has published a NOI to prepare a SEIS for the proposed Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements. The NOI began the public scoping process for the SEIS, which ended on May 31, 2018. Substantive comments received during the public scoping period will be taken into consideration during preparation of the Draft SEIS.	<p>Adverse impacts to EFH minimal; access near Port of Tinian fuel transfer facility affected.</p> <p>Access and transit to fishing grounds.</p>

Action	Description	Phase	Impacts
		The USAF published a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft SEIS on May 17, 2019. The NOA began the public review period for the Draft SEIS, which ended on July 1, 2019. Substantive comments received during the public review period will be taken into consideration during preparation of the Final SEIS.	

In early 2010, the U.S. military began exercises in an area south and southeast of Guam designated W-517. W-517 is a special use airspace (approximately 14,000 nm²) that overlays deep open ocean approximately 50 miles south-southwest of Guam. Exercises in W-517 generally involve live fire and/or pyrotechnics. When W-517 is in use, a notice to mariners (NTM) is issued, and vessels attempting to use the area are advised to be cautious of objects in the water and other small vessels. This discourages access to virtually all banks south of Guam, including Galvez, Santa Rosa, White Tuna, and other popular fishing areas. NTMs from the military regarding these exercises and the number of days affected for Guam and the CNMI are included in Table 5.

Table 5. Notices to mariners for military exercises in the Mariana Archipelago from 2013-2019

Year	Location	Number of Notices to Mariners Issued	Number of Days Affected
2013	FDM	45	159
	W-517	24	54
2014	FDM	38	145
	W-517	24	49
2015	FDM	37	164
	W-517	33	87
2016	FDM	35	142
	W-517	50	139
	W-11	N/A	N/A
	W-12	N/A	N/A
2017	FDM	56	191
	W-517	46	119
	W-12	2	5
	W-11	N/A	N/A
2018	FDM	38	150
	W-517	49	107
	W-12	6	13
	W-11	1	1
2019	FDM	39	165
	W-517	27	65

Year	Location	Number of Notices to Mariners Issued	Number of Days Affected
	W-12	3	22
	W-11	6	27
	W-13	15	37

1.1.5 PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL PLANNING BODY REPORT

In June 2018, President Trump signed the Executive Order (EO) 13840 Regarding the Ocean Policy to Advance Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States, which revoked EO 13547. The new EO eliminated the mandate for the federal government to participate in ocean planning at a regional level and eliminated the regional planning bodies. As such, the Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body (RPB) no longer exists and ocean planning will now occur at a local level led by Hawaii and the territories (if they so desire). However, EO 13840 established a policy focused on public access to marine data and information, and requires federal agencies to 1) coordinate activities regarding ocean-related matters and 2) facilitate the coordination and collaboration of ocean-related matters with governments and ocean stakeholders. To that end, the [American Samoa Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Data Portal](#) was created by [Marine Cadastre](#). The intent is for it to be expanded to include the Marianas, PRIA, and Hawaii and be titled the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Planner.