

**Moray Eels:** giant moray eel (*Gymnothorax javanicus*), yellowmargin moray eel (*G. flavimarginatus*), undulated moray eel (*G. undulatus*)

**Mulletts:** fringelip mullet (*Crenimugil crenilabris*), Engel's mullet (*Moolgarda engeli*), false mullet (*Neomyxus leuciscus*)

**Octopus** (*Octopus cyanea*, *O. ornatus*)

**Parrotfish:** humphead parrotfish (*Bolbometopon muricatum*), Pacific longnose parrotfish (*Hippocampus longiceps*), parrotfish (*Scarus* spp.), stareye parrotfish (*Calotomus carolinus*)

**Scrombridae:** dogtooth tuna (*Gymnosarda unicolor*)

**Surgeonfish:** orange-spot surgeonfish (*Acanthurus olivaceus*), yellowfin surgeonfish (*A. xanthopterus*), convict tang (*A. triostegus*), eye-striped surgeonfish (*A. dussumieri*), blue-lined surgeon fish (*A. nigroris*), whitebar surgeonfish (*A. leucopareus*), blue-banded surgeonfish (*A. lineatus*); blackstreak surgeonfish (*A. nigricauda*), whitecheek surgeonfish (*A. nigricans*), white-spotted surgeonfish (*A. guttatus*), ringtail surgeonfish (*A. blochii*), brown surgeonfish (*A. nigrofusus*), yellow-eyed surgeonfish (*Ctenochaetus strigosus*), striped bristletooth (*C. striatus*); twospot bristletooth (*C. binotatus*), yellow tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*), bluespine unicorn (*Naso unicornus*), whitemargin unicorn fish (*N. annulatus*), orangespine unicornfish (*N. lituratus*), black tongue unicornfish (*N. hexacanthus*), bignose unicornfish (*N. vlamingii*), spotted unicornfish (*N. brevirostris*)

**Wrasses:** Napoleon wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), Triple-tail wrasse (*C. trilobatus*), floral wrasse (*C. chlorurus*), ring-tailed wrasse (*Oxycheilinus unifasciatus*), bandcheek wrasse (*O. diagrammus*), barred thicklip wrasse (*Hemigymnus fasciatus*), three-spot wrasse (*Halichoeres trimaculatus*), red-ribbon wrasse (*Thalassoma quinquevittatum*), sunset wrasse (*T. lutescens*)

All other coral reef plants, invertebrates and fish are listed as potentially harvested coral reef taxa (PHCRT). For the complete list, go to <http://www.wpcouncil.org/fishery-plans-policies-reports/pria-fishery-ecosystem-plan/>.

## Key Fishing Requirements

**Note:** In addition to below regulations, there are permit requirements for noncommercial fishing and a ban on commercial fishing in the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument waters.

### BOTTOMFISH

- Federal permit and logbook reporting
- Ban on use of bottom trawls and bottom set gillnets
- Ban on possession or use of any poisons, explosives or intoxicating substances to harvest bottomfish or seamount groundfish
- Ban on fishing for bottomfish management unit species (MUS) landward of 50 fathom curve at Kingman Reef and Jarvis, Howland and Baker Islands

### CRUSTACEANS

- Federal permit and logbook reporting
- Notification before port landing and before offloading
- Observer coverage when requested by National Marine Fisheries Service
- Ban on fishing for crustacean MUS landward of 50 fathom curve at Kingman Reef and Jarvis, Howland and Baker Islands

### PRECIOUS CORALS

- Federal permit and logbook reporting
- Use of only selective gear that can discriminate or differentiate between type, size, quality or characteristics of living or dead corals
- Minimum height 10 inches for live pink coral
- Minimum stem diameter 1 inch or minimum height 48 inches for live black coral
- Moratorium on gold coral
- Ban on fishing for precious coral MUS landward of 50 fathom curve at Kingman Reef and Jarvis, Howland and Baker Islands

### CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS

- Special permit, reporting and pre-landing notification for any fishery targeting coral reef ecosystem MUS operating in low-use marine protected areas (MPAs) (50 fathom curve around Johnston Atoll, Palmyra Atoll and Wake Island) or on any PHCRT

- Ban on fishing for precious coral MUS landward of 50 fathom curve at Kingman Reef and Jarvis, Howland and Baker Islands
- A receiving vessel must be registered for use with a transshipment permit if that vessel is used to land or transship PHCRT or any coral reef ecosystem MUS harvested within low-use MPAs
- Allowable gear types include hand-harvest, spear, slurp gun, hand/dip net, hoop net for Kona crab, throw net, barrier net, surround/purse net that is attended at all times, hook-and-line, crab and fish traps with vessel identification number affixed or remote operating vehicle/submersible
- Special permit, reporting and pre-landing notification requirements apply for the use of other gear types to harvest coral reef ecosystem taxa
- Ban on possession and use of poisons, explosives or intoxicating substances to take coral reef ecosystem managed species
- Ban on harvest of live rock and living corals except for indigenous people for traditional uses and aquaculture operations for seed stock under special permit, reporting and pre-landing notification requirements

A complete listing of federal fishing regulations applicable to the Western Pacific Region can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50: Wildlife & Fisheries, Chapter VI, Part 665, which can be accessed at <https://www.gpo.gov/>.

## Get Involved!

To learn how you can become involved in the decision-making process for the PRIA FEP, visit the Council website at [www.WPCouncil.org](http://www.WPCouncil.org), or contact the Council staff at (808) 522-8220 or email [info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov](mailto:info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov). Stay connected through [facebook.com/wprfmc](https://www.facebook.com/wprfmc) and on Twitter [@wpcouncil](https://twitter.com/wpcouncil).

# Pacific Remote Island Areas Fishery Ecosystem Plan

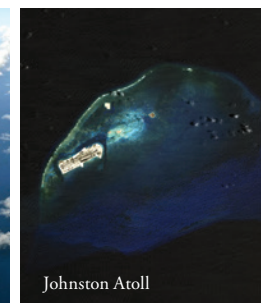
- Identifies management objectives,
- Delineates geographical boundaries,
- Fosters coordination and community participation through various advisory bodies and an appropriate management structure,
- Designates managed species, and
- Details applicable fishery regulations

THE PACIFIC REMOTE ISLANDS AREA FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN (FEP) CONSERVES MARINE RESOURCES AND MANAGES FISHERMEN WHO HARVEST THEM IN THE WATERS OF THE US PACIFIC REMOTE ISLANDS AREAS (PRIAs). THIS APPROACH IS PLACE-BASED AND ADAPTIVE, ACCOUNTS FOR ECOSYSTEM KNOWLEDGE AND UNCERTAINTIES, CONSIDERS CHANGES IN THE ECOSYSTEM AND MULTIPLE EXTERNAL INFLUENCES, AND STRIVES TO BALANCE DIVERSE SOCIAL OBJECTIVES.

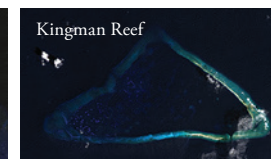
ECOSYSTEM: A geographically specified system of organisms (including humans) and their environment and the processes that control its dynamics



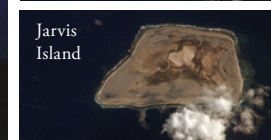
Wake Atoll



Johnston Atoll



Kingman Reef



Jarvis Island



Howland Island



Baker Island

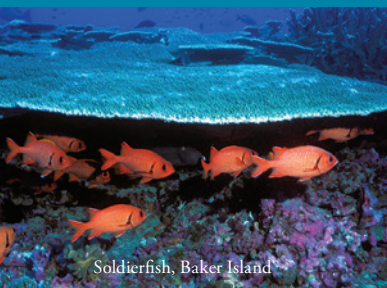


Palmyra Atoll

Aerial and satellite photos: Wikipedia Commons/Alexander W. Riedel/US Air Force (Wake Atoll), Wikipedia Commons/NASA (Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Jarvis Is., Howland Is., Baker Is.), Wikipedia Commons/USFWS/Erik Oberg/Island Conservation (Palmyra Atoll)



# Ecosystem-Based Management of Fisheries in the US Pacific Islands



Soldierfish, Baker Island



Butterflyfish, Johnston Atoll



Bonefishing, Palmyra Atoll

Photos: (left and center) courtesy of Jim Maragos/USFWS, (right) Kitty Simonds/WPRFMC

## Management Goals\*

1. Conserve and manage target and non-target stocks
2. Protect species and habitats of special concern
3. Understand and account for important ecosystem parameters and their linkages
4. Meet the needs of fishermen, their families, and communities

## Management Objectives\*

1. Support fishing communities
2. Prevent overfishing while achieving on a continual basis the optimum yield from each fishery
3. Improve fishery monitoring and data collection
4. Promote compliance
5. Reduce bycatch and minimize interactions and impacts to protected species to the extent practicable
6. Refine designations of and minimize impacts to essential fish habitat (EFH)
7. Increase traditional and local knowledge in decision-making
8. Consider the implications of spatial management arrangements in Council decision-making
9. Consider the implications of climate change in Council decision-making

\* Adopted by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in March 2016.

## Geographical Boundaries

The PRIA FEP governs bottomfish, coral reef ecosystem, crustacean and precious coral fisheries of the PRIAs. The PRIAs comprise the US possessions of Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef,

Palmyra Atoll and Wake Island. Midway Atoll, also a PRIA, is covered in the Hawai'i FEP. The fishery management area for the PRIA FEP is the EEZ seaward of the US possessions out to 200 nautical miles or coterminous with an adjacent international maritime boundary.

## Management Structure and Community Participation

The management structure of the PRIA FEP fosters collaboration with territorial, federal and international governments and non-government organizations to address the social, cultural, economic, biological, ecological and other scientific issues related to successful ecosystem management. Ecosystem issues include both human and non-human factors. They range from climate change and its impacts on the ocean's primary productivity areas; to fishing impacts on bycatch, forage fish and protected species; to non-fishing activities that lead to pollution, nutrient loading, marine debris and ocean acidification.

The FEP structure also facilitates enhanced involvement in the decision-making process by communities, especially those who rely on the environment for their livelihood, social relations, cultural identity and nutrition. The PRIA FEP uses a bottom-up approach to fisheries management. It begins with recommendations from communities during public meetings and through several advisory groups. The PRIAs are largely uninhabited, with only Wake, Johnston and Palmyra having seasonal and year-round residents. Members of the Hawai'i fishing communities have historically fished in the PRIAs with most fishing effort around Johnston and Palmyra.

## HAWAI'I FEP ADVISORY PANEL (AP)

The Hawai'i AP assists in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development and amendment of fishery ecosystem plans, including the PRIA FEP. Its 12 members represent commercial, recreational and other interests and serve a four-year term. The AP includes Island Fisheries, Pelagic Fisheries, Ecosystems and Habitat, and Indigenous Fishing Communities Sub-panels; each subpanel is comprised of three AP members.

## FISHING INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FIAC)

The FIAC provides information and recommendations on and assists in the development and amendments of the Council's FEPs.

## REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (REAC)

The Hawai'i Archipelago REAC includes representatives from federal government agencies and nongovernmental organizations and businesses with responsibility or interest in land-based and non-fishing activities that potentially affect the marine environment of Hawai'i and the PRIAs.

## Managed Species

### BOTTOMFISH

**Black jack** (*Caranx lugubris*)

**Blacktip grouper** (*Epinephelus fasciatus*)

**Giant trevally** (*C. ignobilis*)

**Longtail snapper** (*Etelis coruscans*)

**Lunartail grouper** (*Variola louti*)

**Pink snapper** (*Pristipomoides filamentosus*, *P. seiboldii*)

**Red snapper** (*E. carbunculus*)

**Redgill emperor** (*Lethrinus rubrioperculatus*)

**Sea bass** (*Hyporthodus quernus*)

## ARCHIPELAGIC FEP PLAN TEAM

The Archipelagic FEP Plan Team oversees the development and monitoring of the FEPs for non-pelagic species in the Western Pacific Region. It drafts the annual Stock Assessment and Fisheries Evaluation (SAFE) report for the PRIA FEP and other archipelagic FEPs. The Plan Team includes federal and local government and non-government specialists appointed by the Council. They serve indefinite terms.

## SCIENCE AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE (SSC)

The SSC is composed of scientists from local and federal agencies, academic institutions, and other organizations. These scientists represent a range of disciplines required for the scientific oversight of fishery management in the Western Pacific Region.

## OTHER ADVISORY BODIES

The Council convenes and solicits recommendations from a variety of other committees as needed. The Marine Planning and Climate Change Committee, Protected Species Advisory Committee and Social Science Planning Committee

review relevant ecosystem sections of the annual SAFE reports for each FEP. Other advisory bodies include the Education Committee, the Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee and the Non-Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee.

## INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Council's Community Development Program, Community Demonstration Projects Program and Marine Education and Training Program are designed to foster increased fishery participation by indigenous communities in the US Pacific Islands.

## INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

The Council actively participates in the development and implementation of international agreements and research regarding marine resources. The most important international issues for the PRIA FEP are climate change, marine debris and the management and conservation of seamounts and straddling groundfish stocks. The Council is a US commissioner for the North Pacific Fisheries Commission.

## CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM

The following species are listed as currently harvested coral reef taxa.

**Barracuda:** great barracuda (*Sphyræna barracuda*)

**Bigeyes:** glasseye (*Heteropriacanthus cruentatus*)

**Goatfish:** yellow goatfish (*Mulloidichthys* spp.), orange goatfish (*M. pfluegeri*), yellowstripe goatfish (*M. flavolineatus*), banded goatfish (*Parupeneus* spp.), dash-dot goatfish (*P. barberinus*), multi-barred goatfish (*P. multifasciatus*), yellowsaddle goatfish (*P. cyclostomas*), bantail goatfish (*Upeneus arge*)

(continued on back)

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is one of eight councils authorized by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. It is the federal agency responsible for managing the offshore fisheries of Hawaii and other US Pacific islands.

[www.wpcouncil.org](http://www.wpcouncil.org)

