

HISTORY OF PROTECTED SPECIES CONSERVATION

in US Western Pacific Fisheries

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council implemented **PROHIBITIONS ON DESTRUCTIVE GEARS** throughout the region:

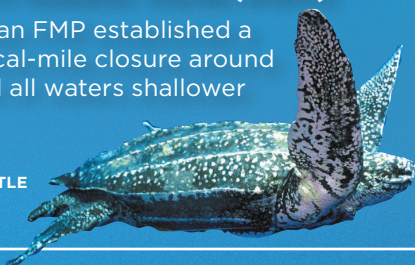
1986 Bottomfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) prohibited use of trawl nets, bottom-set gillnets, explosives and poisons.

1987 Pelagic FMP implemented a drift gillnet ban covering the entire 1.5 million square miles of US EEZ waters throughout the Western Pacific Region and ahead of the 1991 United Nations ban on large-scale drift gillnets on the high seas.

The Council implemented **SPATIAL MANAGEMENT MEASURES** in the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI):

1983 Crustacean FMP established a 20-nautical-mile closure around Laysan Island and all waters shallower than 10 fathoms.

LEATHERBACK TURTLE



1991 A 50-nautical-mile protected species zone around the NWHI was established under the Pelagic FMP to prevent longline fishery interactions with endangered Hawaiian monk seals.

1992 A 25- to 75-nautical-mile longline exclusion zone around the MHI was established under the Pelagic FMP to prevent gear conflicts between longline vessels and other smaller fishing boats. The MHI longline exclusion zone eliminated any potential interactions between the long-line fishery and nearshore populations of sea turtles and marine mammals.



LOGGERHEAD TURTLE

2001 Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP designated no-take and low-use marine protected areas in the NWHI and American Samoa.

Compliance with spatial management zones in the Hawai'i longline fishery is monitored through a **VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM**.

Spatial Management Areas Established under Fishery Management Plans

Bottomfish Restrictions

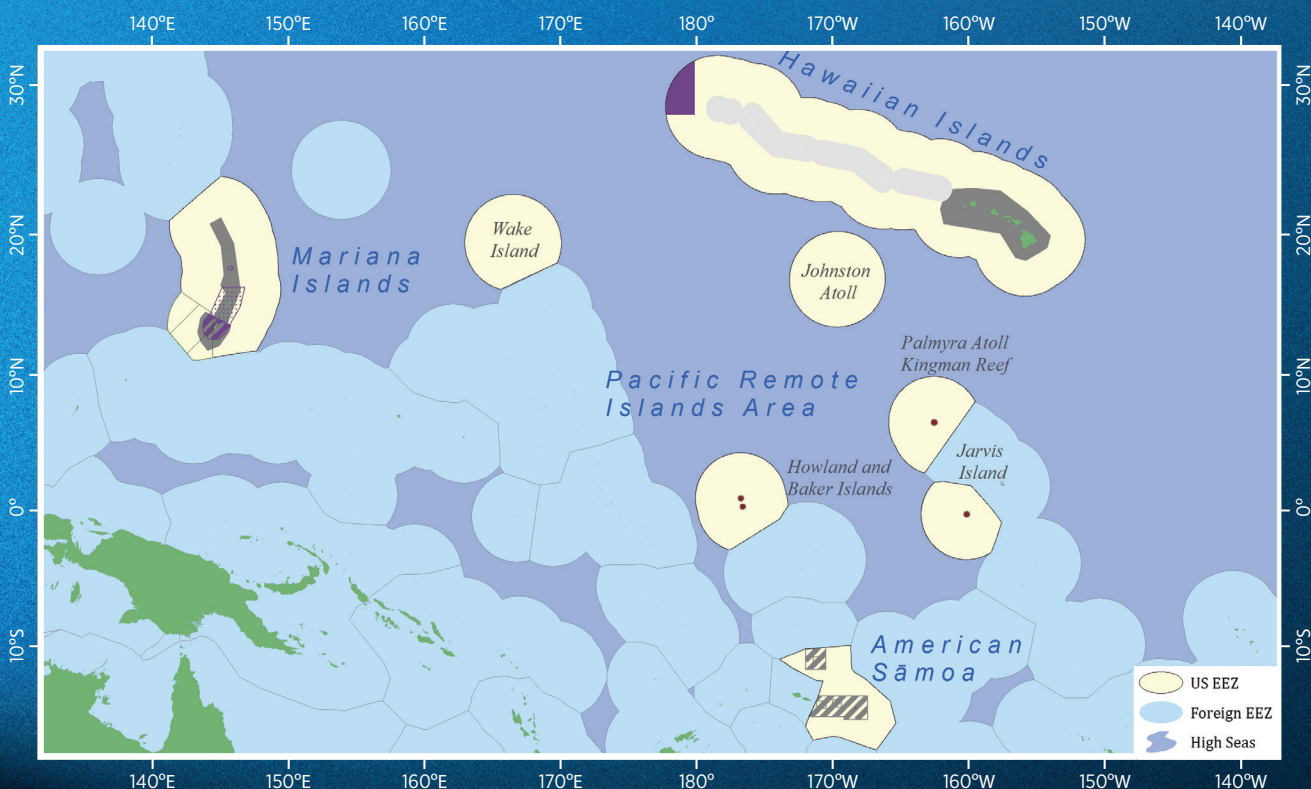
- Bottomfish/Groundfish fishing prohibited
- Vessels ≥ 40 ft (opening pending)
- Vessels ≥ 50 ft

Pelagic Restrictions

- Longline Fishing Prohibited Area
- Large Vessel Prohibited Area
- NWHI Protected Species Zone

Other Restrictions

- Guam No-anchor Zone
- No-take MPAs



Spatial management measures implemented under the Council's Fishery Management Plans provide conservation benefits to protected species.

The Hawai'i longline fishery is considered a **GOLD STANDARD** in reducing impacts to protected species including sea turtles and seabirds and has implemented the following:

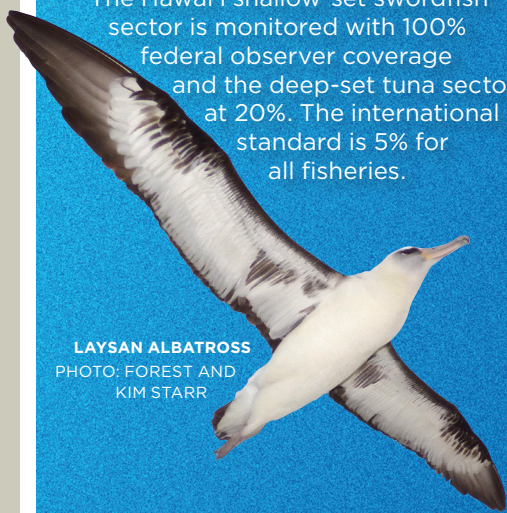
2001 Required using a suite of seabird bycatch mitigation measures since 2001, including **blue-dyed bait**, night setting, side-setting, weighted hooks and strategic offal discards, which are designed to keep seabirds away from baited hooks before they sink below the surface and out of reach. These measures enacted under the Pelagic FMP reduced interactions by over 90%.



2004 Pioneered the use of large circle hooks and fish bait in 2004 to reduce incidental interactions with sea turtles in the swordfish-targeting sector. These measures enacted under the Pelagic FMP reduced interactions by nearly 90%.

2013 Required the tuna-targeting sector to use circle hooks with a maximum wire diameter of 4.5 millimeters (0.18 inches) to reduce impacts to hooked false killer whales. This measure was enacted in 2013 under the Marine Mammal Protection Act False Killer Whale Take Reduction Plan.

The Hawai'i shallow-set swordfish sector is monitored with 100% federal observer coverage and the deep-set tuna sector at 20%. The international standard is 5% for all fisheries.



LAYSAN ALBATROSS
PHOTO: FOREST AND
KIM STARR

LAYSAN ALBATROSS
& CHICK PHOTO:
DAN CLARK/USFWS

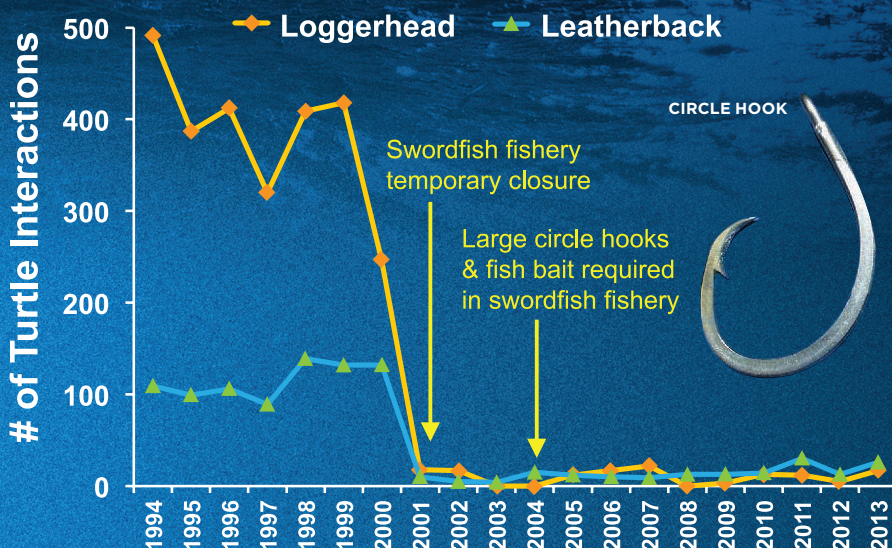


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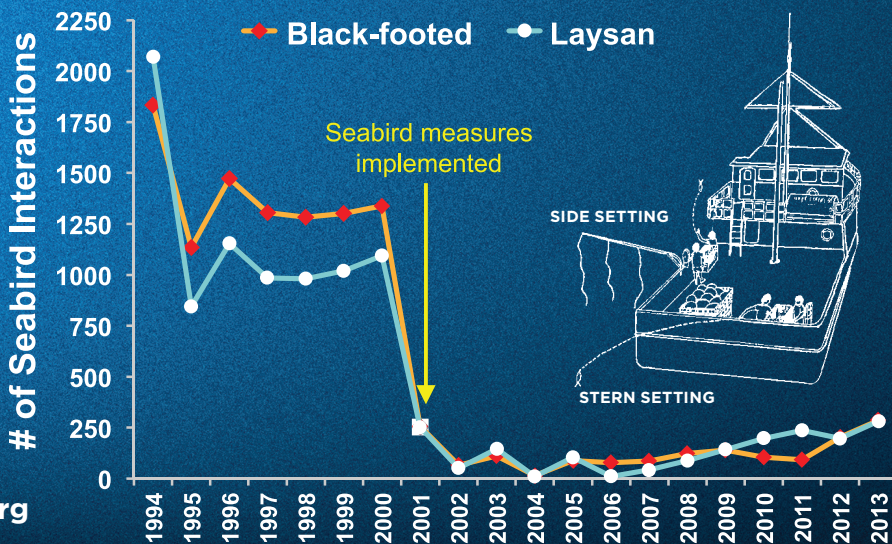
The American Samoa longline fishery is required to set hooks deeper than 100 meters (328 feet) to **MITIGATE INTERACTIONS WITH GREEN SEA TURTLES**. This measure was implemented under the Pelagic FMP in 2011. The American Samoa longline fishery is monitored with approximately 20% federal observer coverage.

Hawai'i and American Samoa longline vessels are required to carry **TOOLS TO REMOVE FISHING GEAR** from incidentally caught protected species, and owners and operators are required to attend annual **PROTECTED SPECIES WORKSHOPS** on how to handle and release animals to maximize their chance of surviving after their release.

Total Sea Turtle Interactions Hawai'i Longline Fishery (Tuna and Swordfish)



Total Seabird Interactions Hawai'i Longline Fishery (Tuna and Swordfish)



Side setting illustration: Gilman et al., 2003.