

NAVIGATING THE WESTERN PACIFIC COUNCIL PROCESS



A Guide to
the Western
Pacific Regional
Fishery
Management
Council



*Ecosystem-based Management of Fisheries
in the US Pacific Islands*



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What Is The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council?

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional councils established under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in 1976 to manage fisheries in federal waters (generally, beyond 3 miles from shore) in the nation's 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) as well as domestic fisheries operating on the high seas.

The Western Pacific Region includes the State of Hawaii; the US Territories of American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); and the US Pacific remote island areas of Johnston, Midway, Palmyra and Wake Atolls; Baker, Howland and Jarvis Islands; and Kingman Reef. This area of nearly 1.5 million square miles is the size of the continental United States and constitutes about half of the US EEZ. It spans both sides of the equator and both sides of the dateline.

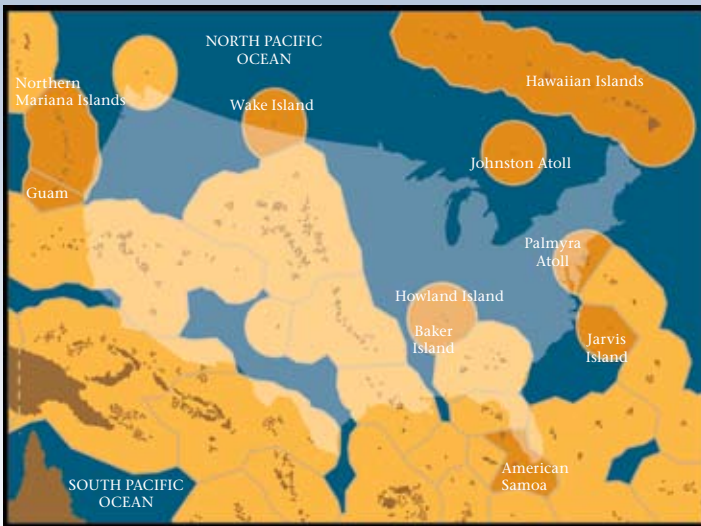
In 2006, the Hawaii commercial fishing industry overall generated \$496 million in sales, \$254 million of income and over 11,000 jobs, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Commercially important species and species groups include lobsters, mahimahi (dolphinfish), marlin, opah (moonfish), pomfret, scad, snappers, swordfish, tunas and ono (wahoo). Tuna offloaded in Honolulu is of sashimi quality and accounts for this fishing port consistently ranking among the nation's top 10 in value of landings. The Hawaii recreational fishery in 2006 included 396,000 anglers, contributed \$773 million in

Who Is This Guide For?

This guide is designed for a variety of people. It is for those who want a voice in fisheries management issues; for those who may not want to become involved in fisheries management but have a need to know how it works; for fishermen and women who want more control over the decisions affecting their livelihood; for those concerned about environmental issues; and for students, managers, fishing family members and recreational anglers.

This guide is designed for both those who are unfamiliar with fisheries management as well as those who are already involved in the process. The Reference Desk chapter provides contact information, mailing list information and useful telephone numbers.





total sales to the regional economy, added over 7,000 jobs and generated \$381 million in value-added impact, according to NMFS. Recreationally important species and species group are blue marlin, mahimahi, goatfishes, bigeye and mackerel scad, skipjack tuna, smallmouth bonefish, snappers, trevally and other jacks, wahoo and yellowfin tuna.

The American Samoa longline fishery is about half the size of the Hawaii fishery in terms of landings, i.e., 14.8 million lbs (6,600 mt) in tuna and tuna-like species in 2007 in American Samoa compared to 25 million lbs (11,300 mt) in Hawaii. Domestic fisheries also include an artisanal bottomfish fishery (about 30,000 lbs landed annually), a shoreline subsistence fishery (about 2,000 lbs lobster annually plus a variety of reef fish and scad) and a recreational tournament fishery. American Samoa is also home to some of the world's largest tuna canneries, processing foreign and US caught skipjack tuna as well as albacore tuna caught by longline vessels from American Samoa and other South Pacific longline fleets.

The canneries are by far the largest private-sector employers in American Samoa. The economic growth of many other private-sector employers in the territory is tied to the disposable income of tuna industry workers even though the majority of these workers are not American Samoa citizens.

In the Mariana Archipelago (Guam and CNMI), the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative includes more than 180 full- and part-time fishermen. However, most of these and other fishermen in the archipelago continue to harvest primarily for subsistence, barter and cultural sharing purposes, such as for fiestas and food exchanges with family and friends. Small-scale commercial, recreational and subsistence fishing for coral reef-associated fish, crustaceans and bottomfish occur in both island areas. Pelagic fish are caught by an emerging longline fishery in the CNMI, and by commercial, recreational and charter-boat trollers in CNMI and Guam. Both island areas have also served as transshipment sites for tuna caught by foreign longline vessels and destined principally for Japan.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act

The fishery management council system was established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), which Congress originally passed in 1976 as the Fishery Conservation and Management Act. It is named for the late Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington and Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska.

The MSA is the main law governing management of living marine resources in the United States and guides nearly all Council actions. Designed to encourage local participation, responsibility and authority, the MSA set up the regional fishery management council system and prescribed how it would work. It also established measures to control foreign fishing in US waters, to allow overfished stocks to recover, and to monitor, conserve and manage fishery resources in a manner that maximizes long-term benefits to the nation.



The MSA has been amended several times since it was first passed. In 1996 the Sustainable Fisheries Act added specific new requirements directing councils to base management measures on the best available scientific information, to reduce bycatch, to consider the effect of management measures on communities and to protect essential fish habitat. Also added were new provisions calling for the development of community programs and projects to support and sustain indigenous fisheries in the Pacific. In 2006 the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act added new requirements to establish annual catch limits and prevent overfishing, to conduct environmental reviews of proposed management measures and to provide marine education and training to Pacific islanders, among other things.

The MSA contains 10 national standards that Councils must follow when developing new fishery management measures. A brief listing of the National Standards is in the following table.



Original members of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in 1976.

National Standards of the MSA (abridged)

Conservation and management measures shall:

1. Prevent overfishing while achieving optimum yield.
2. Be based upon the best scientific information available.
3. Manage individual stocks as a unit throughout their range, to the extent practicable; interrelated stocks shall be managed as a unit or in close coordination.
4. Not discriminate between the residents of different states; any allocation of privileges must be fair and equitable.
5. Where practicable, promote efficiency, except that no measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose.
6. Take into account and allow for variations among the contingencies in fisheries, fishery resources, and catches.
7. Minimize costs and avoid duplication, where practicable.
8. Take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities to provide for sustained participation of, and to minimize impacts to, such communities (consistent with conservation requirements).
9. Minimize bycatch or mortality from bycatch.
10. Promote safety of human life at sea.

The Council's Role

The regional fishery management councils fulfill a central role in the management of marine resources that interact with our nation's fishing fleets. The councils utilize the best available scientific information as well as public and stakeholder input to develop and recommend specific management measures in the form of fishery management plans or fishery ecosystem plans.

In developing these plans, the Western Pacific Council works closely with local governments through the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture and Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources as well as federal agencies, such as the National Marine Fisheries Service, US Coast Guard, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Department of State.



The Council also participates in marine resource management at the international level. Vessels from Hawaii fish on the high seas in both the Western and Central Pacific Ocean and the Eastern Pacific Ocean, which are the areas of competence of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), respectively. Council members and staff are members of the delegations to both of these international tuna management organizations. The Council is involved in other international bodies and initiatives to address resource management issues such as marine debris, marine education, seamounts, deepwater corals and protected species bycatch involving seabirds, sea turtles and marine mammals.

Each Council decision is made by recorded vote in a public forum. The Council takes into consideration the National Standards (page 5) as well as the Council's Guiding Principles (page 8). Decisions must conform to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Regulatory Flexibility Act and other applicable law, including several executive orders. Final decisions go to the Secretary of Commerce for a second review, public comment and final approval. Regulatory changes may take up to a year or longer to implement, particularly if complex or contentious.

Once finalized and approved, they are implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Components of the Council System

The Council system is composed of Council members, Council staff, advisory bodies that advise the Council and the public that participates in the Council decision-making process.

Council Members

The Council is the system's decision-making body. The Council has 13 voting members and three non-voting members. A chair and four vice chairs (one from each island area) are elected annually by the Council members.

Council members must balance competing interests while trying to make decisions for the overall benefit of the nation. Council members are advised by the Council's advisory panels and committees, Council staff, the public, states and territories, academia and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

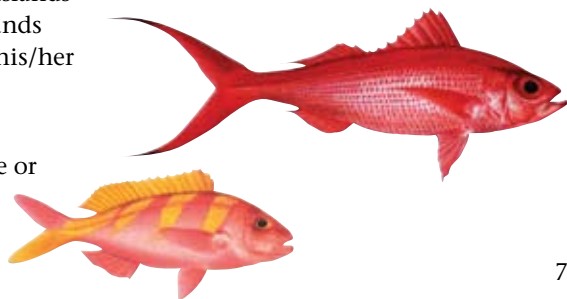
The 13 voting members include:

- The director of the American Samoa Department of Land and Natural Resources or his/her designee
- The secretary of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Department of Lands and Natural Resources or his/her designee
- The director of the Guam Department of Agriculture or his/her designee

- The chair of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources or his/her designee
- The regional administrator of the NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office or his/her designee
- 8 private citizens who are familiar with the fishing industry, marine conservation or both. These citizens (at least 1 member each from American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and Hawaii) are appointed by the Secretary of Commerce from lists submitted by the Governors of each of the island areas.

There are also three non-voting members who assist the Council in decision-making. They represent:

- The US Coast Guard, 14th District (enforcement and safety issues)
- The US Department of State (decisions that have international implications)
- The US Fish and Wildlife Service (ecosystems, seabirds and other relevant protected species)



The Council's Guiding Principles

1. Support quality research and obtain the most complete scientific information available to assess and manage fisheries;
2. Promote an ecosystem approach in fisheries management, including reducing waste in fisheries and minimizing impacts on marine habitat and impacts on protected species;
3. Conduct education and outreach to foster good stewardship principles and broad and direct public participation in the Council's decision making process;
4. Recognize the importance of island cultures and traditional fishing practices in managing fishery resources and foster opportunities for participation;
5. Promote environmentally responsible fishing and the utilization of sustainable fisheries that provide long term economic growth and stability;
6. Promote regional cooperation to manage domestic and international fisheries; and
7. Encourage development of technologies and methods to achieve the most effective level of monitoring control and surveillance and to ensure safety at seal.

Council Staff

Council staff supports the Council by providing information for management decisions, providing information to the public about Council activities, helping the public participate in the process, coordinating the process and meetings, assisting advisory groups and creating fishery management documents.

The Council staff consists of an executive director, a senior scientist, a program officer, technical staff and support staff. The technical staff analyzes options for regulatory and fishery management and ecosystem plan amendments for the Council's review, with a focus on economics, social science, biology, ecosystems and habitat. As of March 2009, there are 16 members of the Council staff.

The Council is a nonprofit governmental organization. Members of the Council staff are not federal government employees. The executive director carries out tasks assigned by the Council and, with the senior scientist and program officer, directs and oversees the staff.

For a complete list of staff members and their contact information, please visit the About Us page of our website at www.wpcouncil.org.



Advisory Bodies

When reviewing potential rule changes, the Council draws upon the services of knowledgeable people from local and federal agencies, universities and the public, who serve on panels and committees.

Advisory bodies include the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC), the Archipelagic and Pelagic Plan Teams, the Advisory Panel (AP), Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committees (REAC) and other committees.

Advisory bodies provide comments, both written and oral, on relevant issues being considered by the Council.

Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC)

– The Council receives reviews and recommendations from highly respected resource economists, biologists, sociologists and other experts knowledgeable about the technical aspects of fisheries in the Western Pacific Region.

Plan Teams – The Council has teams of scientists and managers that review annually the status of the region's bottomfish and seamount groundfish, coral reef ecosystem, crustaceans, pelagics and precious coral fisheries.

Advisory Panel (AP) – The Council receives advice from a panel of recreational and commercial fishermen, charter boat operators, buyers, sellers, consumers and other experts knowledgeable about the fisheries in the region, including indigenous fisheries. The panel includes subpanels for the American Samoa Archipelago, Hawaii Archipelago, Mariana Archipelago and Pacific Pelagic Ecosystem.

Regional Ecosystem Advisory

Committees (REAC) – The Council receives advice from the American Samoa, Hawaii and Mariana Archipelago REACs. Each REAC brings together Council members and representatives from federal, state and local government agencies; businesses; and non-governmental organizations with responsibility and interest in land-based and non-fishing activities that potentially affect the marine environment of the relevant archipelago.

Other Advisory Bodies – The Council convenes and solicits recommendations from a variety of other committees as warranted, such as its Sea Turtle Advisory Committee, Marine Mammal Advisory Committee, Social Science Research Committee, Non-Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee, Marine Protected Area Advisory Committee, Enforcement Agencies Committee and Fisheries Data Coordinating Committee.

Council Meetings

The Council convenes three regular meetings per year, usually in March, June and October, with two meetings held in the Hawaii Archipelago and one meeting held in either the American Samoa or Mariana Archipelago. The Council usually meets over four days with the first day consisting of Standing Committee meetings. The SSC typically meets the week prior to Council following a similar agenda. All meetings are open to the public, except for an occasional, closed session to discuss internal personnel and policy issues. Agendas are posted on the Council's web site (www.wpcouncil.org) prior to the meeting. Minutes are taken for each Council meeting and are available to the public via the Council website.



Briefing Materials

Council members receive briefing materials electronically and/or on hardcopy prior to Council meetings. Briefing materials include brief summaries that provide background information for each agenda item, documents for regulatory action, reports from agencies and organizations, written public comments and other material relevant to each agenda item. The briefing material is cataloged to the meeting agenda with identifier tags located on the top right hand corner of the document.

Copies of briefing materials are made available to the public at the meeting as the Council progresses through the agenda. Due to the effort required to assemble briefing books and the large number and size of the documents, requests for hard copies are limited to the section relevant to the subject of interest.

The deadline for written public comments to be included in the briefing book is one week prior to the meeting. Public comments to be included in the books can be mailed or faxed to the Council office before the deadline.



Handouts

Copies of the agenda and pertinent briefing materials are provided on a table at the back of or just outside of the Council meeting venue. Copies of all reports, handouts and statements generated during the Council meetings are also provided on the table.

Agendas and Agenda Items

The Council works from an agenda, which is posted on the Council's website, mailed and electronically transmitted to individuals who have requested to be included on the Council's mailing list, and provided on the table at the back or just outside of the Council meeting venue. The content of the agenda is set by the executive director, in consultation with the Council. Requests for an item to be placed on the agenda should be directed to the executive director or to the Council chair or a vice-chair.

Each fishery management agenda item has several parts. First, a staff person generally provides an overview of the issue or action to be considered, based on the written summary and documents in the briefing material. This may be followed by more detailed presentations or information on the agenda item considered, advisory group reports including AP, Plan Team, REAC or SSC reports, and a report from the respective Standing Committee. Before the Council

begins deliberations on the agenda item, it will take public testimony from those who signed up on a public comment form. To propose changes to regulations, you can testify to the Council during the public comment or public hearing period. Finally, the Council discusses the topic and may vote on it.

Robert's Rules of Order

The Council meeting process follows the "Robert's Rules of Order," rules for parliamentary procedure that were first developed in 1876. Traditionally, the General Counsel serves as the parliamentarian to assist with questions regarding rules of order.





Motions

During discussion, voting Council members may move to take action. The motion must receive a second by another Council member before a voted is taken. Sometimes Council members will move to amend a motion. An amendment is a suggestion for a change to the main motion. Other times, a Council member may make a substitute motion, which is used to propose action significantly different than the motion on the floor. Amendments may be made to any action on the floor and must be voted on. The main motion, as amended, must receive at least a majority (one over half) to pass. A roll call vote is taken on all “final action” votes.

Public Comment

The Council and its advisory groups (e.g., SSC, REAC, AP and Plan Teams) allow public comment on agenda items. If you'd like to testify during the comment period, you must sign up at the back of the room on a public comment form before the public comment period is completed. Give the completed form to any staff person, who will then hand it to the Council chair. The chair will call for comments in the order the forms were received. When your name is called, approach the podium, introduce yourself, state your affiliation and give your testimony. Due to time constraints, public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person or 6 minutes for an organization or group.

You can also provide written copies of your testimony to be distributed to the Council during the meeting. You can do this by providing the written testimony to the Council at least one week prior to the start of the Council meeting or by handing 40 copies of the testimony to the Council staff either prior to or during your testimony. Oral or written statements shall include a brief description of the background and interests of the person testifying.

Fishery Ecosystem Plans

The Council prepares and modifies management plans for fisheries based in the Western Pacific Region or operating in EEZ waters within the Region. Each plan contains a suite of management measures and associated regulations that have been implemented to support sustainable fisheries, reduce and mitigate interactions with protected species, and conserve marine habitat and ecosystems. At each meeting the Council considers available scientific information, reports from local resource agencies and advisory groups, observations from fishermen, and public comments from interested parties. The plans and fishery regulations are dynamic and reflect the Council's adaptive management, which monitors and addresses changing conditions based on the best available information.

The Council has recently moved from its five previous species based fishery management plans (Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish; Crustaceans; Coral Reef Ecosystems; Precious Corals; and Pelagics) to a place-based approach that allows explicit consideration of ecosystem interactions within each of the areas managed by the Council. The five Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs) are:

American Samoa Archipelago

FEP: This FEP manages fisheries for bottomfish and seamount groundfish, crustaceans, coral reef associated species and precious corals in EEZ waters around American Samoa.

Hawaii Archipelago FEP: This FEP manages fisheries for bottomfish and seamount groundfish, crustaceans, coral reef associated species and precious corals in EEZ waters around Hawaii.

Mariana Archipelago FEP: This FEP manages fisheries for bottomfish and seamount groundfish, crustaceans, coral reef associated species and precious corals in EEZ waters around Guam and CNMI.

Pacific Remote Island Areas

FEP: This FEP manages fisheries for bottomfish and seamount groundfish, crustaceans, coral reef associated species and precious corals in EEZ waters around Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands, Johnston, Palmyra and Wake Atolls; and Kingman Reef.

Pacific Pelagic FEP: This FEP manages fisheries for pelagic species in EEZ waters of the Western Pacific Region and by fisheries based in the Region that operate on the high seas.

Get Involved

There are many different reasons to get involved in fishery management, but they all involve being part of the process. Whether you are a weekend shoreline fisher, a full-time commercial longliner, a part-time subsistence fisher, a non-fishing ocean lover or any other interested person—your voice and opinions can be heard by the Council and become part of the decision-making process.



If you are a member of the commercial fishing community or if your business serves recreational fishers, the best reason to get involved is because this is the process that controls your livelihood. By becoming involved

you can help shape your future and provide valuable firsthand knowledge and input that the Council will use to make important fishery management decisions.

Becoming involved may mean attending a Council meeting, getting proposed fishery management amendments to read either from the Council website or by contacting the Council, making comments on a proposed action, or being on one of the Council's advisory bodies.

Learn

The first step to getting involved in the Council process is to learn about the Council, the process and the issues. Learn how the Council system operates. Learn about the context of the problem you are interested in. Some good ways to start include:

- Explore the Council website at www.wpcouncil.org.
- Read the Council newsletter, *Pacific Islands Fishery News*.
- Read other resources about how fisheries management works. *Understanding Fisheries Management*¹ and *Fish or Cut Bait*² are two excellent sources targeted to the fishing community.
- Attend a Council, SSC, Plan Team, AP or other advisory group meeting. Upcoming meetings are listed on the Council's website. Full Council meetings occur three times a year, usually in October, March, and June. Occasionally there are abbreviated teleconference Council meetings as well.
- Learn about the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the National Standards, which are the backbone to the fishery ecosystem plans and amendments.
- Read Council documents on past or proposed management measures.

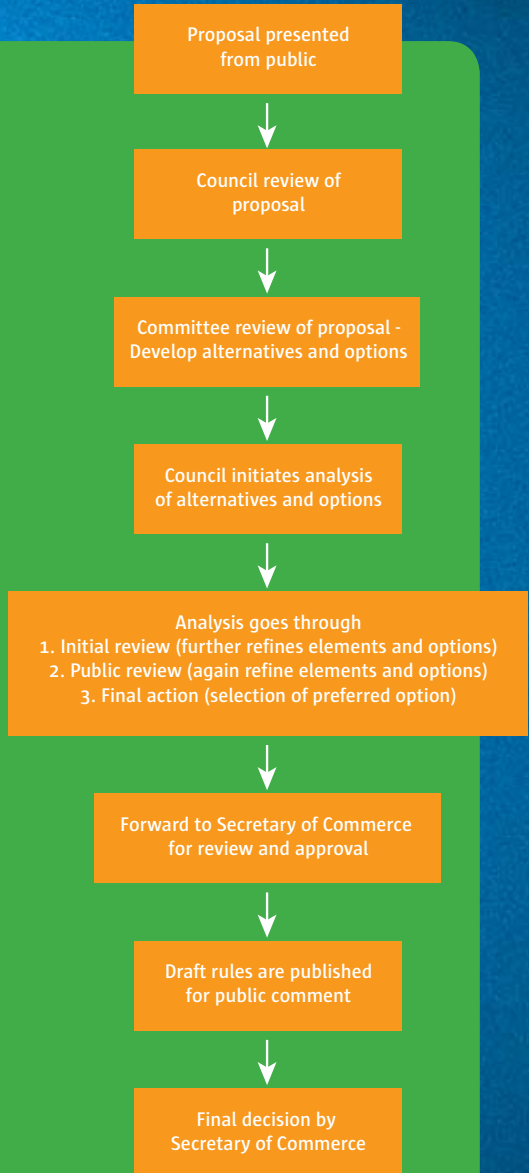
Requests for information from the Council may be made at any time through the mail, e-mail, phone or fax.

¹ www.olemiss.edu/orgs/SGLC/Fisheries/fishman.pdf

² www.mafmc.org/mid-atlantic/publications/brochures/fishbait.pdf

The Process for Making or Changing Regulations

The Council process to make or change regulations involves many stages and includes many steps and opportunities for public input and comment. The Council reviews proposals, options papers, draft amendment documents, NEPA analysis documents, and eventually votes on a preferred alternative, which may become regulations at the end of the process.



Make Your Comments Heard

When providing comments on a proposed management action, be informed and knowledgeable of the law and the proposed action. Comments may be made verbally at a Council, SSC or other advisory body meeting. Comments may also be made in writing by regular mail or e-mail during designated comment periods announced in the *Federal Register* for a specific proposed rule or management action as part of the MSA process or for on an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. If you wish to comment on a particular proposed action, keep in mind that there are deadlines as part of the Council's decision-making process.

Comments or questions may also be made to the Council at any time on a matter of concern or interest to you.



Writing Tips

The Council is interested in hearing your opinions and comments on current management issues. If an action is near final rulemaking, you may wish to write letters the Regional Administrator of NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office.

Following is a list of tips for writing to the Council.

- Keep it short. A one-page letter is best. If your letter is too long you run the risk that key points may be overlooked.
- Stick to one subject. If you are writing concerning a FEP amendment that addresses a number of issues, it's okay to comment on all the issues in one letter. However, when writing about separate actions, it's best to write separate letters.
- State your credentials at the beginning. Are you a marine scientist, recreational fishermen, commercial fisherman, etc.? If you are representing a group, provide the name of the group and the size of its membership.
- State your opinion. State the reasons for that opinion. Be explicit. Don't leave the reader guessing your meaning.

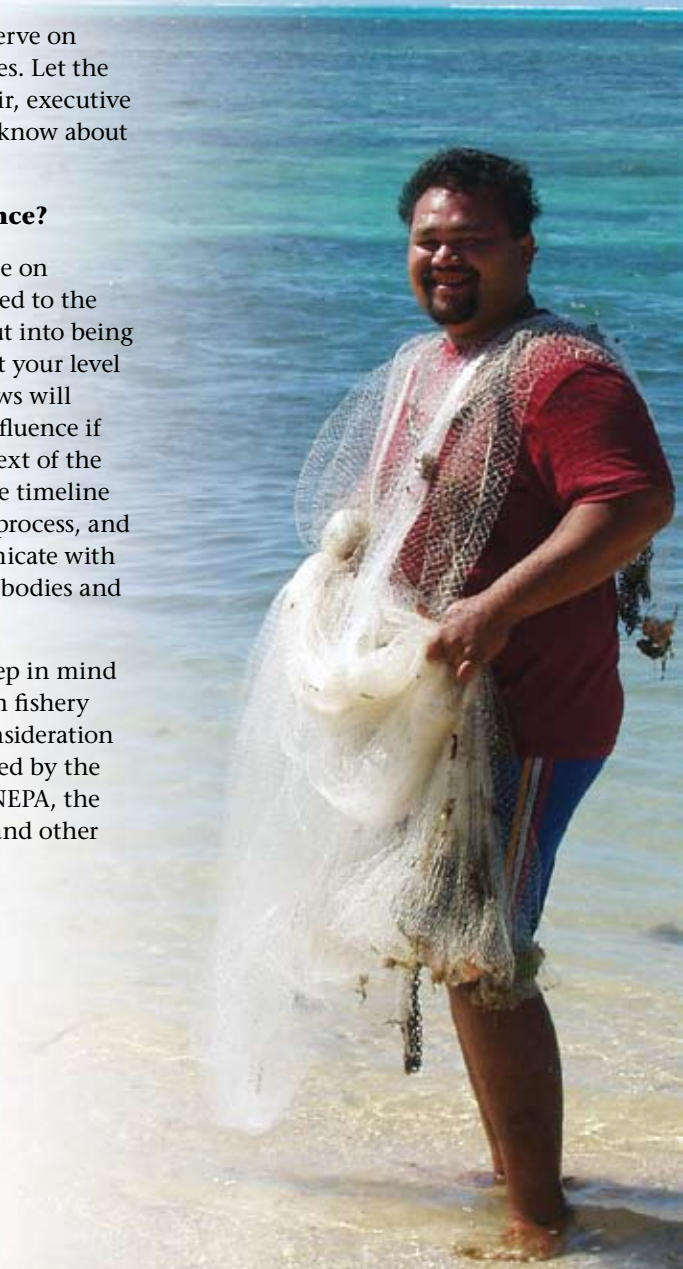
Serve

Interested persons may serve on workgroups or committees. Let the Council chair, a vice chair, executive director or Council staff know about your interest in serving.

Can I Make a Difference?

Absolutely. Your influence on Council decisions is related to the amount of energy you put into being involved. No matter what your level of involvement, your views will have more weight and influence if you learn about the context of the decisions being made, the timeline for the decision-making process, and the best ways to communicate with the Council, its advisory bodies and its staff.

It is also important to keep in mind that Council decisions on fishery management include consideration of many factors as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NEPA, the Endangered Species Act and other laws.



Reference Desk

Mailing Lists

Call, e-mail or write us to be placed on the database to receive the Council's newsletter, meeting notices and other updates by US mail.

Contact Information

Website:

www.wpcouncil.org

Mail:

*Western Pacific Regional
Fishery Management Council
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813*

Phone: (808) 522-8220

Fax: (808) 522-8226

info.WPCouncil@noaa.gov

Internet Resources

www.fpir.noaa.gov

NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) coordinates and oversees the processing of proposed and final regulations to implement fishery management plans that are approved by the Secretary of Commerce. Contact PIRO for compliance guides, federal fishing permit applications and protected species workshops.

www.pifsc.noaa.gov

NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries

Science Center (PIFSC) administers scientific research and monitoring programs and provides scientific data about the fisheries and related issues to the Council for consideration during its decision-making process. Go here for Western Pacific Fisheries Network (WPacFIN) data collection forms.

www.soest.hawaii.edu/pfrp

Pelagic Fisheries Research Program

(PFRP) provides scientific information on pelagic fisheries (generally fish that live in the near-surface waters of the ocean, often far from shore) to the Council for use in development of fisheries management policies. It was established in 1992 after the MSA was amended to include "highly migratory fish."

www.uscg.mil/d14

US Coast Guard (USCG) *14th*

District is involved in maritime law (including fisheries enforcement), mariner assistance, and search and rescue, among other duties, in the Western Pacific Region. It operates in international waters as well as US coasts, ports and inland waterways.

www.fws.gov/pacific

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Pacific Region works with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats. Among its priorities are national wildlife refuges, landscape conservation, migratory birds, and threatened and endangered species.

<http://americansamoa.gov/departments/mwr.htm>

American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) protects and manages the Territory's marine and wildlife resources. It helps formulate policies and guidelines; provides assistance to develop community and government programs; and, through education and regulations, prevents abusive use of natural resources.

www.dfw.gov.mp

CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) seeks to ensure the long-term survival and sustainability of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island's natural resources for present and future generations. It is involved in research, monitoring, regulation, enforcement, planning and management.

www.guamdawr.org

Guam Division of Aquatic & Wildlife Resources (DAWR) Fisheries Section works to restore, conserve, manage and enhance the aquatic resources in and about Guam and to provide for the public use of and benefits from these resources. Offshore and inshore surveys, fisheries development and conservation education are among its activities.

<http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar>

Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) manages the State's marine and freshwater resources. Major program areas aim to maximize commercial fishery and aquaculture productivity, protect native and resident aquatic species and their habitat, and provide facilities and opportunities for recreational fishing. DAR issues Hawaii fishing licenses.

www.hawaiiibottomfish.info

Hawaii Bottomfish Fishery is a public information website about management of the Hawaii bottomfish fishery. It is maintained jointly by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources.

www.wcpfc.int

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) is a regional fishery management organization that works to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean. Catch levels recommended by the WCPFC are considered by the Council.

Additional internet resources can be found on the Links page of our website—www.wpcouncil.org

Important Phone Numbers

Federal Agencies:

***Western Pacific Regional
Fishery Management Council***
(808) 522-8220

NMFS Pacific Islands Region

Hawaii:

Main Office: (808) 944-2200
Permits office: (808) 944-2275
Law Enforcement Office:
(808) 541-2727

American Samoa:

Main Office: (684) 633-5598
Law Enforcement Office:
(684) 633-7628

CNMI:

Main Office: (670) 664-6035

Guam:

Main Office: (671) 735-3958
Law Enforcement Office:
(671) 472-7200

NMFS Pacific Islands Fishery Science Center

Honolulu: (808) 983-5300

US Coast Guard, 14th District

Honolulu Office: (800) 818-8724
Command Center (Emergencies):
(808) 535-3333
Enforcement Branch:
(808) 535-3362
Sector Guam:
(671) 355-4910

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Honolulu: (808) 792-9540

Local Agencies:

***American Samoa Department
of Marine & Wildlife Resources***
(684) 633-4456

***CNMI Division of
Fish & Wildlife***
(670) 644-6000

***Guam Division of
Aquatic & Wildlife Resources***
(671) 735-3955

***Hawaii Division
of Aquatic Resources***
(808) 587-0100

Frequently Used Acronyms

ACL

Annual Catch Limits

AP

Advisory Panel

CNMI

*Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands*

CPUE

Catch Per Unit Effort

DAWR

*Guam Division of Aquatic and
Wildlife Resources*

DFW

*CNMI Division of Fish
and Wildlife*

DMWR

*American Samoa Department of
Marine and Wildlife Resources*

DOC

*United States Department of
Commerce*

EA

Environmental Assessment

EEZ

Exclusive Economic Zone

EFH

Essential Fish Habitat

EIS

*Environmental Impact
Statement*

ESA

Endangered Species Act

F

Fishing Mortality

FAD

Fish Aggregating Device

FEP

Fishery Ecosystem Plan

FFA

Forum Fisheries Agency

FMP

Fishery Management Plan

FWS

US Fish and Wildlife Service

GC

NOAA General Counsel

HAPC

*Habitat Areas of Particular
Concern*

HDAR

*Hawaii Division of
Aquatic Resources*

IATTC

*Inter-American Tropical
Tuna Commission*

 MMPA

*Marine Mammal
Protection Act*

(continued on next page)

Frequently Used Acronyms *(continued)*

MSA

*Magnuson-Stevens
Fishery Conservation and
Management Act*

MSY

Maximum Sustainable Yield

MUS

Management Unit Species

NEPA

*National Environmental
Policy Act*

NGO

*(Environmental)
Non-Governmental
Organization*

NMFS

*National Marine
Fisheries Service*

NOAA

*National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration*

OLE

*NOAA Office for
Law Enforcement*

OY

Optimum Yield

PIRO

*NMFS Pacific Islands
Regional Office*

PIFSC

*NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries
Science Center*

PT

Plan Team

SPC

*Secretariat for the Pacific
Community*

SSC

*Scientific and Statistical
Committee*

TAC

Total Allowable Catch

USCG

United States Coast Guard

VMS

Vessel Monitoring System

WCPFC

*Western and Central Pacific
Fisheries Commission*

WPacFIN

*Western Pacific Fisheries
Information Network*

WPRFMC

*Western Pacific Regional Fishery
Management Council*

WPSAR

*Western Pacific Stock
Assessment Review*

Council Members (2009)

Designated state officials:

Ignacio Dela Cruz, CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources

Paul Bassler, Guam Department of Agriculture

Laura Thielen, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources

Ray Tulafono, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources

Designated federal officials:

Bill Robinson, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office

Jerry Leinecke, US Fish and Wildlife

RAdm Manson Brown, US Coast Guard 14th District

Bill Gibbons-Fly, US Department of State

Appointed by the Secretary of Commerce from nominees selected by American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and Hawaii governors:

Sean Martin, Pacific Ocean Producers (Hawaii) (Chair)

Manuel Duenas, Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Guam) (Vice Chair)

Frederick Duerr, resort and hotel consultant (Hawaii) (Vice Chair)

Stephen Haleck, hotel and service station owner (American Samoa) (Vice Chair)

Benigno Sablan, cultural expert (CNMI) (Vice Chair)

David Itano, researcher (Hawaii)

William Sword, recreational fisherman/civil engineer/manager (American Samoa)

Peter Young, environmental consultant (Hawaii)

Scientific and Statistical Committee (2009)

Dr. Paul Callaghan, University of Guam retired (Chair)

Dr. Stewart Allen, NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Dr. Judith Amesbury, Micronesian Archeological Research Services

Dr. Brian Bowen, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

Dr. Frank A. Camacho, Guam Community College

Dr. Milani Chaloupka, University of Queensland

Dr. Charles Daxboeck, BioDax Consulting Tahiti

Dr. Richard Deriso, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission

Dr. John Hampton, Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Dr. Pierre Kleiber, NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Dr. Molly Lutcavage, University of New Hampshire

Dr. James Parrish, Hawaii Cooperative Fishery Research Unit (retired)

Dr. Dan Polhemus, Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources

Dr. Marlowe Sabater, American Samoa Marine & Wildlife Resources Department

Dr. Craig Severance, University of Hawaii at Hilo retired

Dr. John Sibert, Pelagic Fisheries Research Program

Dr. Robert Skillman, NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center retired

Mr. Michael Trianni, Northern Mariana Islands Division of Fish & Wildlife

Council Achievements

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council can point proudly to a 30-year record of sound management.

- *Prohibited drift gillnet fishing, bottom trawling and other non-discriminatory and destructive fishing methods throughout our 1.5 square mile jurisdiction*
- *Pioneered satellite-monitoring of fishing vessels*
- *Successfully advocated legislation to include highly migratory fish species, such as tuna, under federal management*
- *Promoted national legislation to ensure that Pacific island fishery resources are managed for the benefit of indigenous people*
- *Prohibited longline fishing in areas inhabited by albatross, Hawaiian monk seals and spawning swordfish in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and in areas frequented by non-longline fishing boats near the main Hawaiian Islands and Guam*
- *Limited entry into the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands bottomfish and lobster fisheries and into the Hawaii- and American Samoa-based longline fisheries*
- *Required fishing vessels to keep logbooks and carry observers to monitor bycatch and protected species interactions*
- *Developed the nation's first ecosystem-based FMP, the Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP*
- *Implemented a sea turtle conservation plan that protects nesting beaches and reduces fishery interactions, and organized international conferences to find ways to develop environmentally responsible longline static net gear for domestic and foreign fleets*
- *Assisted the United States in hosting four of the seven conferences that led to the first international fishery management treaty for the central and western Pacific and established the first international fishery commission to oversee migratory fish stocks within the region*
- *Co-hosted international conferences to reduce the worldwide problem of marine debris*
- *Organized workshops and a pilot project to facilitate the conversion of our existing species-based FMPs into ecosystem-based Fishery Ecosystem Plans*
- *Expanded the monitoring of recreational fisheries*



Photo by Leana Peters of Guam, winner of the Council's 2007 high school photo essay contest, "Through the Eyes of Our Elders to the Hands of Our Youth"



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