



Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Why Good Fishery Data Is Important



The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council manages fisheries in federal waters surrounding American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, and the Pacific Remote Island Areas—an area of nearly 1.5 million square miles!



To do its job effectively, the Council needs complete and accurate information on what marine resources are removed from the ecosystem. The data is needed from both commercial and recreational (including subsistence and charter) fisheries.



This information is critical. Without it, fishery managers are not able to develop sensible regulations based on accurate information.



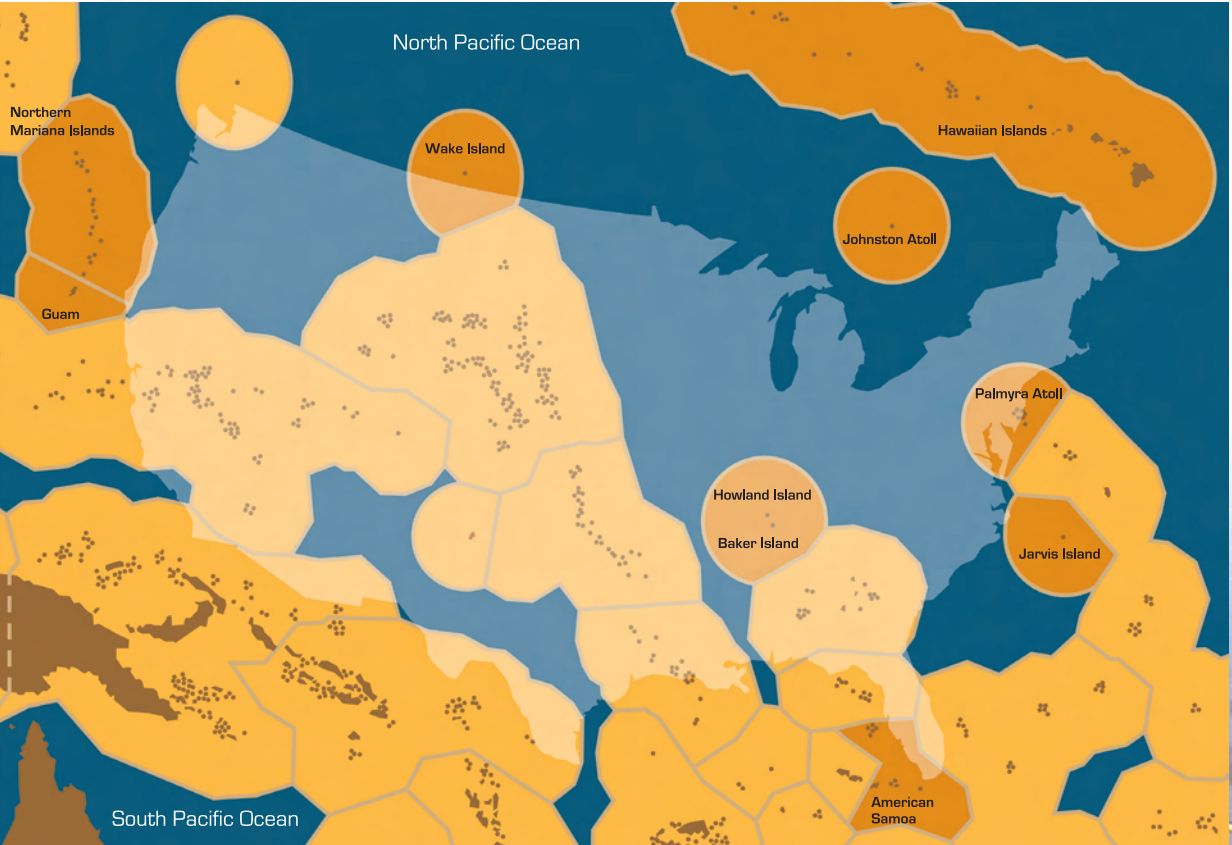
Different methods are used to collect information on fisheries:

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION	TYPE OF INFORMATION COLLECTED				
	Fishery Information	Biological	Social/Economic	Protected Species	Bycatch
Permits / Logbooks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Catch reports (state & local)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Intercept surveys	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dealer reporting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sales receipts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Telephone surveys	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tag and release	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Independent research	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Each island area uses a different combination of methods to collect the information:

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION	ISLAND AREA							
	Hawaii		American Samoa		Guam		Northern Mariana Islands	
	Commercial	Recreational	Commercial	Recreational	Commercial	Recreational	Commercial	Recreational
Permits / Logbooks (Federal)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Catch reports (state / local)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Observers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Intercept Surveys	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dealer reporting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sales receipt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
telephone surveys	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
tag and release	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Independent research	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

200 Mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) – Pacific Island Nations
Western Pacific Council Jurisdiction: An Area of Nearly 1.5 Million Square Miles



You can help ensure the future of your fishery by participating in dockside and telephone surveys, reporting your catch, and participating in tagging programs. This information will:

- provide a history of catch and participation levels for any future allocations
- allow scientists to assess the status of the stocks, and help to identify why changes are occurring in marine resources
- show how regulations are impacting the fisheries
- show how fisheries change over time

Do your part – participate!

