



**WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL**

Fact Sheet

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

- The Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 established US jurisdiction over fisheries in federal waters of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ, generally from 3–200 miles offshore) and created eight quasi-federal regional councils to oversee fisheries in their respective areas. The main task of the councils is to protect fishery resources, while maintaining opportunities for domestic commercial and recreational fishing at sustainable levels of effort and yield.
- The Western Pacific Council is the policy-making organization for the management of fisheries in the EEZ around American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands and US remote Pacific Islands (see map). It has 16 members, who represent the fishing community and government agencies of the region. Half of the members are designated state, territorial and federal officials with fishery management responsibilities. The others are appointed by the US Secretary of Commerce to represent commercial and recreational fishing interests.
- The Council has fishery management plans for the pelagics, bottomfish, crustaceans and precious corals fisheries and is developing another one for coral reef ecosystems.
- Among the highlights of the Council's conservation regime are the following:
 - inclusion of highly migratory species (particularly tuna) in the Magnuson Act
 - recognition of the indigenous rights of native Pacific Islanders in the Magnuson Act
 - the ban of driftnet fishing in the Western Pacific Region
 - the pioneering use of vessel monitoring by satellite in the US EEZ
 - limited entry programs for all of the commercial fisheries in the Western Pacific Region
- Several committees (Scientific and Statistical Committee, plan teams, advisory panels and *ad hoc* groups) provide advice on all aspects of the region's fisheries and suggest management strategies.
- Meetings of the Council and its committees are open to the public, and the public is actively encouraged to participate in the policy-making process.
- The Council's staff coordinates the activities of the Council and its advisory committees.
- Fishery regulations developed by the Council are jointly enforced by agents of the National Marine Fisheries Service, deputized state agents and the US Coast Guard.

A Council authorized by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976

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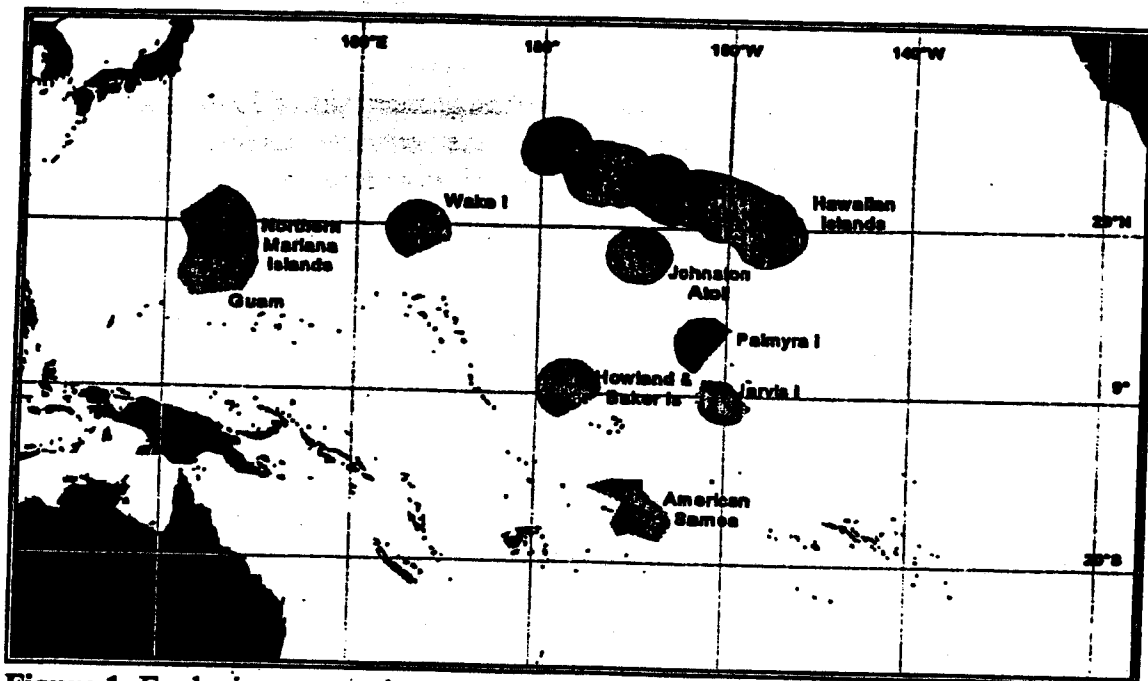


Figure 1. Exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of the Pacific Islands. Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's EEZ areas are shown in dark grey.

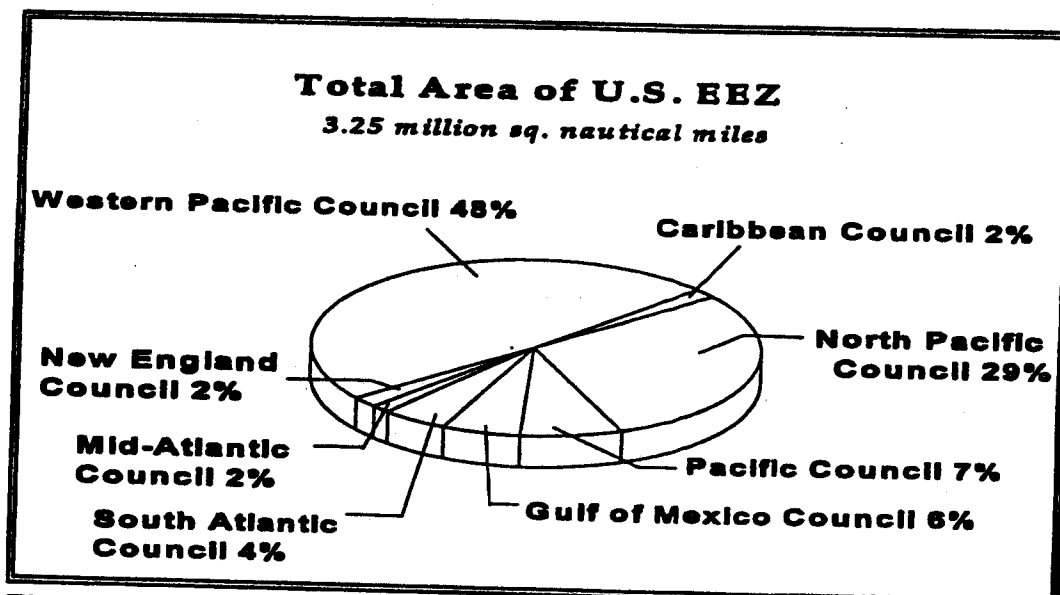


Figure 2. Percentage of the total US EEZ area under the jurisdiction of each of the Fishery Management Councils.