



US Pelagic Fisheries

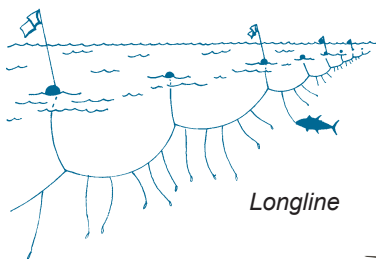
in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean

US pelagic fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean include a variety of hook-and-line commercial and noncommercial fisheries managed by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council seaward of state/territorial waters, a commercial albacore fishery managed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council and a commercial purse-seine fishery managed by NOAA under the South Pacific Tuna Treaty. These US fisheries comprise a small segment of the international fisheries for pelagic species in the Pacific, managed by regional fishery management organizations such as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Western Pacific Council Managed Fisheries

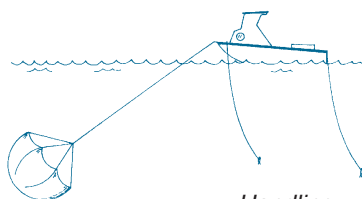
The US **longline fishery** in the Western Pacific Region is based primarily in Hawaii and American Samoa. The Hawaii fishery is a limited entry fishery that allows a maximum 164 vessels with 135 active in 2014. Vessels in this fishery set longline gear shallow to target swordfish and deep to target bigeye tuna. Other landings include yellowfin tuna, mahimahi (dorado), wahoo (ono), blue and striped marlins, opah (moonfish) and monchong (pomfret).

The Hawaii fishery does not freeze its catch, which is sold in the fresh fish and sashimi markets in Hawaii and the US mainland. Hawaii-based vessels targeting swordfish have also fished seasonally out of California. The American Samoa limited entry longline fishery allows a maximum of 60 vessels with 22 currently active. Vessels in this fishery almost exclusively target albacore, which is canned locally. The combined landings from the US longline fisheries in 2013 amounted to **12,000 mt**, with about two-thirds coming from Hawaii.



Longline

Trolling and handline fishing is the largest **commercial pelagic fishery** by US vessels in the Western Pacific Region in terms of participation, although annual catches are relatively modest, amounting to about **3,331 mt** in 2012. Part of this catch is made by charter or for-hire fishing vessels, and about 75 percent of the troll landings are made by Hawaii vessels. As of 2013, there are 1,170 troll vessels in Hawaii, 496 in Guam, 28 in the Northern Mariana Islands and 13 in American Samoa. Hawaii also has 262 handline vessels. Troll and handline catches are dominated by yellowfin tuna, mahimahi and blue marlin in Hawaii and by skipjack in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa. Other commonly caught troll catches in the territories include mahimahi, wahoo and blue marlin.



Handline
with parachute sea anchor



Bigeye Tuna



Yellowfin Tuna



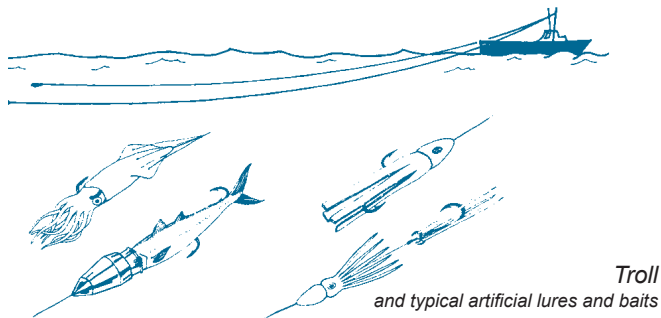
Swordfish



Blue Marlin



Striped Marlin



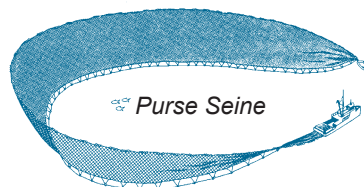
Pelagic troll fishing is the most common **recreational fishery** in the islands of the Western Pacific Region. Many of these recreational fishermen sell some of their catch to cover fishing expenses. However, federal regulations consider the sale of even one fish to be commercial. Hawaii's recreational fishery landings amount to about **6,700 mt** annually, based on surveys of fishermen, with blue marlin catches ranging from 150 to 1,500 mt. Recreational or noncommercial landings in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa amount to about 265 mt of pelagic fish including blue marlin.

Pacific Council Managed Fishery

The US fleet of about 750 **albacore trollers**, based at West Coast ports, fishes primarily in the temperate waters of the North Pacific. Annually, they land about **10,000 to 11,000 mt** of albacore. Ten to fifteen vessels from this fleet also fish seasonally for albacore in the South Pacific, catching between **50 and 1,500 mt** of albacore per year.

NOAA Managed Fishery

The largest US fishery in terms of tonnage of fish landed is the **purse-seine fishery**, with catches of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna amounting to **254,348 mt** in 2013. This fleet decreased in size from a peak of 61 vessels in 1984 to 12 vessels in 2006, but has since rebuilt to about 40 vessels in 2014. The fleet is based in American Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia.



Internationally Managed Fisheries

International tuna fleets in the Pacific Ocean as a whole catch about **3.2 million mt** of fish, with US fisheries catching about 6 percent of the total. Most of the catch is taken by longliners and purse seiners from countries such as Japan, Taiwan, Korea and the nations of Central and South America. More recently, the large scale purse-seine and longline fisheries of Pacific Island countries, such as Papua New Guinea, have grown in importance. Small scale artisanal longlining and trolling are also conducted by thousands of small vessels plying the coastal waters of South America and Pacific Island countries like Samoa, Fiji and French Polynesia.



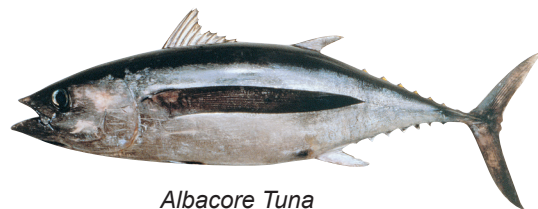
Mahimahi



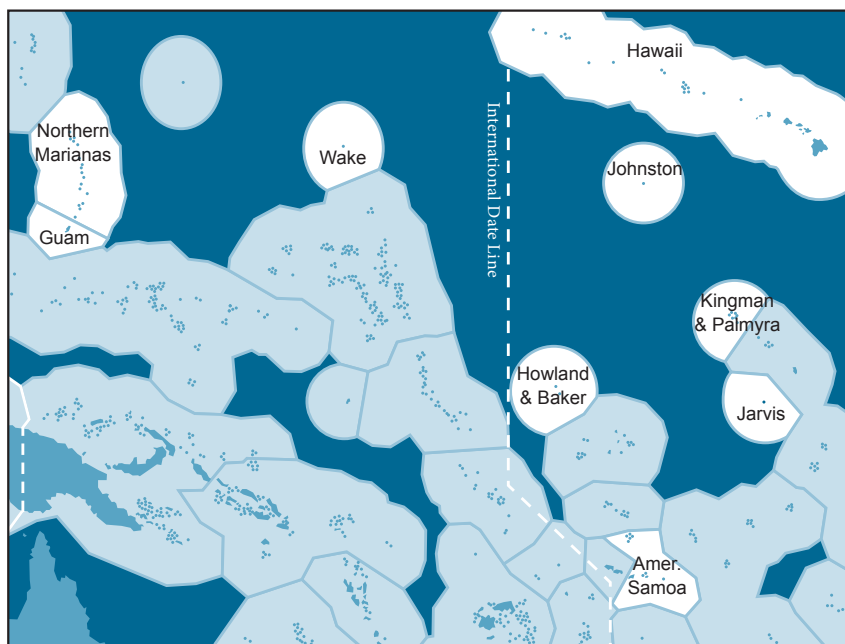
Wahoo



Skipjack Tuna



Albacore Tuna



The Western Pacific Region includes the exclusive economic zone waters surrounding the State of Hawaii, the Territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands and the US Pacific remote islands (Baker, Howard, Jarvis, Johnston and Wake Islands; Palmyra and Midway Atolls; and Kingman Reef).



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