



Western Pacific
Regional Fishery
Management Council

Why Are Good Fishery Data Important?



The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council manages fisheries in federal waters surrounding American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, Hawai'i, and the Pacific Remote Island Areas—an area of more than 1.7 million square nautical miles!

For effective management, the Council needs complete and accurate data on the characteristics of the fishery. This data helps the Council to assess the status of the fishery and understand the biological, economic and social aspects of the fishery. Each island area uses a different combination of methods to collect this information.

Accurate information, provided by fishermen and through scientific research, is critical to developing sensible fishing regulations.

Working with fishermen and the seafood industry, the Council has supported various initiatives to address permitting and reporting gaps:

CNMI

- Commercial receipt book program and small-boat fishery reporting app
- Community-implemented pilot creel surveys at unsampled ports and shoreline areas
- Data tool development for creel surveys
- Mandatory Catch Recording and Reporting (Public Law 17-89)



Guam

- Archaeological and historical data review on reef fishing in Guam and CNMI
- Commercial receipt book program and small-boat fishery reporting app
- Fish biosampling to obtain life history data
- Naval base and rare events data collection



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**National Marine Fisheries Service
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center**
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www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/
pacific-islands#science

**National Marine Fisheries Service
Pacific Islands Regional Office**
Telephone: (808) 725-5000
www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/
pacific-islands#management

Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources
Telephone: (808) 587-0100
www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar

**American Samoa Department of
Marine and Wildlife Resources**
Telephone: (684) 633-4465
www.americansamoa.gov/
department-of-marine-wildlife

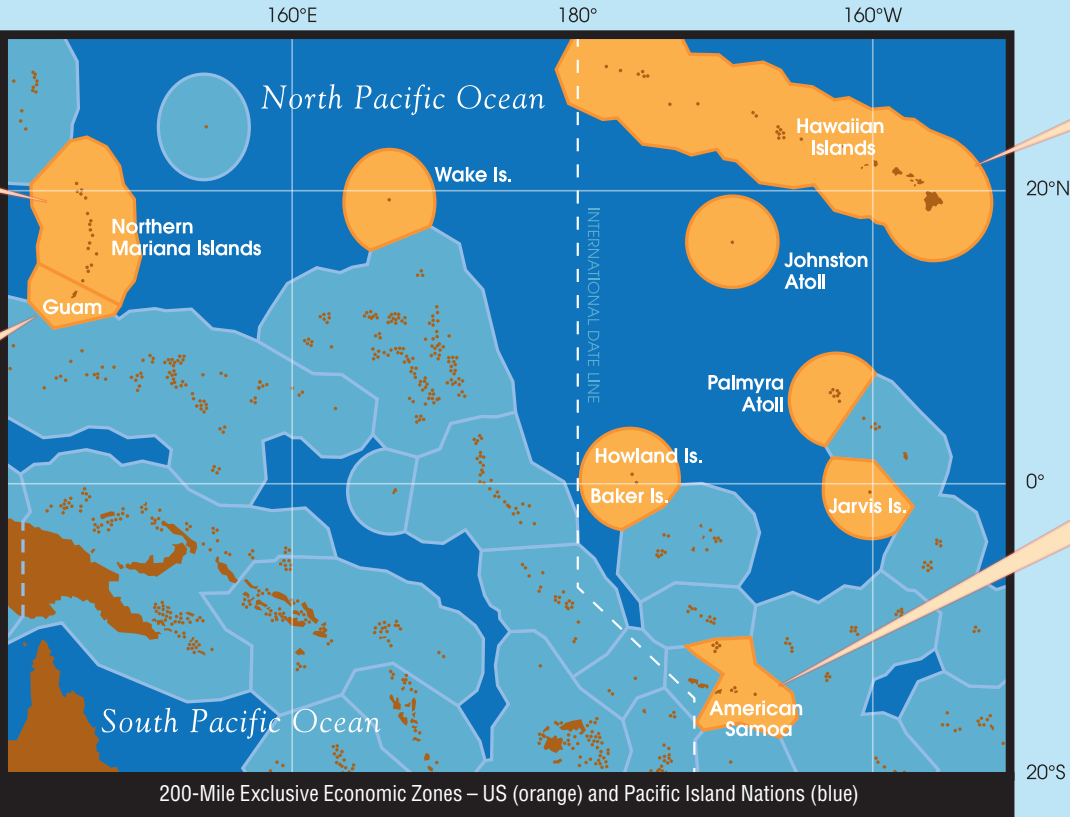
**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife**
Telephone: (670) 664-6000
www.dfw.gov.mp

**Guam Division of Aquatic and
Wildlife Resources**
Telephone: (671) 735-0281

Each hook represents whether the data collection system gathers biological, economic, fishery, protected species/bycatch or social information. On a scale of 0-5 hooks, 0 = no data collected, 5 = all aspects are collected.

Data Collection Method	PACIFIC ISLAND AREA							
	Hawai'i		American Samoa		Guam		CNMI	
	Commercial	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Non-Commercial	Commercial	Non-Commercial
Permits/Logbooks (federal)	✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓		✓		✓✓	
Catch Reports (state/local)	✓✓✓✓		✓✓					
Observers	✓✓✓✓✓		✓✓✓✓✓					
Intercept Surveys	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓
Dealer Reporting	✓✓✓		✓✓		✓		✓	
Sales receipt	✓✓✓		✓✓		✓		✓	
Fishery Independent Research	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓

Western Pacific Council Jurisdiction: An Area of More Than 1.7 Million Square Nautical Miles



THERE IS STILL MORE TO DO! DO YOUR PART - PARTICIPATE!

Continuous effort is required to address permitting and reporting data gaps. Data is needed from both commercial and non-commercial (including subsistence and charter) fisheries.

YOU CAN HELP:

- Logging and reporting commercial and non-commercial catch (e.g., MHI Non-Commercial Bottomfish Permit)
- Participating in dockside and shoreline surveys



Hawai'i

- Aerial surveys for *akule* (bigeye scad) biomass
- Alternative estimation methods for annual catch of federally-managed species
- Fish biosampling to obtain life history data
- Pulse market surveys for whole ahi and other local fish products at local retail fish markets/vendors
- Registry, Permit, and License Feasibility Study



American Samoa

- Archaeological and historical data review on reef fishing in Hawai'i and American Samoa
- Commercial receipt book program and small-boat fishery reporting app
- Coral reef fishery ecosystem assessment
- Pilot creel surveys at unsampled ports and shoreline areas
- Rare events data collection

