

# Status of the Fisheries 2019



The Council collaborated with the CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources to offer a four-day vessel maintenance and capacity-building training on Saipan. The training included hands-on experience targeting deep-slope bottomfish, fresh fish handling and processing, and commercial fishing vessel maintenance. To enhance the bottomfish training, CNMI leased a commercially outfitted vessel, the *Kirida*—a 36-foot Radon boat, configured to target bottomfish. *Photo: Floyd Masga.*

**The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council** promotes sustainable fisheries and provides sound stewardship of marine resources seaward of the state waters of Hawai'i, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the Pacific Remote Island Areas. The Council's authority over commercial and non-commercial fisheries is mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

**For the resources**, the Council prevents overfishing and protects the ocean ecosystem.

**For the people**, the Council supports fishing communities and ensures they have a voice in fishery management decision-making.

To monitor the fisheries, the Council publishes annual reports for the five fishery ecosystem plans that the Council has developed, monitored and amended. This publication summarizes and provides highlights from these annual reports. For the full reports, go to [www.wpcouncil.org/annual-reports](http://www.wpcouncil.org/annual-reports). To access the data used to generate the reports, go to [www.wpcouncildata.org](http://www.wpcouncildata.org).

**Fishery statistics can be affected by fishery closures, environmental conditions and economic factors, among others. Below are highlighted some of these factors, in addition to stock statuses and fishery management and development projects in 2019.**

## All Island Areas

New Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) stock assessments indicate that Western and Central Pacific skipjack stock is moderately exploited with a sustainable fishing level and that North Pacific striped marlin and oceanic whitetip sharks are overfished and experiencing overfishing. The WCPFC adopted a rebuilding plan for North Pacific striped marlin, which are caught incidentally in some fisheries that target tunas and swordfish.

The U.S. federal government shutdown from midnight EST Dec. 22, 2018, through Jan. 25, 2019 (35 days), which was the longest U.S. government shutdown in history. This affected the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)'s ability to provide scientific input on stock assessments and potential allocation changes, and prolonged actions such as reopening the Hawai'i shallow-set longline fishery.

Associated with increased sea surface temperature, American Samoa experienced a coral heat stress event during the first quarter, while for Hawai'i and the Mariana Archipelago, the maximum occurred in fall. Physically stressed corals can lead to bleaching and eventually death, which could impact coral reef-associated fish populations.

## All Territories

The Council began developing a mobile application (**Catchit Logit**, [www.wpcouncil.org/catchit-logit](http://www.wpcouncil.org/catchit-logit)) to improve the collection of fisheries data through self-reporting by small-boat fishing communities in CNMI, Guam and American Samoa.

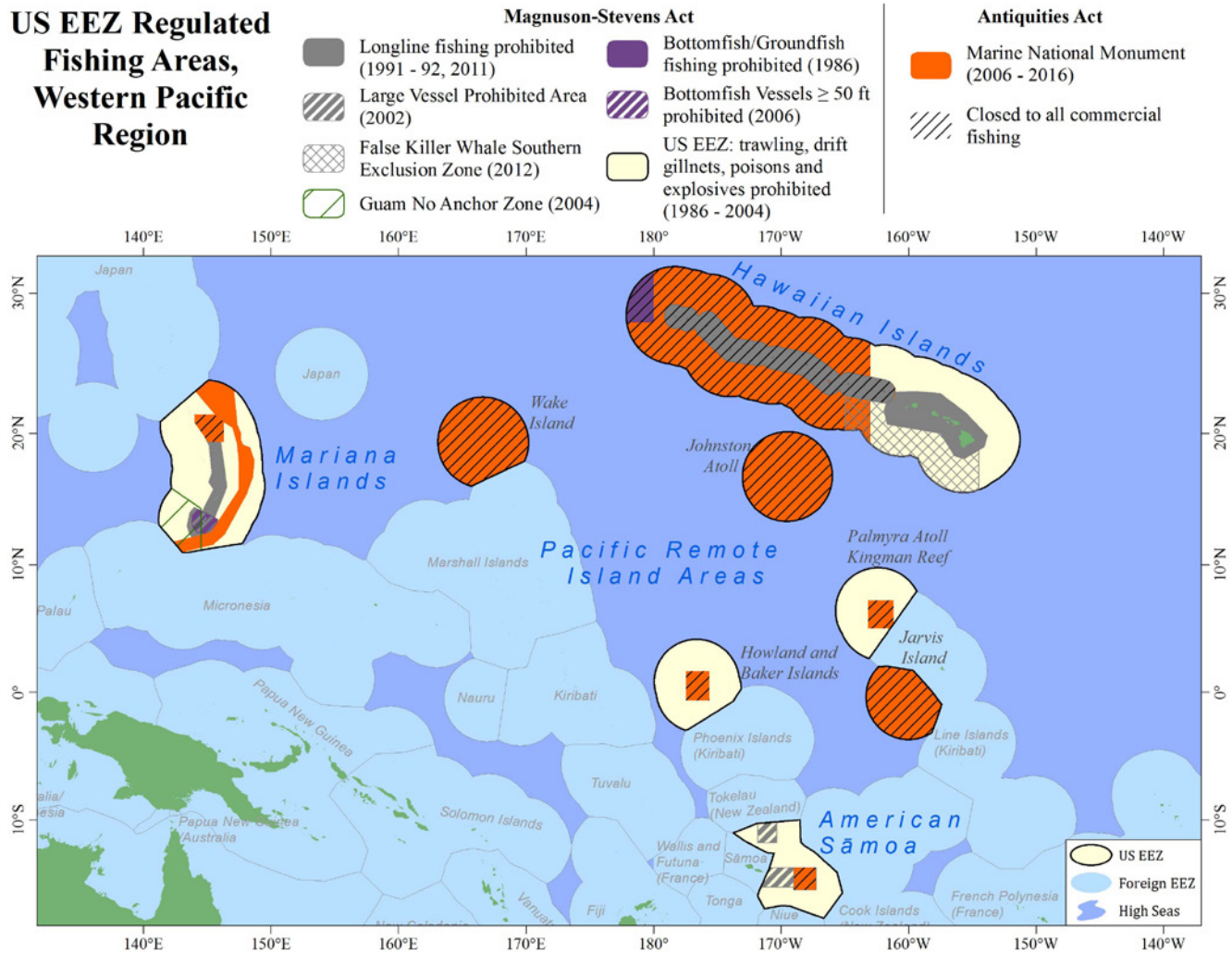
## Mariana Archipelago

The Council, University of Hawai'i and PIFSC staffs initiated projects to better understand and help address shark depredation in the Mariana Archipelago.



# Summary of the 2019 Fishery Performance for Hawai'i, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and American Samoa

Trends compare 2019 performance against 2018. Data differences between the 2018 and 2019 reports could be explained by the way the data is extrapolated. *Green text* indicates data increased 25% or more from 2018 to 2019 and *red text* indicates data decreased 25% or more.



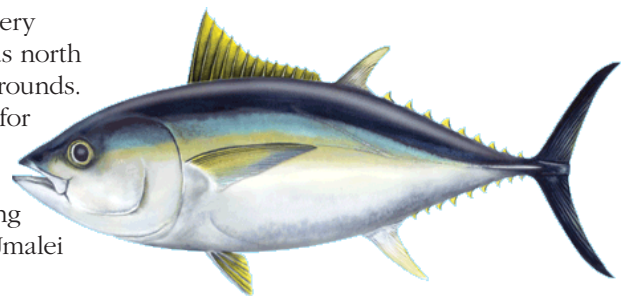
## Hawai'i

During the first quarter of the year, when the Hawai'i shallow-set longline fishery (targeting swordfish) is most active, the Transition Zone Chlorophyll Front was north of its average location, causing fishers to travel farther to reach their fishing grounds.

The Billfish Conservation Act 2018 amendment, which reduced the ability for fishermen to export marlin and marlin products outside of Hawai'i, may have continued to negatively impact the pelagic fisheries.

Four bottomfish restricted fishing areas (BRFAs) re-opened in July, including BRFA C (Makahū'ena, Kaua'i), BRFA F (Penguin Bank), BRFA J (Mokumana-Umalei Point, Maui), and BRFA L (Leleiwi Point, Hawai'i Island) (map available at [www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/fishing/bottom-fishing](http://www.dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/fishing/bottom-fishing)).

The Council, industry and NMFS initiated a cooperative research project to test tori lines (streamer lines or bird-scaring lines) in the Hawai'i longline fishery to support its requirement to use mitigation measures to minimize accidental interactions with seabirds. This measure is in addition to current industry standards such as using weighted branch lines, blue-dyed bait and side-setting.



Bigeye tuna. Courtesy Les Hata, Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

# Hawai'i (Continued)



## Pelagic (commercial)

- 1,929 licensed fishermen, 3% ↓
- 150 deep-set longline vessels, *up from 143*
- 14 shallow-set longline vessels, *up from 11—a 27% ↑*
- 1,724 deep-set trips, 5% ↓
- 25 shallow-set trips, 17% ↓
- 36.5 million pounds landed, 4% ↓
- \$105.6 million total ex-vessel revenue, 9% ↓



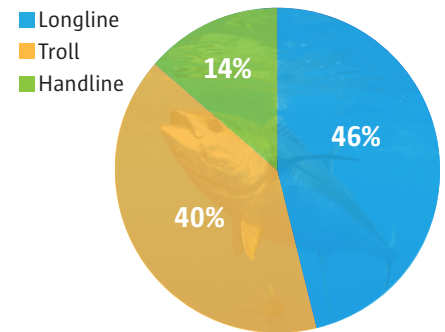
[1] A commercial longline vessel sets its gear. Photo: Hawaiian Fresh Seafood. [2] Fishermen carefully offload 'ahi (bigeye tuna, *Thunnus obesus*) at Pier 38 in Honolulu. Photo: Charlene Ponce. [3] Fresh 'ahi for sale at the Honolulu Fish Auction. The Port of Honolulu consistently ranks nationally in the top 10 in terms of annual value of seafood landed. Photo: Amy Vandehey.

## Pelagic (non-commercial)\*

- 632,088 fishing trips
- 12.8 million pounds landed
- 26% of total pelagic catch

\*2018 data unavailable for comparison.

## Primary Fishing Method and Gear of Hawai'i Pelagic Fishermen Licensed in 2019



## Deep 7 Bottomfish (commercial)

- 318 licenses, *down from 341*
- 2,019 fishing trips, *down from 2,168 trips*
- 47,778 total fish, 19% ↓
- 180,708 total pounds, 23% ↓
- 178,001 pounds by deep-sea handline, 24% ↓
- 68,477 pounds of 'ōpaka (Pristipomoides filamentosus), 41% ↓
- 60,168 pounds of onaga (Etelis coruscans), 9% ↓
- \$1,338,295 total adjusted revenue, 21% ↓



Onaga is harvested mainly in the fall and winter and is in high demand around the holiday season.

## Uku (commercial)

- 285 licenses, *unchanged*
- 1,290 recorded trips, *up from 1,230 trips*
- 11,078 total fish, 10% ↑
- 89,836 total pounds, 20% ↑
- 48,103 pounds by deep-sea handline, 41% ↑
- \$417,943 total adjusted revenue, 11% ↑

## Crustacean (commercial)

- 25 licenses, *up slightly from 23 licensed fishermen*
- 280 fishing trips, 47% ↑
- 23,048 crustaceans caught, 32% ↓
- 18,296 pounds landed, 28% ↑
- \$34,989 total adjusted revenue, 55% ↓



The Hawai'i commercial crustacean fishery is composed of Kona crab and two deep-water shrimp species (*Heterocarpus laevigatus* and *H. ensifer*). Photo: NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research.

## Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) (commercial)

- 553,025 total pounds caught for top 10 harvested ECS, 5% ↓
- 487,279 total pounds sold, <1% ↓
  - ♦ akule 241,161 pounds, 8% ↓
  - ♦ 'ōpelu 120,917 pounds, 2% ↑
- \$1,658,506 total revenue, 3% ↓

## Top 3 Hawai'i ECS

1. akule (bigeye scad, *Selar crumenophthalmus*)
2. 'ōpelu (mackerel scad, *Decapterus macarellus*)
3. parrotfishes



# Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**Creel surveys** (commercial and non-commercial data) decreased and were not conducted from July to September due to funding issues.

CNMI bottomfish are neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing, according to a new stock assessment.

Fish aggregating devices lost during the 2018 Super Typhoon Yutu were not replaced. The typhoon also disrupted creel surveys and caused an anomaly in the estimated boat-based bottomfish catch, greatly affecting the inter-annual change in total pounds landed.

## **Pelagic (commercial and non-commercial)**

- 49 active fishermen (boats), *down from 56*
- 3,202 estimated trips, *24% ↓*
- 16,841 trolling hours, *22% ↓*
- 466,269 pounds landed, *<1% ↑*
- \$464,101 total adjusted commercial revenue, *13% ↓*



CK Reef off the west coast of Saipan is a popular location for local fishermen to catch bottomfish and pelagic species like this mahimahi (dolphinfish, *Coryphaena hippurus*). Photo: Catharine Villagomez.

## **Bottomfish (commercial and non-commercial)**

- 21,012 pounds total boat-based landings estimated from creel surveys, *3,133% ↑ from 650 pounds*
- 15,697 pounds in commercial landings, *116% ↑*
- 12 unique vessels, *up from 11*
- \$95,801 total adjusted revenue, *167% ↑ from \$35,840*



CNMI's annual Mariana Islands Fishing and Seafood Festival celebrates the richness of the sea and cultural traditions of indigenous fishermen in the Marianas. The festival supports ecological fish harvesting and encourages families to go fishing by requiring that each four-person team that enters the fishing derby has a member under 16 years old. Ehu (short-tail red snapper, *Etelis carbunculus*) and a selection of other fish are put on display for festival participants. Photo: Floyd Masga.

## **Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) (commercial)**

- 25,160 total pounds sold, *31% ↓*
  - ♦ assorted reef fishes 9,499 pounds, *13% ↓*
  - ♦ misc. parrotfishes 4,463 pounds, *26% ↑*
- \$89,314 total estimated revenue, *16% ↓*

### **Top 3 CNMI ECS**

1. assorted reef fishes
2. misc. parrotfishes
3. misc. surgeonfishes

Data is the backbone of fisheries science and management. Students in the Council's 2019 high school summer course on marine fisheries and resources learn to remove otoliths (ear stones) from a reef fish that provide valuable life history information.

Photo: Floyd Masga.





# Guam

**Fishing areas were closed** for 65 days due to exercises by the U.S. military, down from 87 days in 2018.

Guam bottomfish are overfished, but not experiencing overfishing, according to a new stock assessment, likely due to the data-poor nature of the fishery.

## Pelagic (commercial and non-commercial)

- 472 active trolling vessels, **19% ↑**
- 11,801 fishing trips, **10% ↑**
- 60,163 estimated trolling hours, **10% ↑**
- 840,332 pounds of total landings, **6% ↓**
- \$312,708 total adjusted commercial revenue, **34% ↑**



Guam fishermen have reported interactions with sharks at their fishing grounds for many years, which have increased recently and affect their livelihood and source of income. *Photo: Ken Borja.*



## Bottomfish (commercial and non-commercial)

- 37,701 total boat-based landings, **33% ↑**
- 84 vessels, **25% ↑**

The Guam bottomfish fishery does not comprise a large portion of the territories' economy, but it is important for subsistence-level food security. Most fish caught, such as this onaga, are landed directly to hotels and restaurants to meet the tourism demand. *Photo: James Borja.*

## Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) (commercial)

- 46,430 total pounds sold, **42% ↓**
  - ♦ assorted reef fishes 19,808 pounds, **41% ↓**
  - ♦ atulai 12,218 pounds, **109% ↑**
- \$142,993 estimated revenue, **40% ↓**



A master talayeru (throw net fisherman) shows Guam high school students key reef features and demonstrates fishing methods during the Council's summer program. *Photo: Felix Reyes.*

## Top 3 Guam ECS

1. assorted reef fishes
2. bigeye scad
3. parrotfishes



Leilani Sablan with a colorful laggua (parrotfish). *Photo: Tatiana Talavera.*



# American Samoa



The Council organized a fishing trip in American Samoa to demonstrate to the local bottomfish fishermen a standardized survey similar to one used in Hawai'i to quantify differences in catch per unit effort. The Council hopes to engage more fishermen and build local capacity to conduct additional surveys in the future to better manage the territory's fisheries. Photo: Clay Tam.

**Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Funds** were used to purchase access to the outer edge of the Malaloa dock to allow commercial longline vessels to berth. Previously, the fleet did not have any dedicated docking space and frequently had to relocate to accommodate other vessels.

American Samoa bottomfish are both overfished and experiencing overfishing, according to a new assessment, likely due to data limitations. The Council is required to develop and implement a plan within two years that would rebuild the overfished stock within 10 years, while at the same time, immediately ending overfishing.

A fish market facility opened in the Fagatogo Marketplace at Pago Pago Harbor with assistance from the Council and the American Samoa government, establishing it as a hub for fishermen to sell their catch. The facility forms part of the Council's larger fisheries development efforts in the region.



Dustin Snow and family own Island Fisheries Inc. at the Fagatogo Marketplace at Pago Pago Harbor, which brings fresh fish fillets and similar value-added seafood products to the local community. Photo: Nate Ilaoa.

## Pelagic (commercial)

- 17 active longline vessels, **31% ↑**
- 114 longline trips, *reduced from 145 trips*
- 5 active trolling vessels, *2 less than 2018*
- 1,695 longline sets, **23% ↓**
- 170 trolling trips, **13% ↓**
- 3 million pounds landed, *down from 11 million pounds in 2010*
- \$3.9 million in total adjusted commercial revenue, **30% ↓**

## Pelagic (non-commercial)\*

- 102 fishing trips
- 97,801 pounds landed
- 3% of total pelagic catch

## Bottomfish (commercial and non-commercial)

- 11,093 pounds total boat-based landings estimated from creel surveys, **7.2% ↓**
- 1,402 pounds in commercial landings, **67% ↑**
- 6 fishing vessels, **3 less than 2018**
- \$5,708 total adjusted revenue, **60% ↑**

## Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) (commercial)

- 61,254 pounds sold, **75% ↑**
  - ♦ blue-banded surgeonfish 19,275 pounds, **52% ↑**
  - ♦ assorted reef fishes 13,052 pounds, **137% ↑**
- \$185,046 estimated revenue, **75% ↑**

## Top 3 American Samoa ECS

1. blue-banded surgeonfish (*Acanthurus lineatus*)
2. assorted reef fishes
3. striped bristletooth (*Ctenochaetus striatus*)



Colorful parrotfishes are the catch of the day. Photo: Josh DeMello.

\*2018 data unavailable for comparison.

## 2019 Administrative and Regulatory Actions

For the Federal Register notices for these actions, go to [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov).

Jan. 1 (84 FR 49495) **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) final rule on U.S. shallow-set pelagic longline fishery for swordfish** that revised the annual number of allowable incidental interactions between the fishery and North Pacific loggerhead sea turtles from 34 to 17, in compliance with an order of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai'i.

Feb. 8 (84 FR 2767) **Final rule to reclassify management unit species in the Pacific Islands as ecosystem component species.** The rule also updated the scientific and local names of certain species. The intent of this final rule was to prioritize conservation and management efforts and to improve efficiency of fishery management in the region. This rule was effective March 11, 2019.

Feb. 21 (84 FR 5378) **NMFS 2019 Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) lobster harvest guideline for the commercial lobster fishery.** This annual harvest guideline for calendar year 2019 was set at zero lobsters. Regulations at 50 CFR 665.252(b) require NMFS to publish an annual harvest guideline for lobster Permit Area 1, comprised of federal waters around the NWHI. Regulations governing the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the NWHI prohibit the unpermitted removal of monument resources (50 CFR 404.7) and establish a zero annual harvest guideline for lobsters (50 CFR 404.10(a)). Harvest of NWHI lobster resources was not allowed in 2019.

Feb. 22 (84 FR 5356) **NMFS temporary closure of the Southern Exclusion Zone (SEZ) to U.S. deep-set longline commercial fishing** from Feb. 22 through Dec. 31, 2019, for vessels that were registered under the Hawai'i longline limited access program. This resulted from the fishery reaching the established annual trigger of two observed false killer whale mortalities or serious injuries (M&SI) in the fishery within the U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around Hawai'i. The SEZ will remain closed until the area is reopened by the Assistant Administrator pursuant to established criteria. This action was necessary to comply with False Killer Whale Take Reduction Plan regulations that establish the SEZ closure trigger and procedures to limit M&SI of false killer whales in the Hawai'i deep-set longline fishery.

March 28 (84 FR 11654) **NMFS temporary closure of the U.S. shallow-set pelagic longline fishery for swordfish** north of the equator for all vessels registered under the Hawai'i longline limited access program, effective from March 27 through Dec. 31, 2019 (the fishery must comply with the rule from March 19 through Dec. 31, 2019). This resulted from the fishery reaching the annual limit of 17 physical interactions with North Pacific loggerhead sea turtles, so NMFS closed the fishery for the remainder of the calendar year. This action was necessary to comply with regulations that establish maximum annual limits on the numbers of interactions that occur between longline fishing gear and sea turtles.

June 24 (84 FR 29394) **Final 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 annual catch limit (ACL) and accountability measure for main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) Deep 7 bottomfish.** NMFS specified an ACL of 492,000 pounds for each of the three fishing years. If NMFS projects that the fishery will reach the ACL in any given fishing year, NMFS will close the commercial and non-commercial sectors of the fishery for the remainder of that fishing year consistent with the accountability measure. This rule also made housekeeping changes to the federal bottomfish fishing regulations. The ACL and accountability

measure support the long-term sustainability of Hawai'i bottomfish.

July 18 (84 FR 34321) **Specification of a 2019 limit of 2,000 mt of longline-caught bigeye tuna for each U.S. participating territory** (American Samoa, Guam and CNMI) for July 17 through Dec. 31, 2019. NMFS allowed each territory to allocate up to 1,000 mt each year to U.S. longline fishing vessels in a valid specified fishing agreement. As an accountability measure, NMFS monitored, attributed and restricted (when necessary), catches of longline-caught bigeye tuna, including catches made under a specified fishing agreement. These catch limits and accountability measures support the long-term sustainability of fishery resources of the U.S. Pacific Islands and fisheries development in the U.S. territories.

July 24 (84 FR 35568) **NMFS temporary closure of the U.S. pelagic longline fishery for bigeye tuna in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO)** from July 27 through Dec. 31, 2019, because the fishery had reached the 2019 catch limit of 3,554 mt of bigeye tuna. This action was necessary to ensure compliance with NMFS regulations that implement decisions of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

July 31 (84 FR 37145) **NMFS interim final rule revising fishing effort limits of the U.S. purse seine fishery in the U.S. EEZ and high seas in the WCPO** in the area of application of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks between the latitudes of 20° N and 20° S. This area is known as the effort limit area for purse seine, or ELAPS. The calendar year limit for 2019 is 1,616 fishing days. The calendar year limit for 2020 and subsequent years is 1,828 fishing days. This action was necessary for the U.S. to implement provisions of a conservation and management measure adopted by the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the WCPO and to satisfy the obligations of the United States under the Convention.

Aug. 1 (84 FR 37592) **Valid specified fishing agreement that allocates up to 1,000 mt of the 2019 bigeye tuna limit for the CNMI** to identified U.S. longline fishing vessels. The agreement supported the long-term sustainability of fishery resources of the U.S. Pacific Islands and fisheries development in the CNMI.

Sept. 12 **Final environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the proposed ice house and boat ramp at Pago Pago Harbor to support recovery of the American Samoa bottomfish fishery.** The EA and FONSI support the release by NMFS of Congressionally-appropriated funds for disaster relief in the American Samoa bottomfish fishery. The American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources will use the funds to construct a boat ramp and ice house in Pago Pago Harbor. The boat ramp will relieve boat traffic congestion in the area and result in improved launching and return of fishing vessels. Bottomfish fishermen use the ice to maintain the quality of the fish they harvest.

Oct. 1 (84 FR 52035) **NMFS temporary closure of the U.S. purse seine fishery in the ELAPS** as a result of reaching the 2019 purse seine fishing effort limit in that area. The closure was effective from Oct. 9 through Dec. 31, 2019.

Oct. 28 (84 FR 57652) **Valid specified fishing agreement that allocates up to 1,000 mt of the 2019 bigeye tuna limit for the Territory of American Samoa** to identified U.S. longline fishing vessels. The agreement supported the long-term sustainability of fishery resources of the U.S. Pacific Islands and fisheries development in American Samoa.

Nov. 4 (84 FR 57827) **NMFS temporary closure of the U.S. pelagic longline fishery for bigeye tuna in the WCPO** from Nov. 4 through Dec. 31, 2019, because the fishery would reach the 2019 allocation limit for the CNMI. This action is necessary to comply with regulations managing this fish stock. This closure did not apply to any vessel included in a valid agreement with another territory.

Nov. 7 (84 FR 60040) **NMFS proposed rule to revise the management regime for fishing vessels that target tunas and other highly migratory fish species in the area of overlapping jurisdiction in the Pacific Ocean** between the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Commission for the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the WCPFC. If approved, the rule would apply all regulations implementing IATTC resolutions in the area of overlapping jurisdiction. Also, regulations implementing WCPFC decisions on catch and fishing effort limits, bycatch mitigation measures and associated reporting requirements would no longer apply in the overlap area. However, regulations implementing WCPFC management measures related to monitoring, control and surveillance would continue to apply.

Nov. 29 (84 FR 65690) **NMFS temporary reopening and closure of the U.S. purse seine fishery in the ELAPS for 10 calendar days** because part of the fishing effort limit remained after the purse seine fishery closure Oct. 9, 2019. After the closure went into effect, NMFS determined that 64 fishing days of the 1,616 days allowed for the 2019 calendar year remained.

Dec. 13 (84 FR 68057) **NMFS temporary reopening of the U.S. pelagic longline fishery for bigeye tuna in the WCPO for five days** because the fishery did not catch the entire 3,554 mt limit. This action was intended to allow the fishery to access the remainder of the available limit.

## 2019 Publications

**2020 Amerika Samoa Lunar Calendar.** 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-42-7

**2020 Eskaleran Pulan Chamorro/2020 Refaluwasch Pápáál Maram** (Chamorro/Refaluwasch Lunar Calendar). 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-40-3

**2020 Fanha'aniyan Pulan CHamoru (Chamorro Lunar Calendar).** 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-39-7

**2020 Kaulana Mahina (Hawai'i Lunar Calendar).** 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (classroom version). ISBN 978-1-944827-52-6; (fishermen version). ISBN 978-1-944827-41-0

**American Samoa Advisory Panel 2019-2022** (brochure). November 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (print). ISBN 978-1-944827-45-8

**American Samoa Fishery Development & Capacity-Building (2009-2019).** 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (banner). ISBN 978-1-937863-68-5

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Advisory Panel 2019-2022** (brochure). November 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (print). ISBN 978-1-944827-43-4

**Guam Advisory Panel 2019-2022** (brochure). November 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (print). ISBN 978-1-944827-44-1

*Continued on page 8*



**Hawai'i Advisory Panel 2019-2022** (brochure). October 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (print)

**Pacific Islands Fishery News**. Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall issues. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISSN: 2151-2329 (print); ISSN 2151-2337 (online)

**Western Pacific Region Status of the Fisheries 2018**. 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-937863-94-4

**What is the future for the South Pacific albacore fishery?** 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (banner). ISBN 978-1-944827-38-0

**Why Are Good Fishery Data Important?** 2019. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (vertical banner-Marianas). ISBN 978-1-944827-46-5

WPRFMC, 2019. Annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for the American Samoa Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2018. T Remington, M Sabater, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

WPRFMC, 2019. Annual SAFE Report for the Hawai'i Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2018. T Remington, M Sabater, A Ishizaki, S Spalding (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

WPRFMC, 2019. Annual SAFE Report for the Mariana Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2018. T Remington, M Sabater, A Ishizaki, S Spalding (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

WPRFMC, 2019. Annual SAFE Report for the Pacific Pelagic Fisheries Ecosystem Plan 2018. T Remington, M Fitchett, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

WPRFMC, 2019. Annual SAFE Report for the Pacific Remote Island Areas Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2018. M Sabater, A Ishizaki, T Remington, S Spalding (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

## 2019 Council and Advisory Body Meetings

**Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council** (chair *Archie Taotasi Soliai*): 176th meeting, March 18-21, Honolulu; 177th meeting, April 12, teleconference; 178th meeting, June 24-27, Honolulu; 179th meeting, Aug. 8, web conference; 180th meeting, Oct. 21-24, Pago Pago, American Samoa

**Scientific and Statistical Committee** (chair *James Lynch*): 131st meeting, March 12-14, Honolulu; 132nd meeting, June 18-20, Honolulu; 133rd meeting, Aug. 7, web conference; 134th meeting, Oct. 15-17, Honolulu

**Advisory Panel** (chair *Clay Tam*)

- American Samoa (chair *William Sword*): June 12
- Hawai'i (chair *Gil Kualiti*): June 20, Aug. 7, Oct. 11
- Joint: March 15-16, Honolulu
- Marianas Joint (chairs *Richard Farrell* and *Kenneth Borja*): June 13, Sept. 25, CNMI; June 6, Sept. 27, Guam

**Plan Teams:** Archipelagic (chair *Stefanie Dukes*): May 6-7, Honolulu; Pelagic (chair *Keith Bigelow*): May 9-10, Honolulu

**Biological Opinion Review Advisory Panel** (chair *Jim Lynch*): April 12, teleconference

**Education Committee** (chair *Craig Severance*): Education Committee Subgroup, Sept. 25, CNMI; Sept. 26, Guam; Oct. 21, American Samoa

**Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee** (chair *Michael Seki*): June 24, Honolulu

**Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee—Technical Committee** (chair *Domingo Ochavillo*): May 8, Honolulu

**Fishing Industry Advisory Committee** (chair *Stuart Chikami*): no meeting

**Hawai'i Bottomfish Advisory Review Board** (no chair): no meeting

**Non-Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee** (no chair): no meeting

**Protected Species Advisory Committee** (acting chair *Sam Kabng*): May 1-2, Honolulu

**Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee**

- American Samoa (chair *Archie Soliai*): Oct. 18
- CNMI (chair *John Gourley*): no meeting
- Guam (chair *Michael Dueñas*): no meeting
- Hawai'i (chair *Dean Sensui*): no meeting

**Social Science Planning Committee** (chair *Craig Severance*): March 28, teleconference; Aug. 2, teleconference

## 2019 Workshops and Events

**Fishers Forum—Food, Sex & Death: Using Life History in Stock Assessments**, March 19, Honolulu

**Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review Steering Committee Meeting**, April 3, Honolulu

**Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review 2019 Benchmark Stock Assessments for Territorial Bottomfish Management Unit Species**, April 15-19, Honolulu

**Hawai'i Fishery and Resource Management High School Marine Science Summer Course**, June 13-July 9

**CNMI Marine Fisheries and Resources High School Summer Course**, June 21-July 19

**Fishers Forum—Fishing in the Future: Emerging Technologies in Fisheries**, June 25, Honolulu

**American Samoa Marine Fisheries and Resources High School Summer Course**, July 8-26

**Guam Marine Fisheries and Resources High School Summer Course**, July 29-Aug. 17

**Pacific Insular Fisheries Monitoring and Assessment Planning Summit**, Aug. 19-23, Honolulu

**Fishers Forum—American Samoa Palolo Harvest: Science and Tradition**, Oct. 22, Pago Pago, American Samoa

## 2019 Council Members

**Secretary of Commerce appointees from nominees selected by American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and Hawai'i governors:** *Archie Taotasi Soliai*, Starkist (American Samoa) (chair); *Michael Dueñas*, Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Guam) (vice chair); *Howard Dunbam*, commercial fisherman (American Samoa) (vice chair August-December); *Monique Genereux*, business owner (Guam); *Michael Goto*, United Fishing Agency (Hawai'i); *John Gourley*, Micronesian Environmental Services (CNMI) (vice chair); *Christinna Lulu-Sanchez*, commercial fisherman (American Samoa) (vice chair January-August); *McGrew Rice*, charter boat captain (CNMI); *Dean Sensui*, film producer (Hawai'i) (vice chair January-August); *Edwin Watamura*, fisherman (Hawai'i) (vice chair August-December)

**Designated state officials:** *Anthony Benavente*, CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources; *Suzanne Case*, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources; *Chelsa Muña-Brecht*, Guam Department of Agriculture; *Henry Sesepasara*, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources.

**Designated federal official voting:** *Michael Tosatto*, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office.

**Designated federal officials non-voting:** *Brian Peck*, US Fish and Wildlife Service; *Michael Brakke*, US Department of State; *ADM Kevin E. Lunday*, U.S. Coast Guard 14th District

## 2019 Council Staff

*Kitty Simonds*, executive director; *Loren Bullard*, technical assistant; *Joshua DeMello*, fisheries analyst, data coordinator, aquaculture specialist; *Mark Fitchett*, pelagic fisheries ecosystem scientist; *Elysia Granger*, administrative officer; *Bella Hirayama*, travel and administrative clerk; *Randy Holmen*, fiscal officer; *Nate Ilaoa*, American Samoa island coordinator; *Asuka Ishizaki*, protected species coordinator; *Eric Kingma*, international fisheries, enforcement and NEPA coordinator; *Floyd Masga*, CNMI island coordinator; *Mark Mitsuyasu*, insular program officer; *Jack Ogumoro*, CNMI island coordinator (until Jan. 31); *Thomas Remington*, fisheries analyst; *Felix Reyes*, Guam island coordinator; *Marlowe Sabater*, marine ecosystem scientist; *Sylvia Spalding*, communications officer; and *Amy Vandehey*, education and outreach coordinator

## 2019 U.S. Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Intern

*Katelynn Delos Reyes* (CNMI)

## 2019 U.S. Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship Recipients

*MariaAngela Delacruz* (CNMI—attending University of Hawai'i at Hilo); *Katelynn Delos Reyes* (CNMI—attending Hawai'i Pacific University); *Carey Demapan* (CNMI—attending University of Hawai'i at Hilo); *Andrew Kang* (Guam—attending University of Guam graduate school); *Keena Leon Guerrero* (CNMI—attending University of Hawai'i at Ma'noa graduate school); *Alphina Liusamao* (American Samoa—attending University of Hawai'i at Hilo); *Duncan Sevaetasi* (American Samoa—attending Hawai'i Pacific University); *Fuamai Tago* (American Samoa—attending University of Hawai'i at Hilo); *Frank Villagomez* (CNMI—attending University of Guam graduate school).

## Connect with the Council on social media

 facebook.com/wpccouncil

 youtube.com/wpccouncil

 @wpccouncil

 vimeo.com/wprfmc

## Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 USA

ISBN 978-1-944827-72-4

Published in the United States by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council under NOAA Award NA20NMF4410013.

