

Status of the Fisheries 2017



A traditional sailing boat passes modern purse-seine vessels offloading tuna at the cannery in American Samoa. Photo by Sylvia Spalding.

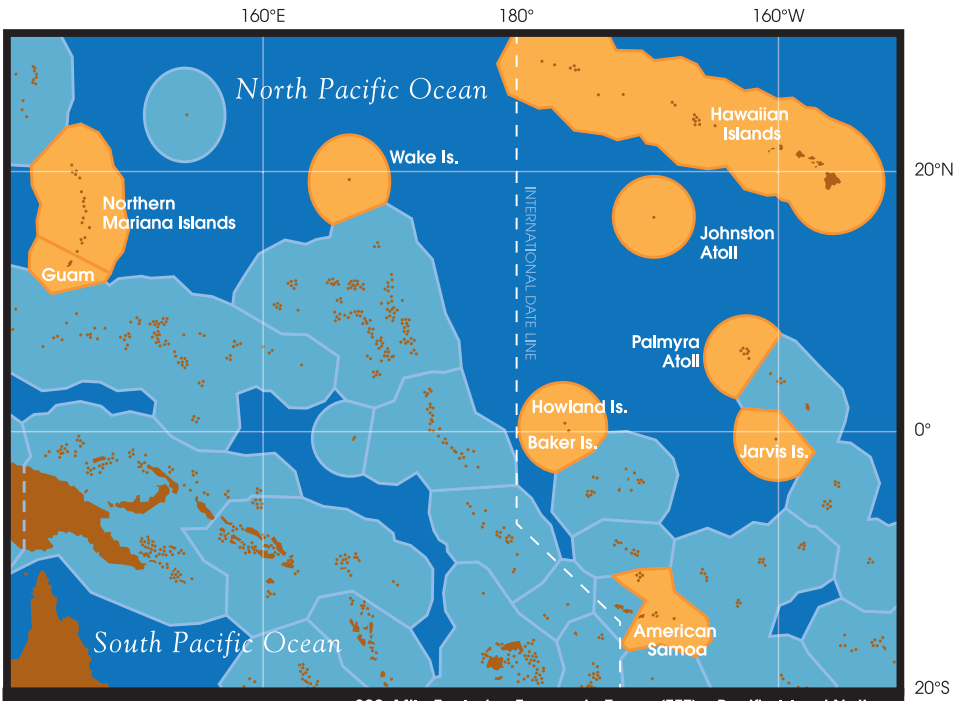
The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council ensures that fisheries are sustainable and marine resources are soundly stewarded seaward of the state waters of Hawai'i, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA). The Council's authority over commercial and non-commercial fisheries was established by Congress in 1976 and is mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

To monitor the fisheries, the Council publishes annual reports for the five fishery ecosystem plans (FEPs) that the Council has developed, monitored and amended. This publication summarizes and provides highlights from these annual reports. For the full reports, go to www.wpcouncil.org/fishery-plans-policies-reports/fishery-reports-2/.

Except for Hancock seamount armorhead and Western and Central North Pacific striped marlin, none of the fisheries within the the jurisdiction of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is overfished. The armorhead was overfished by Japanese and Soviet fleets prior to establishment of the Council and has been under a moratorium since 1986. The striped marlin is overfished due to international fishing.

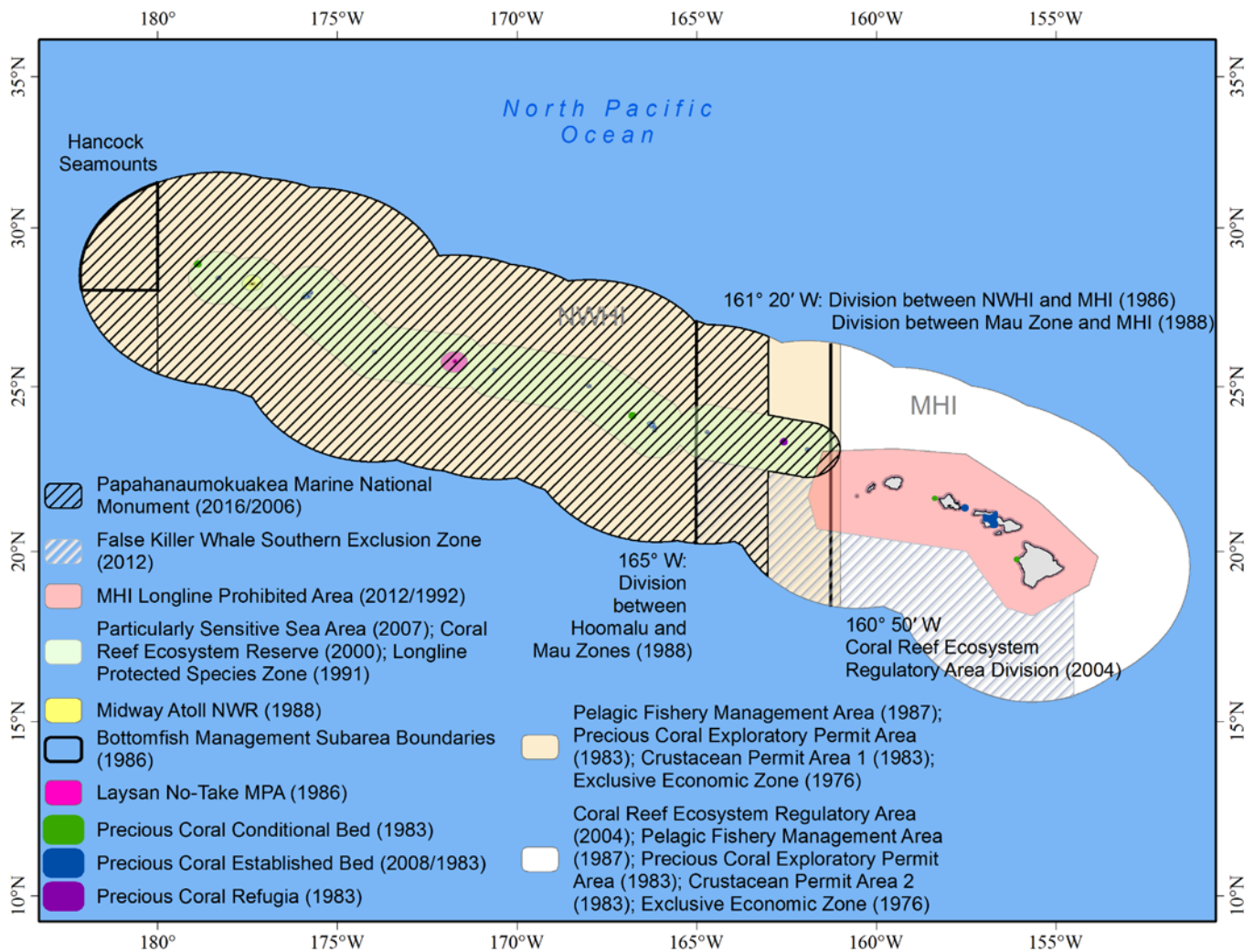


Above: Jonathan and John Hernandez at the Aug. 13, 2017, Guam's 4-H Youth Dive Fishing Derby at Pago Bay. The derby brought youth together with adults to learn new fishing skills in the ocean. Photo courtesy of Felix Reyes. **Map:** Western Pacific Region Fishery Management Council jurisdiction (orange areas).



Summary of the 2017 Fishery Performance American Samoa, Hawai'i, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

*Trends compare 2017 performance against 2016.



Hawai'i

Pelagic (commercial)

- 2,177 licensed fishermen, of which 46 percent were trollers, 41 percent longliners and 13 percent mostly ika shibi and palu 'ahi fishermen
- 145 deep-set longline vessels
- 18 shallow-set longline vessels
- 1,539 deep-set trips, highest effort levels in the past decade
- 61 shallow-set trips, 32.6 percent increase
- 39.2 million pounds of commercial landings, 6 percent increase
- \$110.8 million in total revenue, 4 percent decrease



The Hawai'i longline fleet accounted for 87 percent of the estimated ex-vessel value of the State's total commercial fish landings. Pictured is the landing of tuna for the Honolulu fish auction. *Photo courtesy of Jennifer Gilden.*

Hawai'i *(Continued)*

Deep 7 Bottomfish (commercial)

- 339 licensed fishermen, slight decrease from 372 licenses
- 2,327 fishing trips, stable trend
- 65,886 fish caught, 14.2 percent decrease
- 235,731 pounds in total landings, slightly down from 277,454 pounds
- 229,469 pounds caught by deep-sea handline
- 132,329 pounds of opakapaka (*Pristipomoides filamentosus*)
- 45,786 pounds of onaga (*Etelis coruscans*)

Non-Deep 7 Bottomfish (commercial)

- 412 licenses, down from 457 licenses
- 1,952 recorded trips, down from 2,174 trips
- 16,573 total fish, 10-percent increase
- 127,265 total pounds, 10-percent increase
- 76,658 pounds of uku (*Aprion virescens*) by deep-sea handline
- 1,356 pounds of white ulua (*Caranx ignobilis*)

Coral Reef Fish (commercial)

- 601 licenses, a decline in participation
- 6,043 trips, a decline in effort
- 1,085,267 fish caught, 19.3 percent decrease
- 720,182 pounds total catch, a decline in total catch



The Hawai'i coral reef fishery landings were dominated by seine net and lay gill net landing shallow schooling and coastal pelagic species such as akule (*Selar crumenophthalmus*) and opelu (*Decapterus macarellus*), both of which showed a steep decline in catch in 2017. Pictured are students in the Council's 2017 high school summer course on marine fisheries and resource management learning how to use a throw net.



Maui commercial bottomfish fisherman Layne Nakagawa.

Crustacean (commercial)

- 38 licenses, 32.1 percent decrease
- 473 fishing trips, 22.8 percent decrease
- 75,551 crustacean caught, 48.7 percent decrease
- 30,608 pounds landed, notable decline



Kona crab and lobsters fishery statistics were all down in 2017. Participation and catch values in the deep-water shrimp (*Heterocarpus laevigatus*) fishery were not disclosed due to data confidentiality despite having shown an increase in catch and catch per unit effort last year. Pictured is a Kona crab caught in a tangle net. Photo courtesy of John Wiley.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Pelagic (commercial and non-commercial)

- 131 active fishermen, continuing a steady decline since 2001
- 649 recorded trips, nearly 3 percent decrease
- 14,498 trolling hours, 25 percent decrease
- 340,869 pounds landed, 10.7 percent increase
- \$203,790 total adjusted commercial revenue, 4 percent increase



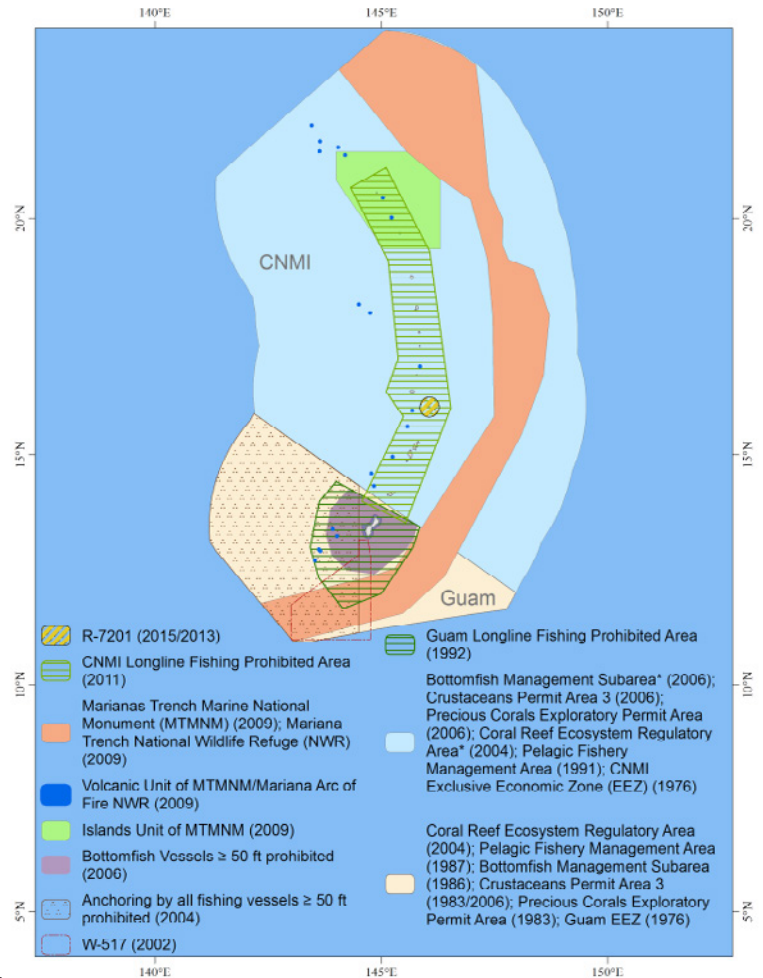
The CNMI pelagic fishery occurs primarily from the island of Farallon de Medinilla south to the Island of Rota. Skipjack tuna was the principal species landed, comprising more than 55 percent of the pelagic landings.

Bottomfish (commercial and non-commercial)

- Catch rates up
- Fishery participation, fishing effort and landings down
- \$38 average cost of a bottomfish trip, nearly half of the 2016 cost of \$65

Coral Reef Fish (commercial and non-commercial)

- 13,367 recorded shore-based hook-and-line fishermen, 13.2 percent increase
- 650 recorded boat-based troll fishermen, 2.7 percent increase
- 67,081 gear hours in shore-based hook-and-line fishery, substantial increase
- 124,845 gear hours in boat-based troll fishery, 25.1 percent increase
- 27,403 pounds shore-based landings, substantial decrease
- 8,990 pounds boat-based landings, substantial decrease
- 23,880 pounds commercial landings, substantial decrease



The CNMI shore-based fishery primarily targeted atulai, rudderfish, surgeonfish and mullet, while the boat-based fishers had a larger focus on parrotfish and bottomfish species. Pictured are surgeonfish and assorted CNMI reef fish. *Photo by Joshua DeMello.*

Guam

Pelagic Coral Reef Fish (commercial)

- 487 boats, 19.4 percent increase
- 318 active trolling vessels, 22 percent decrease
- 54,780 estimated trolling hours, 11.7 percent decrease
- 705,060 pounds of total landings, 15.7 percent decrease
- \$246,302 total adjusted commercial revenue, 17 percent increase



The Guam pelagic fishery consists of small, primarily trolling boats that fish within the US exclusive economic zone around Guam and the CNMI. Most of the boats are less than 33 feet in length and owner-operated by fishermen who earn a living outside of fishing. About 38 percent of the boat-based fishermen experienced shark interactions. Pictured is Guam angler Sol Monteverde with a wahoo. *Photo courtesy of Felix Reyes.*

Bottomfish (commercial and non-commercial)

- 841 fishermen, decrease
- 176,253 estimated gear hours, slight increase
- 22,962 pounds of bottomfish catches, decrease
- \$72 average cost of bottomfish trip, nearly double that of 2016

Most fishermen sold a portion of their catch, making it difficult to distinguish recreational, subsistence and commercial fishers.

Coral Reef Fish (commercial and non-commercial)

- 58,178 recorded fishers in the shore-based hook-and-line fishery, 8.9 percent increase
- 905 recorded fishers in the boat-based troll fishery, stable trend
- 191,836 gear hours in the shore-based hook and line fishery, 4.7 percent increase
- 7,157,862 gear hours in the boat-based troll fishery, 21.8 percent decrease
- 72,055 pounds caught (shore-based), 26.5 percent increase
- 75,373 pounds caught (boat-based), 22.8 percent decrease
- 273,375 pounds caught (commercial), substantial increase



l'e (juvenile jacks). *Photo courtesy of Matt Orot.*



The top species for the Guam shore-based reef fishery were atulai, jacks and rudderfish, while parrotfish, jacks and various managed bottomfish species dominated the boat-based landings. Pictured is Bobbie Alvarez of Yigo casting a talayeru net. *Photo courtesy of Peter Perez.*

American Samoa



The American Samoa longline fleet includes nine vessels greater than 70 feet, five vessels between 50 and 70 feet and one vessel less than 40 feet in length. All but three of the vessels are owned by the families of Samoan women, who manage the vessels.

Pelagic (commercial)

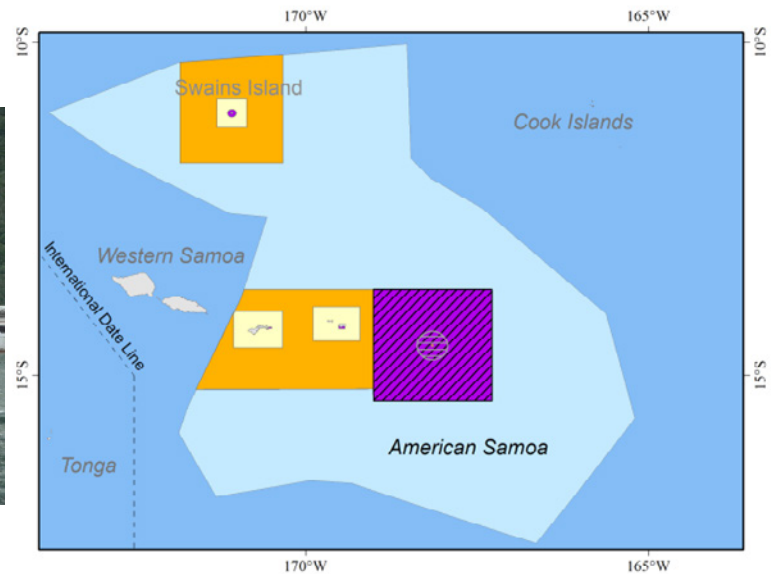
- 15 active longline vessels, 25 percent decrease
- 135 longline trips
- 8 active trolling vessels, 12 percent decrease
- 2,333 longline sets, 4.8 percent decrease
- 179 trolling trips, 29 percent increase
- 4.8 million pounds landed, continues declining trend since 2009
- \$4.7 million in total adjusted commercial revenue, 4 percent decrease



The commercial landings of tuna species in American Samoa were the lowest in the past 10 years and impacted production at the local tuna cannery, which depended on US caught tuna for products destined for the USDA national lunch program and Department of Defense military contracts.

Bottomfish (commercial and non-commercial)

- 2,195 recorded fishermen, substantial increase
- 406 trips, 1.5 percent increase
- 416,150 gear hours, 10 percent increase
- 17,425 pounds non-commercial catch, 29.7 percent decrease
- 1,137 pounds commercial catch, stable trend



- 12 nm No-Take MPA (2013)
- Rose Atoll Marine National Monument (2009)
- Large Vessel Prohibited Area Longline Exemption (2015)
- National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa (2012/1986)
- Large Vessel Prohibited Area (2002)
- Coral Reef Ecosystem Regulatory Area (2004); Pelagic Fishery Management Area (1987); Bottomfish Management Subarea (1986); Crustaceans Permit Area 2 (1983); Precious Corals Exploratory Permit Area (1983); Exclusive Economic Zone (1976)



Fishermen using bottomfish gear were mostly non-commercial and landed primarily managed bottomfish species.

Coral Reef Fish (commercial and non-commercial)

- 2,404 recorded trollers, substantial increase
- 992 recorded rod-and-reel fishermen, substantial decrease
- 149,490 gear hours of trolling, substantial increase
- 24,969 gear hours of shore-based rod-and-reel fishing, 22.4 percent increase
- 12,789 pounds shore-based catch, substantial decrease
- 27,758 pounds boat-based catch, 11.8 percent increase
- 41,163 pounds commercial catch, substantial decrease



The American Samoa shore-based reef catch was mostly landed using spear and rod-and-reel, while the boat-based reef catch came mostly from bottomfish fishing and trolling. Both the shore- and boat-based fisheries primarily targeted surgeonfish, parrotfish and snappers, while the boat-based sector additionally focused on bottomfish.

2017 Administrative and Regulatory Actions

For the Federal Register notices for these actions, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov>.

April 11 (82 FR 17382) **Final rule under the Tuna Conventions Act to implement Resolution C-17-01 (Conservation of Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean During 2017)** adopted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in February 2017. Applicable to 2017 only, most provisions are identical in content to the previous resolution on tropical tuna management that expired at the end of 2016, including a 500 metric ton (mt) bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) calendar year catch limit applicable to longline vessels greater than 24 meters (m) in overall length and a 62-day closure period applicable each year to purse-seine vessels with greater than 182 mt carrying capacity. The resolution also included new total allowable catch (TAC) limits for yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*) and bigeye tuna harvested in purse-seine sets on floating objects and in sets involving chase and encirclement of dolphins. This rule implements all of those requirements and revised related regulations for clarification purposes. This rule is necessary for the conservation of tropical tuna stocks in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) and for the United States to satisfy its obligations as an IATTC member.

April 21 (82 FR 18716) **Final 2016 annual catch limits (ACLs) for Pacific Island bottomfish, crustacean, precious coral and coral reef ecosystem fisheries and accountability measures** to correct or mitigate any overages of catch limits. The final specifications were applicable from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2016, except for precious coral fisheries, which were applicable from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. Although the 2016 fishing year had ended for most stocks, NMFS evaluated 2016 catches against these final ACLs when data became available in mid-2017. The ACLs and accountability measures support the long-term sustainability of fishery resources of the US Pacific Islands. This rule was effective on May 22, 2017.

June 30 (82 FR 29778) **Final 2017-18 ACL and accountability measure for main Hawaiian Islands Deep 7 Bottomfish.** NMFS specified an ACL of 306,000 pounds for the fishing year, which began on Sept. 1, 2017, and will end on Aug. 31, 2018. If the NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center projects that the fishery will reach the ACL, NMFS will close the commercial and non-commercial sectors of the fishery for the remainder of the fishing year consistent with the accountability measure. The ACL and accountability measure support the long-term sustainability of Hawai'i bottomfish.

Aug. 11 (82 FR 37575) **Approval of the Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) for Pacific Insular Areas** other than American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, valid from Aug. 4, 2017, through Aug. 3, 2020. The MSA requires any payments received under a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement and any funds or contributions received in support of conservation and management objectives for the PRIA MCP, to be deposited into the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund for use by the Council. Additionally, amounts received by the Secretary attributable to fines and penalties imposed under the MSA for violations by foreign vessels occurring in the exclusive economic zone off the PRIA are deposited into the Fund for use by the Council. Section 204(e)(7)(C) of the MSA authorizes the Council to use the Fund to meet conservation and management objectives in the State of Hawai'i, if funds remain after implementing the PRIA MCP.

This plan contains seven conservation and management objectives, consistent with the Hawai'i FEP.

Aug. 14 (82 FR 37824) **NMFS closure of the US pelagic longline fishery for bigeye tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO)** from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2017, because the fishery had reached the 2017 catch limit of 3,138 mt of bigeye tuna. This action was necessary to ensure compliance with NMFS regulations that implement decisions of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

Aug. 16 (82 FR 38876) **Approval of the MCP for Guam**, valid from Aug. 4, 2017, through Aug. 3, 2020.

Aug. 28 (82 FR 40720) **NMFS temporary closure of the U.S. commercial fishery for Pacific bluefin tuna in the EPO** from Aug. 28 through Dec. 31, 2017, because the 2017 catch limit of 425 mt was exceeded. This action was necessary to prevent the fishery from further exceeding the applicable catch limit established by IATTC in Resolution C-16-08 (Measures for the Conservation and Management of Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean).

Sept. 29 (82 FR 45514) **Issuance of regulations under the Tuna Conventions Act to implement amendments to Resolution C-17-01 per Resolution C-17-02** (Conservation Measures for Tropical Tunas in the Eastern Pacific Ocean during 2018-2020 and Amendment to Resolution C-17-01) which the IATTC adopted in July 2017. Applicable to the purse-seine fleet fishing for tropical tunas in the EPO for the remainder of 2017, the amendments to Resolution C-17-01 removed the TACs for bigeye tuna and yellowfin tuna and replaced them with an extension in the purse-seine closure period from 62 days to 72 days. This ensured that the time/area closure known as the corralito would not overlap with the extended closure periods; the amendments also shifted the dates for the corralito closure. This rule was necessary for the conservation of tropical tuna stocks in the EPO and for the United States to satisfy its obligations as a member of the IATTC.

Oct. 13 (82 FR 47642) **Specification of a 2017 limit of 2,000 mt of longline-caught bigeye tuna for each US participating territory** (American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands) for the period Oct. 10 through Dec. 31, 2017. NMFS allowed each territory to allocate up to 1,000 mt each year to US longline fishing vessels in a valid specified fishing agreement. As an accountability measure, NMFS monitored, attributed and restricted (if necessary), catches of longline-caught bigeye tuna, including catches made under a specified fishing agreement. These catch limits and accountability measures support the long-term sustainability of fishery resources of the US Pacific Islands and fisheries development in the US territories.

Oct. 23 (82 FR 49143) **Valid specified fishing agreement that allocates up to 1,000 mt of the 2017 bigeye tuna limit for the CNMI** to identified US longline fishing vessels. The agreement supports the long-term sustainability of fishery resources of the US Pacific Islands and fisheries development in the CNMI.

Nov. 11 (82 FR 56747) **NMFS closure of the US pelagic longline fishery for bigeye tuna in the WCPO** from Dec. 6 through 31, 2017 because the fishery would reach the 2017 allocation limit for the CNMI. This action was necessary to comply with regulations managing this fish stock. This closure did not apply to any vessel included in a valid agreement with another territory.

Dec. 1 (82 FR 57551) **Valid specified fishing agreement that allocates up to 1,000 mt of the 2017 bigeye tuna limit for the Territory of American Samoa** to identified US longline fishing vessels. The agreement supported the long-term sustainability of fishery resources of the US Pacific Islands and fisheries development in the American Samoa.

Dec. 11 (82 FR 58129) **ACLs for Pacific Island crustacean, precious coral, and territorial bottomfish fisheries and accountability measures** to correct or mitigate any overages of catch limits. The ACLs and accountability measures will be effective for fishing year 2017. Although the 2017 fishing year has nearly ended for most stocks, NMFS will evaluate 2017 catches against these final ACLs when data become available in mid-2018. The ACLs and accountability measures support the long-term sustainability of fishery resources of the US Pacific Islands. The final specifications are applicable from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2017, except for precious coral fisheries, which are applicable from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.

Dec. 13 (82 FR 58564) **Restrictions on the use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) by purse-seine vessels in the WCPO.** As the 2017 FAD set limit of 2,522 is expected to be reached by Dec. 24, 2017, NOAA Fisheries announced that US purse-seine vessels will be prohibited from fishing on FADs in the area of application of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the WCPO in the area between 20° N and 20° S latitudes. The prohibition will be effective 00:00 on Dec. 24 until 24:00 on Dec. 31 UTC. NMFS took action to enable the United States to implement provisions of a conservation and management measure adopted by the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the WCPO and to satisfy the obligations of the United States under the Convention, to which it is a Contracting Party.

2017 Publications

2017 Amerika Samoa Lunar Calendar. 2017.

Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-03-8

2017 Eskaleran Pulan Chamorro. 2017. Honolulu:

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-05-2

2017 Fanha'aniyan Pulan Chamoru (Chamorro Lunar Calendar). 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific

Regional Fishery Management Council. (Guam version). ISBN 978-1-944827-01-4

2017 Hawaiian Lunar Calendar. 2017. Honolulu:

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (classroom version). ISBN 978-1-944827-00-7

2017 Hawaiian Lunar Calendar. 2017. Honolulu:

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (fisherman pocket version). ISBN 978-1-944827-02-1

2017 Refaluwasch Pápáál Maram. 2017. Honolulu:

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-04-5

American Samoa Advisory Panel 2015-2018 (brochure).

August 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (print). ISBN 978-1-944827-07-6

American Samoa Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan

(brochure). September 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-14-4

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Advisory Panel 2015-2018 (brochure). August 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (print). ISBN 978-1-944827-08-3

From Boat to Plate. 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (13-minute video revised; original 2016). ISBN 978-1-944827-17-5

Guam Advisory Panel 2015-2018 (brochure). August 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (print). ISBN 978-1-944827-06-9

Hawai'i Advisory Panel 2015-2018 (brochure). August 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (print). ISBN 978-1-944827-09-0

Hawai'i Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (brochure). September 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-11-3

Hawai'i Speakers Program (brochure). August 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-10-6

Mariana Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan (brochure). September 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-13-7

Pacific Islands Fishery News. Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall issues. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISSN 2151-2329 (print); ISSN 2151-2337 (online)

Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plan (brochure). September 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-12-0

Pacific Remote Island Areas Fishery Ecosystem Plan (brochure). September 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-15-1

Western Pacific Region 2016 Status of the Fisheries. 2017. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. 978-1-944827-18-2

2017 Council and Advisory Body Meetings

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (chair *Edwin A. Ebisui Jr.*): 169th meeting, March 21-23, Honolulu; 170th meeting, June 19-22, Honolulu; 171st meeting, Oct. 17-19, American Samoa

Scientific and Statistical Committee (chair *Paul Callaghan*): 125th meeting, March 7-9, Honolulu; 126th meeting, June 13-15, Honolulu; 127th meeting, Oct. 10-12, Lihue, Hawai'i

Advisory Panel (chair *Judith Gubertz*)

- American Samoa (chairs *Krista Corry* and *Christinna Lutu-Sanchez*): May 31, Sept. 21, Oct. 14
- CNMI (chair *Richard Farrell*): June 7, Sept. 20
- Guam (chair *Peter Perez*): May 26, Sept. 22
- Hawai'i (chair *Gary Beals*): June 15, Sept. 29
- Joint: March 15-17, Honolulu

Plan Teams: (Archipelagic chair *Stefanie Dukes*; Pelagic chair *Keith Bigelow*): April 18-19, Honolulu; May 12-14, Honolulu

Education Committee (chair *Craig Severance*): no meeting

Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee (chair *Kitty M. Simonds*): June 19, Honolulu; June 4, CNMI

Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee — Technical Committee: (chair *Domingo Ochavillo*) April 20-21, Honolulu

Fishing Industry Advisory Committee (chair *Stuart Chikami*): no meeting

Hawai'i Bottomfish Advisory Review Board (no chair): no meeting

Marine Planning and Climate Change Committee (chair *Eileen Sbea*): April 5-6, Honolulu

Non-commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee (no chair): June 8, Honolulu

Protected Species Advisory Committee (chair *Jim Lynch*): March 30-31, Honolulu

Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee

- American Samoa (chair *William Sword*): Oct. 16
- CNMI (chair *John Gourley*): Nov. 15
- Guam (chair *Michael Duenas*): Nov. 17
- Hawai'i (chair *McGrew Rice*): Dec. 1

Social Science Planning Committee (chair *Craig Severance*): April 5-6, teleconference; Sept. 26-27, Honolulu

2017 Workshops, Events and Public Scoping

Fishers Forum on Using Fisher Knowledge to Inform Fisheries Management, March 22, Honolulu

Hawai'i Fishery and Management High School Marine Science Summer Course, June 7-July 7

Fishers Forum: From Boat to Web: Understanding Catch Reporting and Fishery Monitoring, June 21, Honolulu

Guam Marine Fisheries and Resources High School Summer Course, June 26-July 7

American Samoa Marine Fisheries and Resources High School Summer Course, July 24-Aug. 11

Intersessional Meeting on Tropical Tuna, Special Session (WCPFC), Aug. 22-24, Honolulu

Annual Collaborative Climate Science Workshop (with Pacific Islands Regional Office and Pacific Island Fisheries Science Center), Sept. 19-21, Honolulu

Hawaii Climate and Fisheries Training, Sept. 28, Honolulu

Fishers Forum – Fishing: Food. Life. Future, Oct. 18, American Samoa

Albatross Workshop, Nov. 7-9, Honolulu

CNMI Training on Climate and Fisheries, Nov. 15

Guam Training on Climate and Fisheries, Nov. 17

2017 Council Members

Secretary of Commerce appointees from nominees selected by American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and Hawai'i governors: *Edwin Ebisui Jr.*, fisherman (Hawai'i) (chair); *Michael Duenas*, Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Guam) (vice chair); *John Gourley*, Micronesian Environmental Services (CNMI) (vice chair); *Christinna Lutu-Sanchez*, commercial fisherman (American Samoa) (vice chair); *Eo Mokoma*, commercial fisherman (American Samoa); *McGrew Rice*, commercial and charter fisherman (Hawai'i) (vice chair); *Michael Goto*, United Fishing Agency (Hawai'i); *Dean Sensui*, film producer (Hawai'i); *Archie Soliai*, StarKist (American Samoa). **Designated state officials:** *Suzanne Case*, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources; *Ruth Malagi-Tofiga*, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources; *Richard Seman*, CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources (January-April); *Ray Roberto*, CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources (April-December); *Matt Sablan*, Guam Department of Agriculture. **Designated federal official voting:** *Michael Tosatto*, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office. **Designated federal officials non-voting:** *Matthew Brown*, US Fish and Wildlife Service; *Michael Brakke*, US Department of State; and *RADM Vincent B. Atkins*, US Coast Guard 14th District.

2017 Council Staff

Kitty Simonds, executive director; *Loren Bullard*, technical assistant; *Paul Dalzell*, senior scientist and pelagic program coordinator; *Joshua DeMello*, fisheries analyst; *Elysia Granger*, finance and administration; *Bella Hirayama*, travel and administrative clerk; *Randy Holmen*, fiscal officer; *Asuka Ishizaki*, protected species coordinator; *Charles Ka'ai'ai*, indigenous program coordinator; *Eric Kingma*, international fisheries, enforcement and NEPA coordinator; *Mark Mitsuyasu*, fisheries program officer and bottomfish coordinator; *Marlowe Sabater*, marine ecosystem scientist; *Sylvia Spalding*, communications officer; and *Rebecca Walker*, fisheries analyst

2017 Island Coordinators

Carl Dela Cruz (Guam); *Nate Ilaoa* (American Samoa); *Jack Ogunoro* (CNMI)

2017 US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Intern

Carey Demapan (CNMI)

2017 US Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship Recipients

Carey Demapan (CNMI—attending University of Hawai'i at Hilo); *Faasalafa Kitiona* (American Samoa—graduated in summer from University of Hawai'i at Hilo); *Keena Leon Guerrero* (CNMI—graduated in May from Hawaii Pacific University); *Valentine Vaeoso* (American Samoa—graduated in summer from University of Hawai'i at Hilo); *Frank Villagomez* (CNMI—attending University of Guam graduate school)

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1164 Bishop Street Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 USA

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