

## **2.6 MARINE PLANNING**

### **2.6.1 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 (EO) 13547, *Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes*. EO 13158, *Marine Protected Areas*, 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 165<sup>th</sup> 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 (BRFAs), military installations, NWHI restrictions, and Marine Life Conservation Districts (MLCDs).
- 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.

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 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. NMFS is responsible for NEPA compliance, and the Council must assess the environmental effects of ocean activities for the EFH cumulative impacts section of the FEP.

#### **2.6.1.1 Response to Previous Council Recommendations**

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

#### **2.6.1.2 MMAs established under FMPs**

Council-established MMAs were compiled from 50 CFR § 665, Western Pacific Fisheries, the Federal Register, and Council amendment documents. All regulated fishing areas and large MMAs, including the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM), are shown in Figure 35.

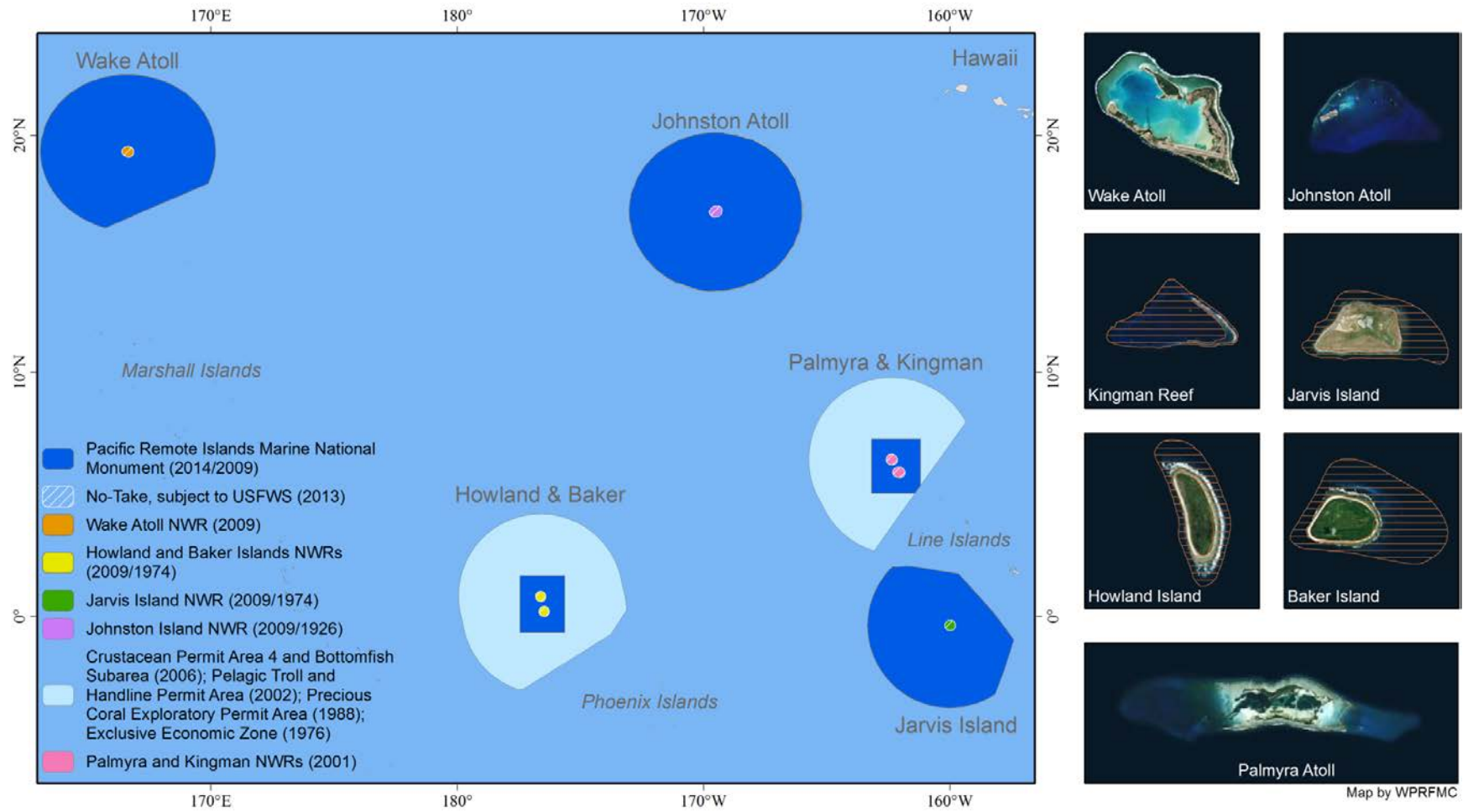


Figure 1. Regulated fishing areas of the PRIAs

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

Name	FEP	Island	50 CFR /FR /Amendment Reference	Marine Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Fishing Restriction	Goals	Most Recent Evaluation	Review Deadline
Howland Island No-Take MPA/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Howland Island	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) <a href="#">69 FR 8336</a> <a href="#">Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (FMP)</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996</a> <a href="#">PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; commercial fishing prohibited within 12 nm.	2013	-
Jarvis Island No-Take MPA/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Jarvis Island	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) <a href="#">69 FR 8336</a> <a href="#">Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996</a> <a href="#">PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; commercial fishing prohibited within 12 nm.	2013	-
Baker Island No-Take MPA/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Baker Island	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) <a href="#">69 FR 8336</a> <a href="#">Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996</a> <a href="#">PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; commercial fishing prohibited within 12 nm.	2013	-

Name	FEP	Island	50 CFR /FR /Amendment Reference	Marine Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Fishing Restriction	Goals	Most Recent Evaluation	Review Deadline
Kingman Reef No-Take MPA/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Kingman Reef	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) <a href="#">69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996 PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; all fishing prohibited within 12 nm.	2013	-
Johnston Atoll Low-Use MPA/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Johnston Atoll	<a href="#">69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996 PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	Special Permit Only	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; superseded by prohibiting fishing within 12 nm in Am. 2.	2013	-
Palmyra Atoll Low-Use MPAs/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Palmyra Atoll	<a href="#">69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996 PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	Special Permit Only	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; superseded by prohibiting fishing within 12 nm in Am. 2.	2013	-
Wake Island Low-Use MPA/PRI Marine National Monument	PRIA/ Pelagic	Wake Island	<a href="#">69 FR 8336 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996 PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	Special Permit Only	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; superseded by prohibiting fishing within 12 nm in Am. 2.	2013	-

## **2.6.2 Activities and Facilities**

There are no aquaculture facilities, alternative energy facilities, or military training and testing activities occurring in the US EEZ around the PRIAs at this time. The Plan Team will add to this section as new facilities or activities are proposed and/or built.

## **2.6.3 Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body Report**

In June 2018, President Trump signed the 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.

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, PRIAs, and Hawaii, and be titled the Pacific Islands Regional Marine Planner.