



# 40 Years of Fishery Management in the Western Pacific Pelagic, International & Pacific Remote Islands Area Fisheries

## To 1976

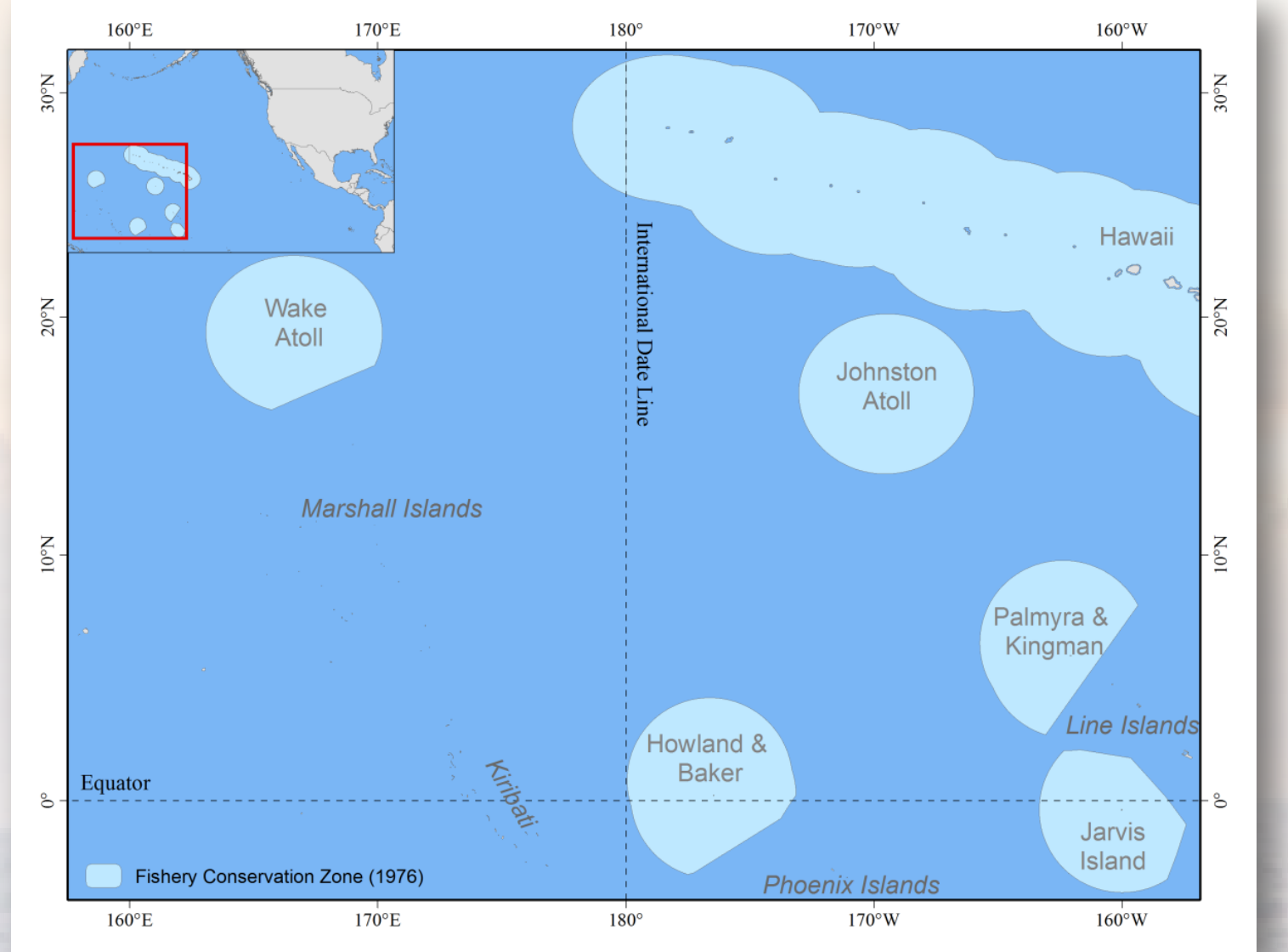
**1926:** President Calvin Coolidge established the Johnston Island Reservation as a federal bird refuge, which was renamed the Johnston Island National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in 1940.

**1947:** The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) begins as a convention between the United States and Costa Rica to maintain populations of skipjack and yellowfin tuna and of other kinds of fish taken by tuna fishing vessels in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

**1974:** Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton created Jarvis Island, Howland Island, and Baker Island NWRs, including the islands and surrounding submerged lands and waters to the 3 nautical mile (nm) boundary.

**1976:** The Fishery Conservation and Management Act, now known as the **Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA)**, creates the **Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council)** and establishes its **Fishery Conservation Zone to 200 nm** around the US states, territories, and island possessions in the Pacific. The Act's original goal was to replace foreign fishing effort in US waters with domestic fishing effort.

**1979:** Pacific island countries establish the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) as a sub-regional organization to ensure consistent minimum terms and conditions for fishing access to their EEZs by distant-water fishing nations.



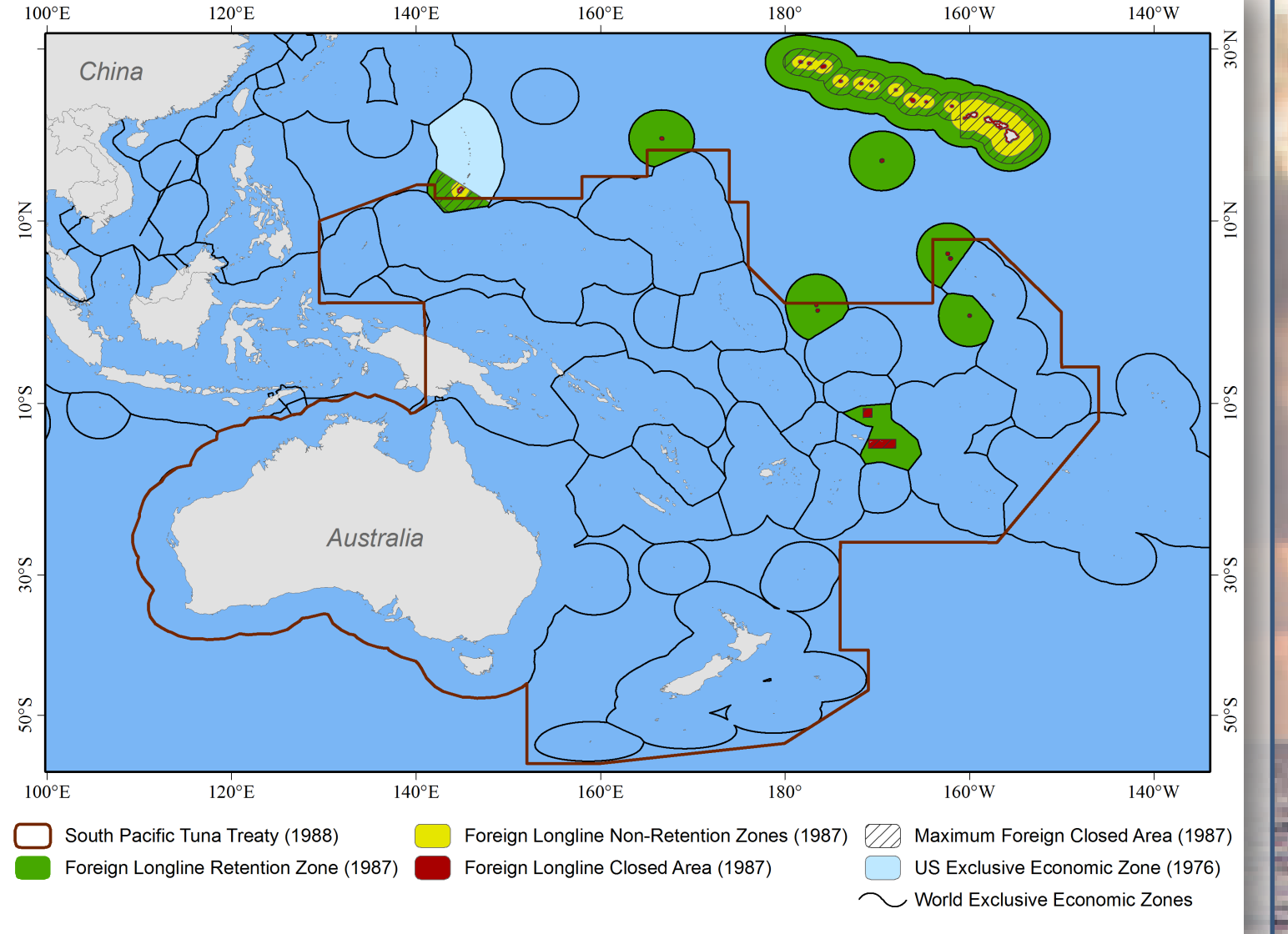
## 1977 to 1990

**1983:** President Ronald Reagan declared the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which replaced the term Fishery Conservation Zone.

**1987:** The **Pelagic Fishery Management Plan (FMP)** implemented and **banned drift gillnets** without an experimental fishing permit and established foreign longline closed areas, non-retention zones, retention zones, and a maximum closed area, triggered by adverse impacts of foreign fishing in all of the Western Pacific except CNMI. Foreign longline boats prohibited from keeping billfish caught within the non-retention zone.

**1988:**

- The PRIA was designated a precious coral exploratory permit area, with **permit and reporting requirements** and a **1,000 kg quota** for all species combined. All species of *Corallium* spp. were added.
- The South Pacific Tuna Treaty (SPTT), which sets operational terms and conditions for the U.S. tuna purse seine fleet to fish in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO), entered into force.



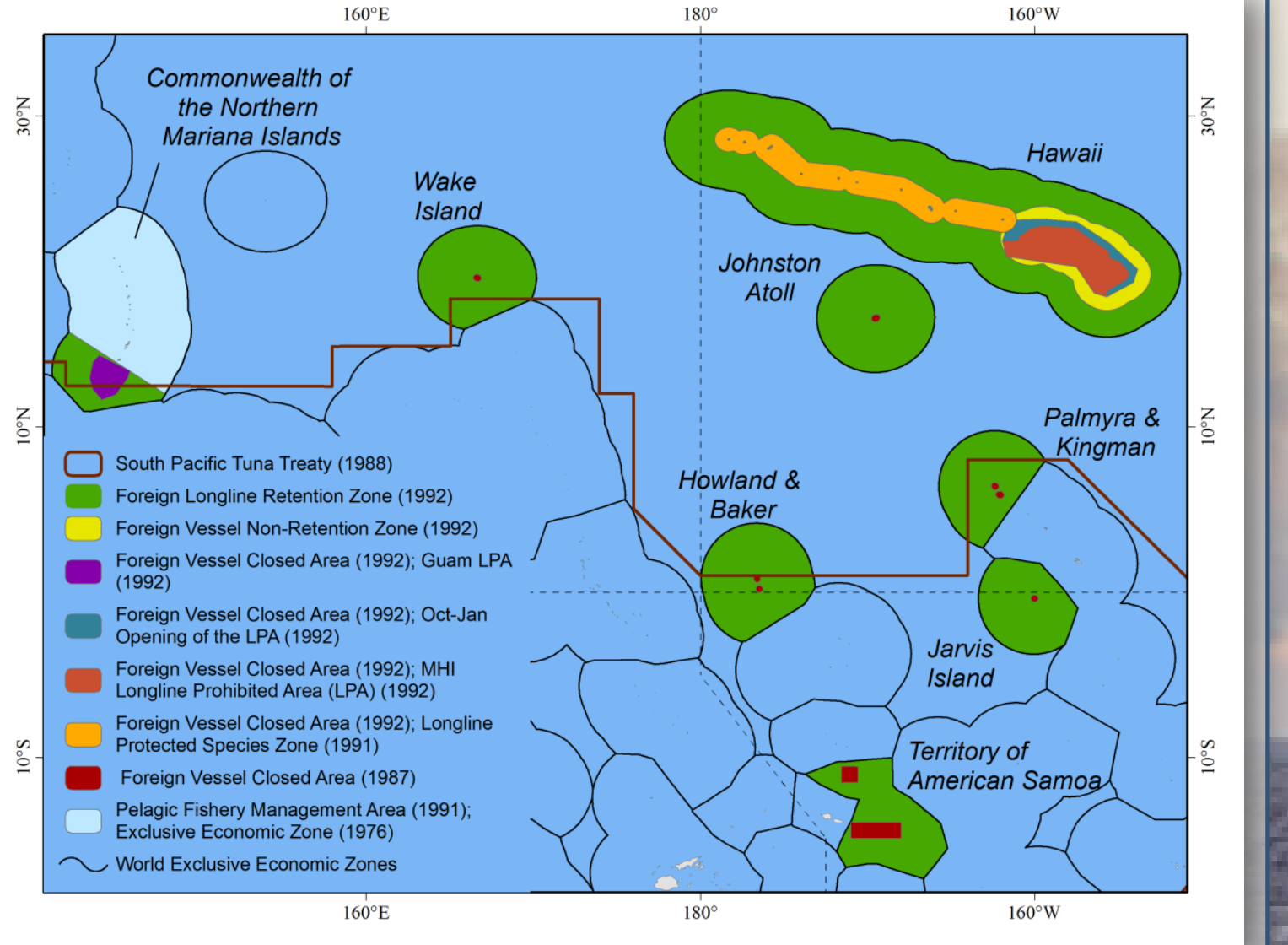
## 1991 to 1993

**1991:**

- United Nations bans high seas large-scale **drift gillnet** fisheries, four years after the Council's domestic ban.
- Council defines overfished for all managed stocks in response to the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) 1989 revision of its National Standards regulations.
- Pelagic FMP requires federal **permitting, logbooks, and gear identification**; creates 50 nm longline exclusion zone around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) to protect Hawaiian monk seals; requires satellite-based **Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)** on Hawaii-based longline vessels; institutes a 3-year moratorium on new entry; and includes CNMI in management area.

**1992:**

- Tuna included in MSA and as a managed species in the Western Pacific
- Domestic **longline vessel exclusion zones** created around the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) ranging from 50 to 75 nm, and around Guam and its outer banks to reduce gear conflicts. The MHI closure was reduced in size between October and January.
- MHI and Guam closures applied to foreign pole-and-line, longline, and purse seine vessels
- Maximum foreign closed areas and non-retention zones around Guam and the NWHI removed



## 1994 to 2000

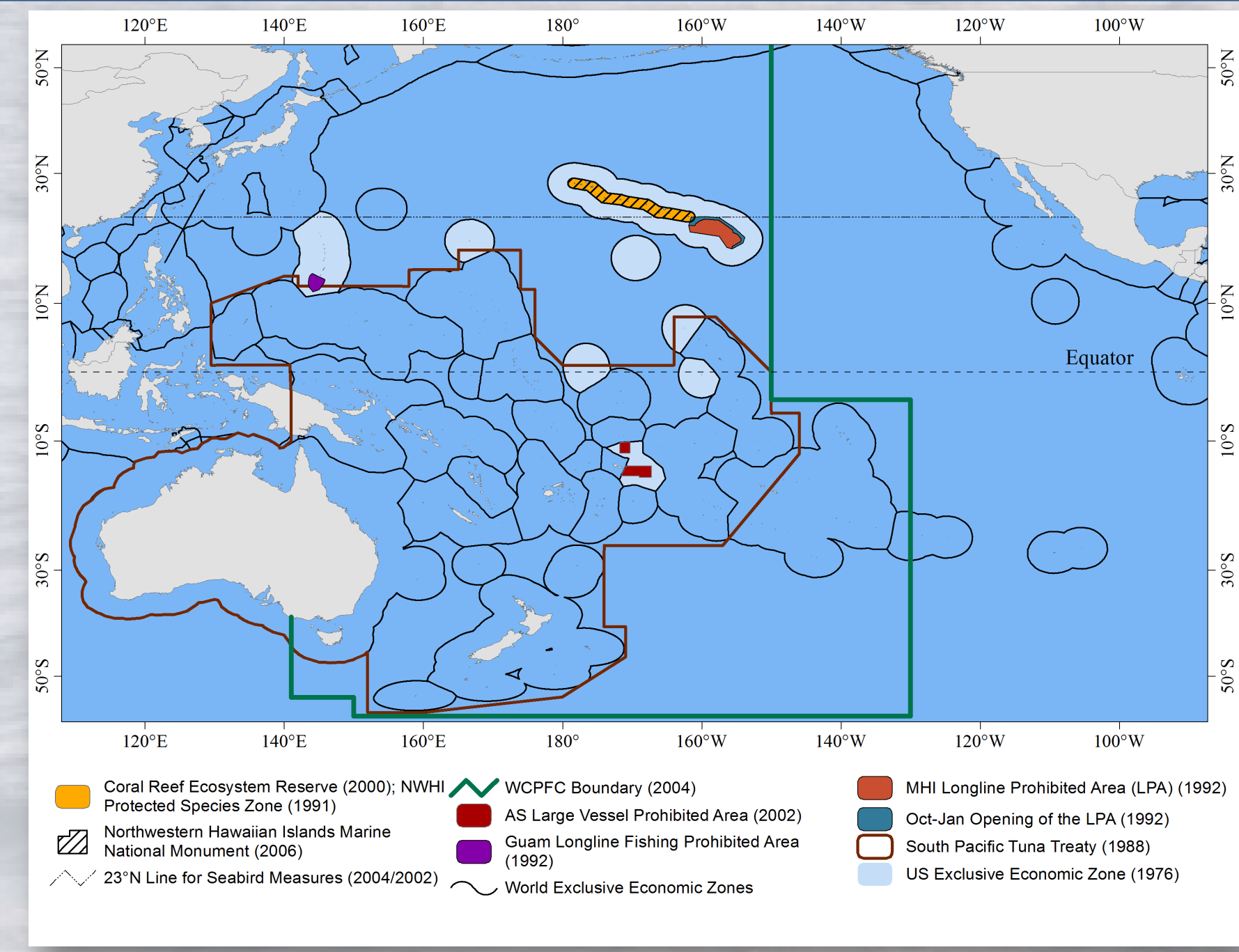
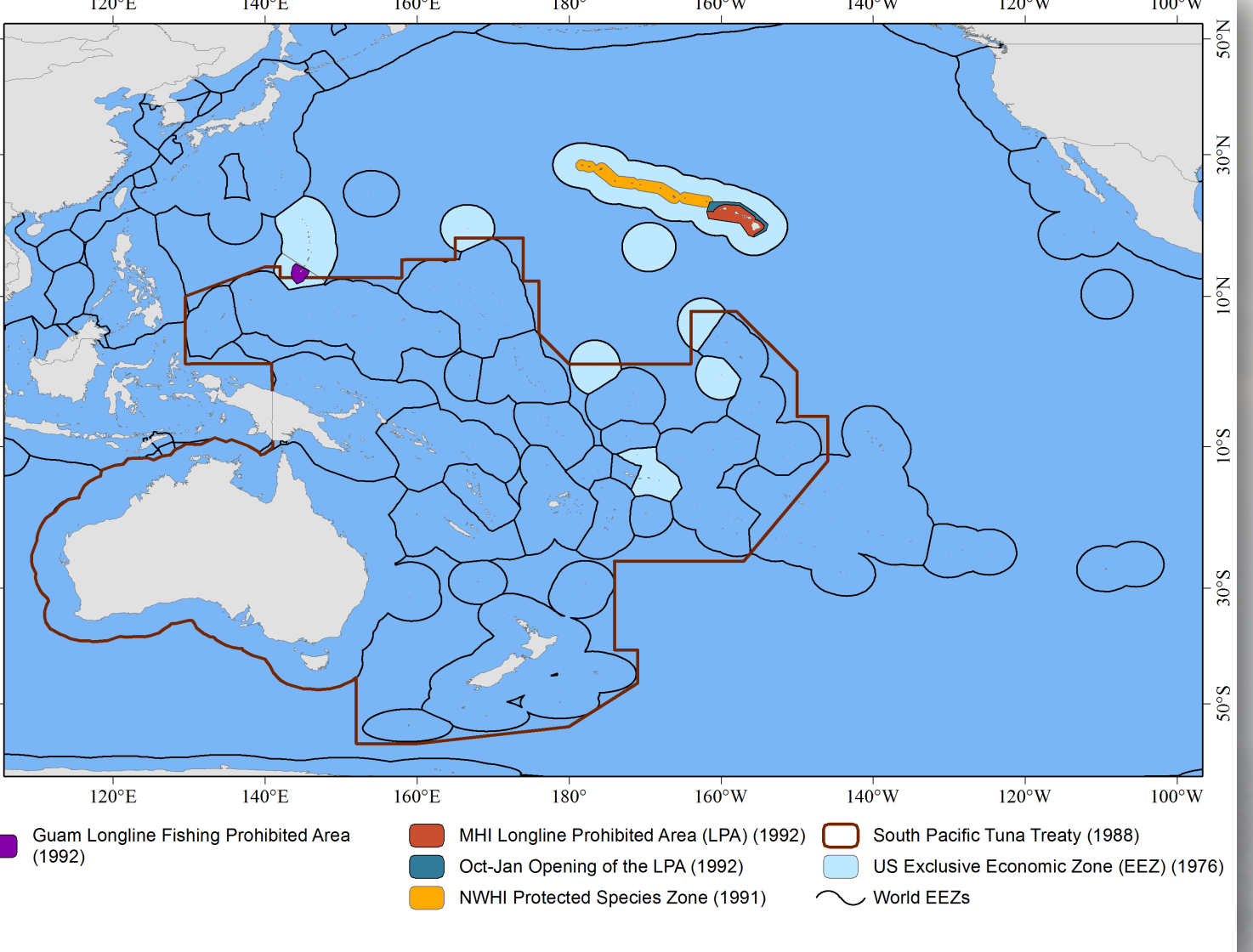
**1994:** Pelagic FMP amended to include opah, walū, and pomfret (monchong) as managed species; institute **limited entry** for Hawaii-based longline fishery with transferable permits (max 164 vessels); and cap **vessel size** at 101 feet in length

**1996:**

- NMFS removed the obsolete foreign vessel closed areas, non-retention zones, and retention zones.
- The Sustainable Fisheries Act (SFA) amended MSA to require that Councils **define essential fish habitat (EFH)** and **fishing communities**; minimize adverse affects of fishing on EFH; minimize **bycatch**; and **rebuild overfished stocks** if NMFS determined that the stock is overfished.

**1999:** SFA Omnibus Amendment defines EFH for all species managed under Western Pacific FMPs. Definitions of overfishing and descriptions of bycatch were included in the Precious Coral FMP.

**1999-2000:** The Council hosts four of seven Multilateral High Level Conferences in Honolulu, culminating in the Convention on the Conservation and Management of the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, or Honolulu Convention. This convention **established the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission (WCPFC)**.



## 2000 to 2008

**2001:**

- Kingman Reef and Palmyra Atoll NWRs established (including waters out to the 12 nm territorial sea boundary).
- Prohibited non-selective gear** and applied **minimum sizes** for pink and black corals throughout all permit areas under the Precious Corals FMP.

**2002:**

- MSA amended with nationwide prohibition on retention or landing shark fins without associated carcasses.
- Federal **permit and reporting requirements established** under the Pelagic FMP for vessels using troll or handline gear to catch PMUS in EEZ waters around the Pacific Remote Island Areas.
- Seabird mitigation measures implemented in the Hawaii-based pelagic longline fishery, requiring **blue-dyed bait**, **strategic offal discards**, and **line shooters with weighted branch lines when fishing north of 23° N**. Also implemented **annual protected species workshop** for Hawaii-based longline vessel owners and operators.
- American Samoa **Large Vessel Prohibited Area (LVPA)** created under the Pelagic FMP, prohibiting fishing for pelagic species by vessels >50 ft in length in waters 0-50 nm around the Islands of American Samoa.
- Sea turtle handling requirements** implemented under the Pelagic FMP for all vessels using hooks to target pelagic species in Western Pacific waters and extended the **protected species workshop** requirement to longline general permit holders.

**2003:** Bycatch descriptions and overfishing definitions approved for the Pelagic FMP.

**2004:**

- The Honolulu Convention comes into force, creating the WCPFC.
- The Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP established: **Permit and reporting requirements**; **no-take marine protected areas (MPAs)** within 50 fathoms at Jarvis, Howland, and Baker Islands and Kingman Reef; **low-use MPAs** between 10 and 50 fathoms around Palmyra Atoll, Wake Island, and Johnston Atoll; and **prohibited destructive and non-selective gears and spearfishing with SCUBA at night** in all remote island areas.
- Hawaii-based shallow-set longline fishery reopens after a 3-year court-ordered closure with new sea turtle measures implemented under the Pelagic FMP, including **circle hooks with mackerel bait**; **effort limited** to 2,120 sets; and **annual hard cap** on leatherback (16) and loggerhead (17) turtle interactions. **Night setting** also required for shallow-set vessels fishing north of 23° N to reduce seabird interactions.

**2005:**

- Sea turtle mitigation measures under the Pelagic FMP extended to non-Hawaii based longliners.
- Limited access system** established under the Pelagic FMP for pelagic longlining in EEZ waters around American Samoa, requiring federal **permits, logbooks, vessel monitoring systems** (vessels >40 ft), **observers** if requested by NMFS, and **sea turtle handling and resuscitation measures**.

**2006:**

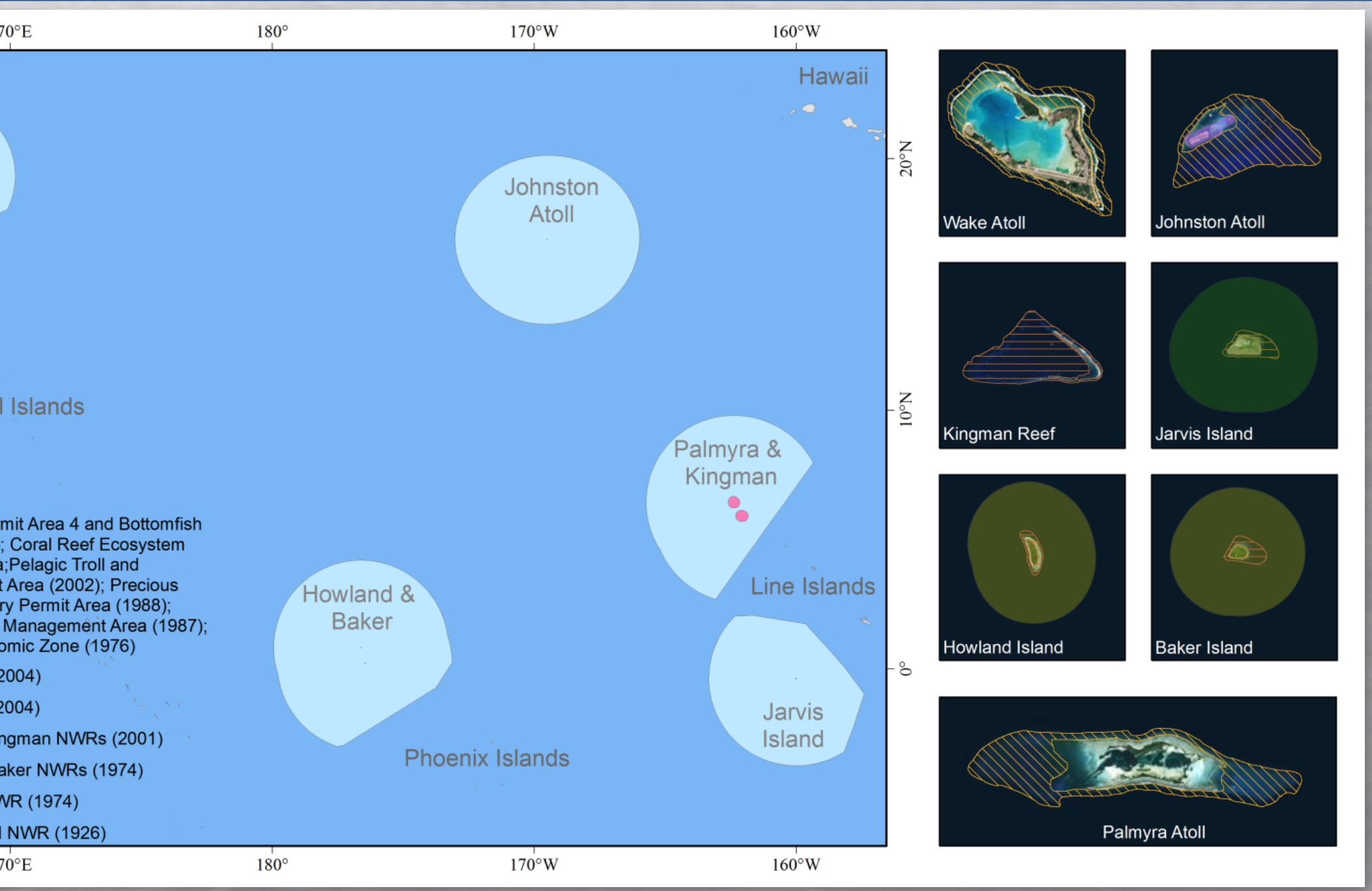
- PRIA added to the managed areas under Bottomfish and Crustaceans FMPs, with management measure including **permit and reporting requirements**; a **prohibition on bottom trawls, bottom set gillnets, poisons, and explosives** for harvesting bottomfish; and **at sea observer coverage** for both fisheries if requested by the Regional Administrator.
- Seabird mitigation measures revised** under the Pelagic FMP, allowing the option to **side-set** in lieu of other measures implemented in 2002 and 2004, and requiring seabird measures for all Hawaii-based shallow-set longline vessels wherever they fish.
- President George W. Bush establishes the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument (NMNM), with boundaries nearly identical to the Council's NWHI Protected Species Zone.

**2007:**

- MSA reauthorized to require annual catch limits with accountability measures for all managed species, outline limited access privilege program or catch share requirements, and authorize NMFS to implement WCPFC management measures.

**2008:**

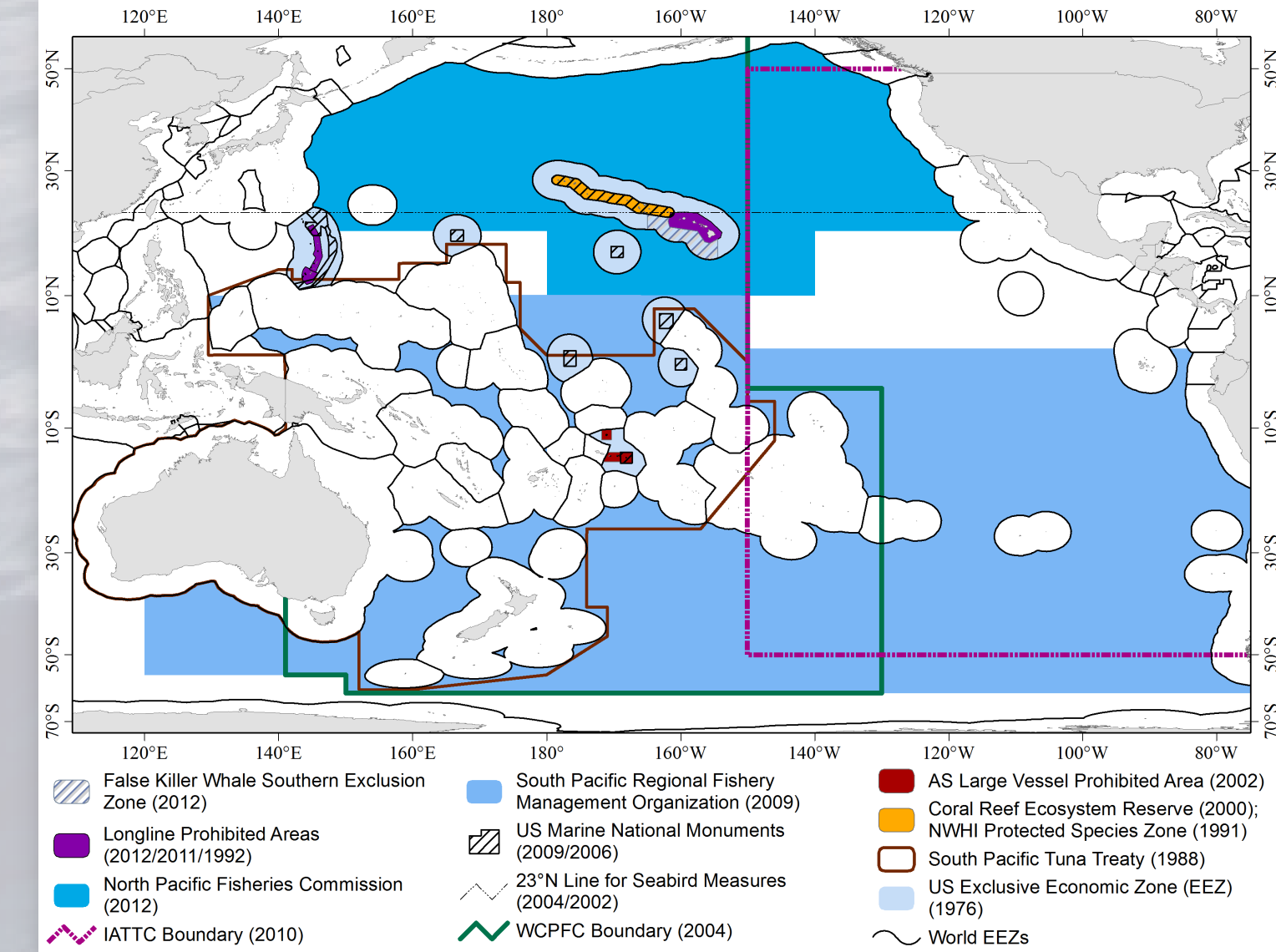
- 5-year moratorium on the harvest of gold coral** established under the Precious Coral FMP
- Pelagic squid and deepwater shrimp added as managed species with permit and reporting requirements



## 2009 to 2013

**2009:**

- President George W. Bush established the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM); the Marianas Trench MNM consisting of the Trench, Volcanic, and Island Units; the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument, prohibiting commercial fishing throughout the PRIMNM, Rose Atoll MNM, and the Islands Unit of the MTMNM; and renames the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands MNM to the Papahānaumokuākea MNM.
- Secretary's Order 3284 established Wake Island NWR and expanded Howland, Baker, Jarvis, and Johnston NWRs to the territorial sea boundary.
- WCPFC establishes **catch limits for longline fleets** targeting bigeye tuna, including the Hawaii longline fleet.
- 2,120 set limit for Hawaii-based shallow-set longline fishery removed and loggerhead sea turtle hard cap raised to 46 annual interactions.
- The South Pacific RFMO is created.

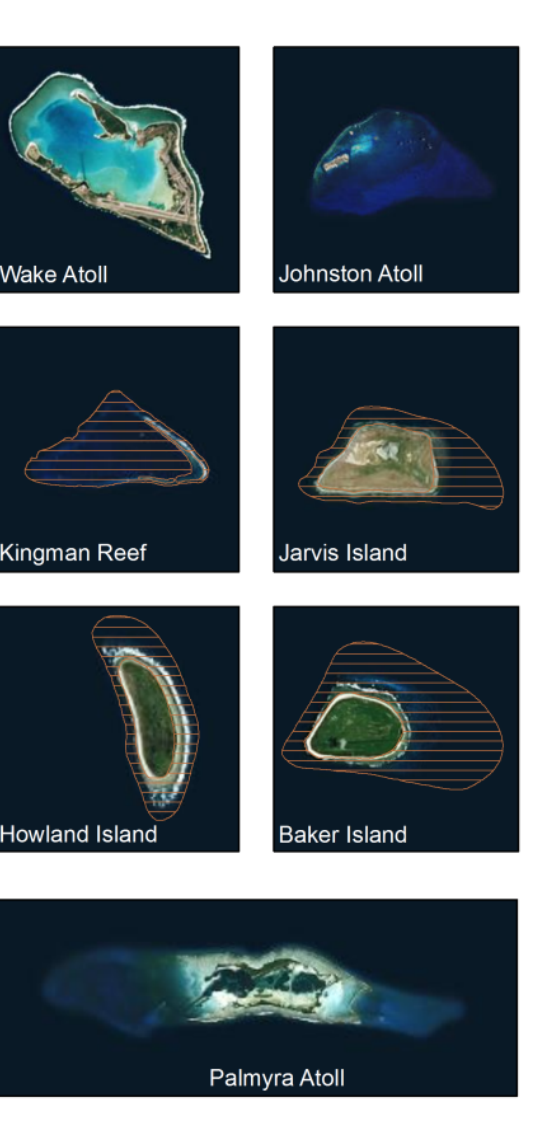
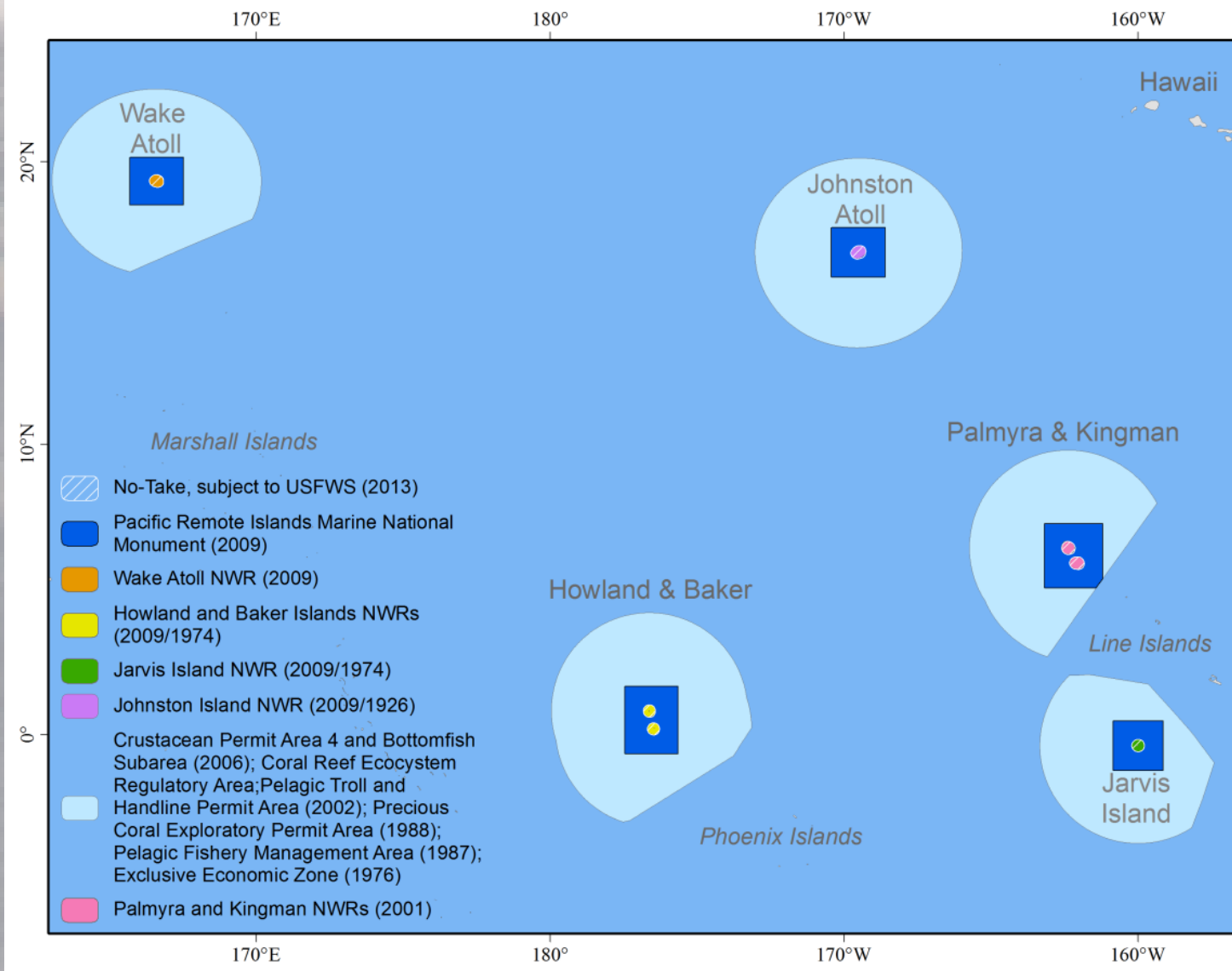


**2010:**

- Council restructures its five FMPs (pelagic, bottomfish, precious coral, crustacean, and coral reef ecosystem) into **place-based Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs)**.
- The Antigua Convention, which was negotiated to strengthen and replace the 1949 Convention establishing the IATTC, entered into force.
- Council amends all but PRIA FEP to establish eligibility requirements and procedures for reviewing and approving **community development plans**.

**2011:**

- Longline closure 30 nm around CNMI established.
- All Western Pacific Region FEPs include a process and mechanism to establish **annual catch limits (ACL)** and **accountability measures (AM)** for all fisheries of the Western Pacific Region; adopt the ecosystem component species classification for subsequent FEP amendment; and identify pelagic managed species as exempt. ACLs specified for PRIA FEP fisheries for the first time in 2012.
- Green sea turtle gear modifications required for American Samoa longline vessels.



**2012:**

- North Pacific Fisheries Commission formed to manage marine species not covered under other international treaties in the convention area.
- False Killer Whale Southern Exclusion Zone implemented under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Seasonal reduction in the MHI Longline Prohibited Area also removed.

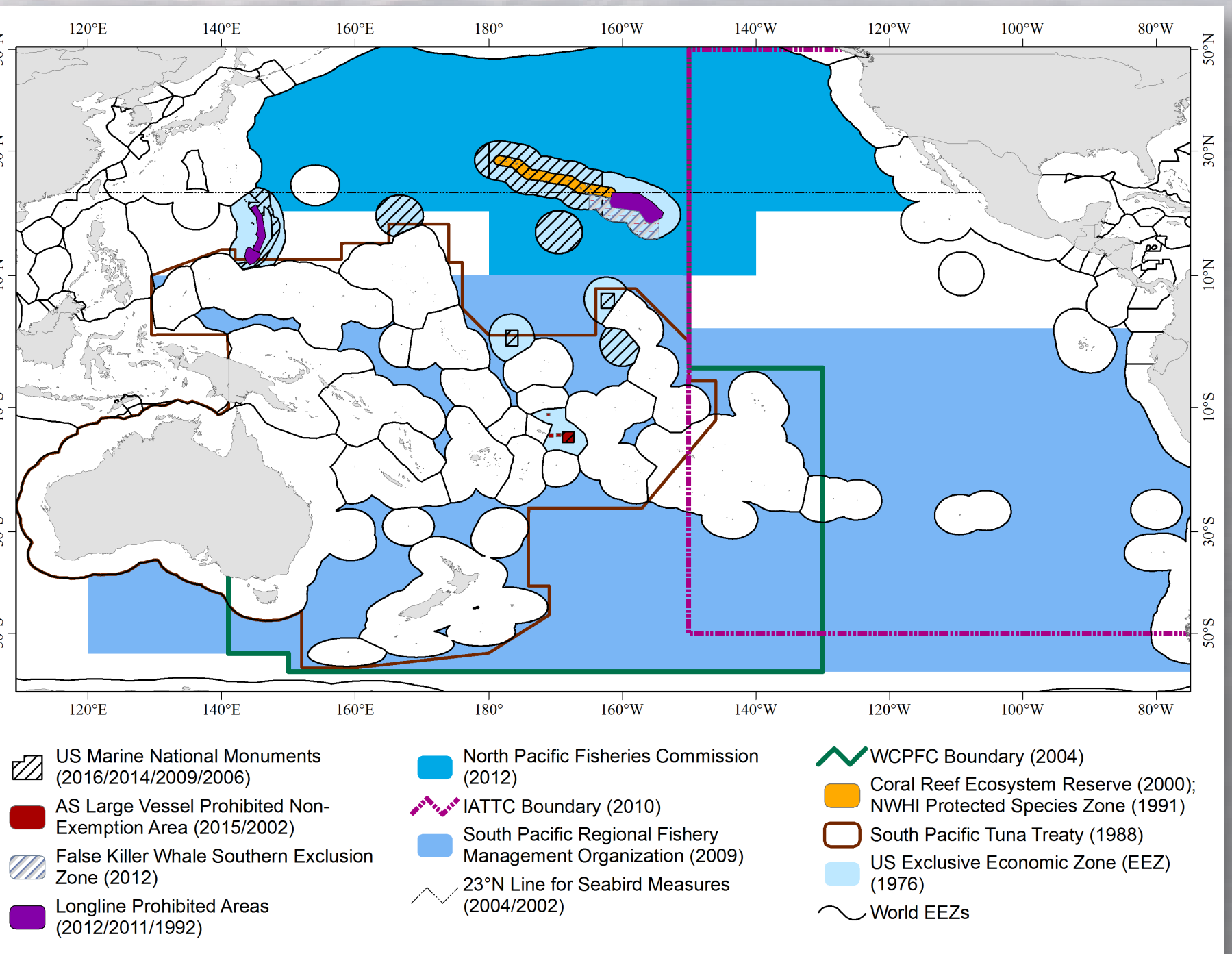
**2013:**

- Fishing regulations within the PRIMNM, Rose Atoll, and Marianas Trench MNMs removed low-use MPAs, prohibited fishing within the territorial sea of Rose Atoll and the PRIA, with PRIA subject to US Fish & Wildlife Service authority to allow non-commercial fishing in consultation with NMFS and the Council. Commercial fishing outside the PRIMNM and non-commercial fishing within the PRIMNM on the same trip were also prohibited.
- Moratorium on the harvest of gold corals** in the U.S. Pacific Islands extended through June 30, 2018.

## 2014 to 2016

**2014:**

- President Barack Obama expanded the PRIMNM around Johnston Atoll, Wake Island, and Jarvis Island to the edge of the EEZ.
- Specification of annual bigeye tuna catch limits and territory transfer agreements of limits are authorized within the MSA framework.
- Council recommended and NMFS specified **annual catch limits (ACLs)** for Pacific Island bottomfish, crustacean, precious coral, and coral reef ecosystem fisheries, and **accountability measures (AMs)** to correct or mitigate any overages of catch limits for the fishing year 2015.
- Marine Conservation Plans approved for CNMI, Guam, and the PRIA.



**2015:**

- The final rule adjusting the PRIMNM boundary is effective.

**2016:**

- Pelagic FEP allows an exemption to the American Samoa LVPA for waters between 12 and 50 nm around Tutuila, Swains, and the Manua Islands, subject to annual review by the Council.
- The US Fish and Wildlife Service applies the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act to the PRIMNM and Monument Expansion, while retaining the 12 nm boundaries of the PRIA NWRs.
- President Barack Obama expands the Papahānaumokuākea MNM from its boundaries west of 163° W to the 200 nm US EEZ boundary.

