Why Are Good Fishery Data Important?

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council manages fisheries seaward of state/territorial 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 these fisheries. The Council uses the data to assess the status of the fisheries and understand their biological, economic and social aspects. Each island area uses a different combination of methods to collect this information.

Accurate and complete information provided by fishermen and scientific research are 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:

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	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓

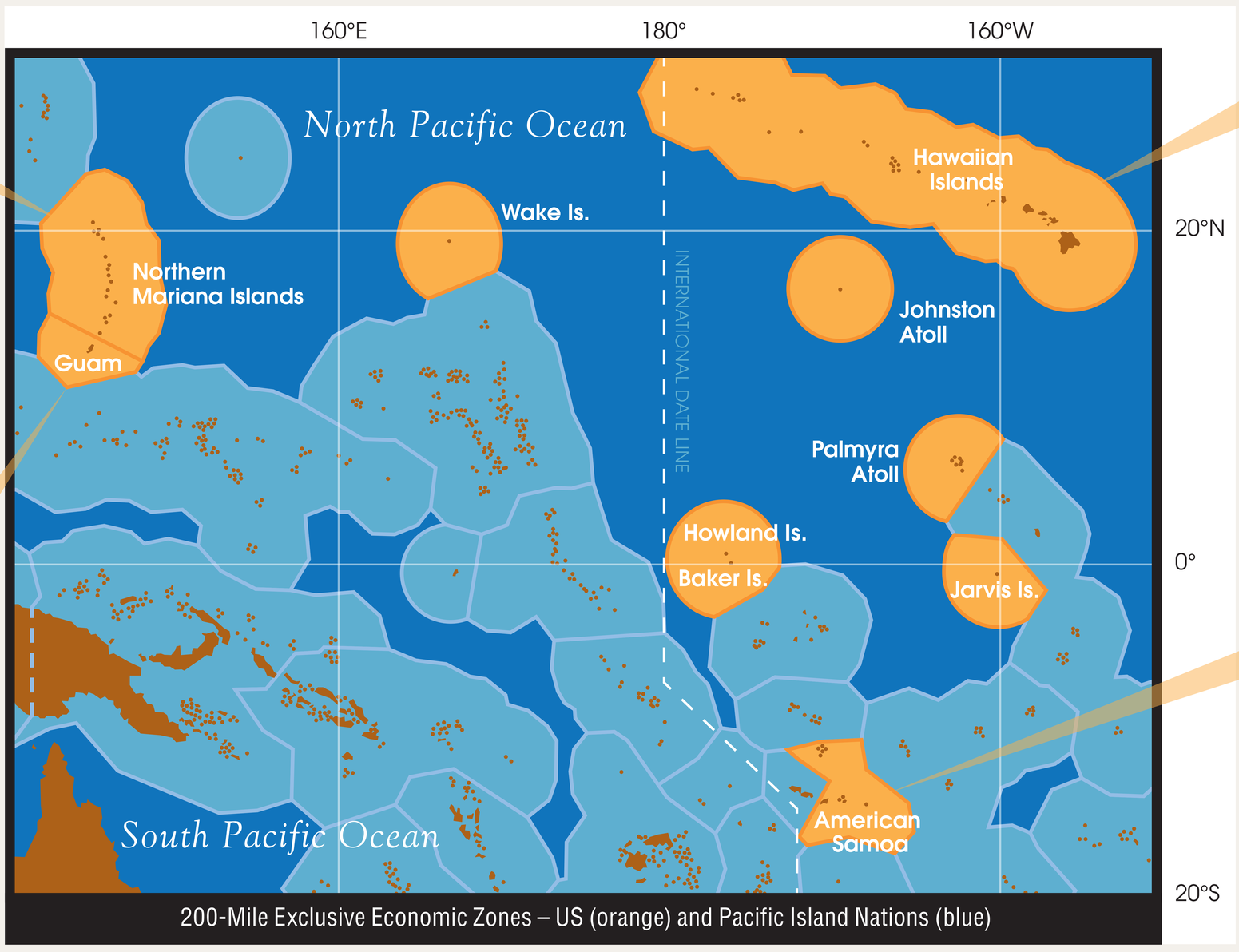
CNMI

- 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

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



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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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