

## 2.6 MARINE PLANNING

### 2.6.1 Introduction

Marine planning is a science-based management tool being utilized regionally, nationally and globally to identify and address issues of multiple human uses, ecosystem health and cumulative impacts in the coastal and ocean environment. The Council's efforts to formalize incorporation of marine planning in its actions began in response to Executive Order (EO) 13547, *Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes*. EO 13158, *Marine Protected Areas*, proposes that agencies strengthen the management, protection, and conservation of existing MPAs, develop a national system of MPAs representing diverse ecosystems, and avoid causing harm to MPAs through federal activities. MPAs, or marine managed areas (MMAs) are one tool used in fisheries management and marine planning.

At its 165<sup>th</sup> meeting in March 2016, in Honolulu, Hawai'i, the Council approved the following objective for the FEPs: Consider the Implications of Spatial Management Arrangements in Council Decision-making. The following sub-objectives apply:

- a. Identify and prioritize research that examines the positive and negative consequences of areas that restrict or prohibit fishing to fisheries, fishery ecosystems, and fishermen, such as the Bottomfish Fishing Restricted Areas, military installations, NWHI restrictions, and Marine Life Conservation Districts.
- b. Establish effective spatially based fishing zones.
- c. Consider modifying or removing spatial-based fishing restrictions that are no longer necessary or effective in meeting their management objectives.
- d. As needed, periodically evaluate the management effectiveness of existing spatial-based fishing zones in Federal waters.

To monitor implementation of this objective, this annual report includes the Council's spatially based fishing restrictions or MMAs, the goals associated with those, and the most recent evaluation. Council research needs are not tracked in this report.

To meet the EFH and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) mandates, this annual report tracks activities that occur in the ocean that are of interest to the Council, and incidents or facilities that may contribute to cumulative impact. NMFS is responsible for NEPA compliance, and the Council must assess the environmental effects of ocean activities for the EFH cumulative impacts section of the FEP.

#### 2.6.1.1 Response to Previous Council Recommendations

There are no standing Council recommendations indicating review deadlines for PRIA MMAs.

#### 2.6.1.2 MMAs established under FMPs

Council-established MMAs were compiled from 50 CFR § 665, Western Pacific Fisheries, the Federal Register, and Council amendment documents. All regulated fishing areas and large MMAs, including the PRIMNM, are shown in Figure 1.

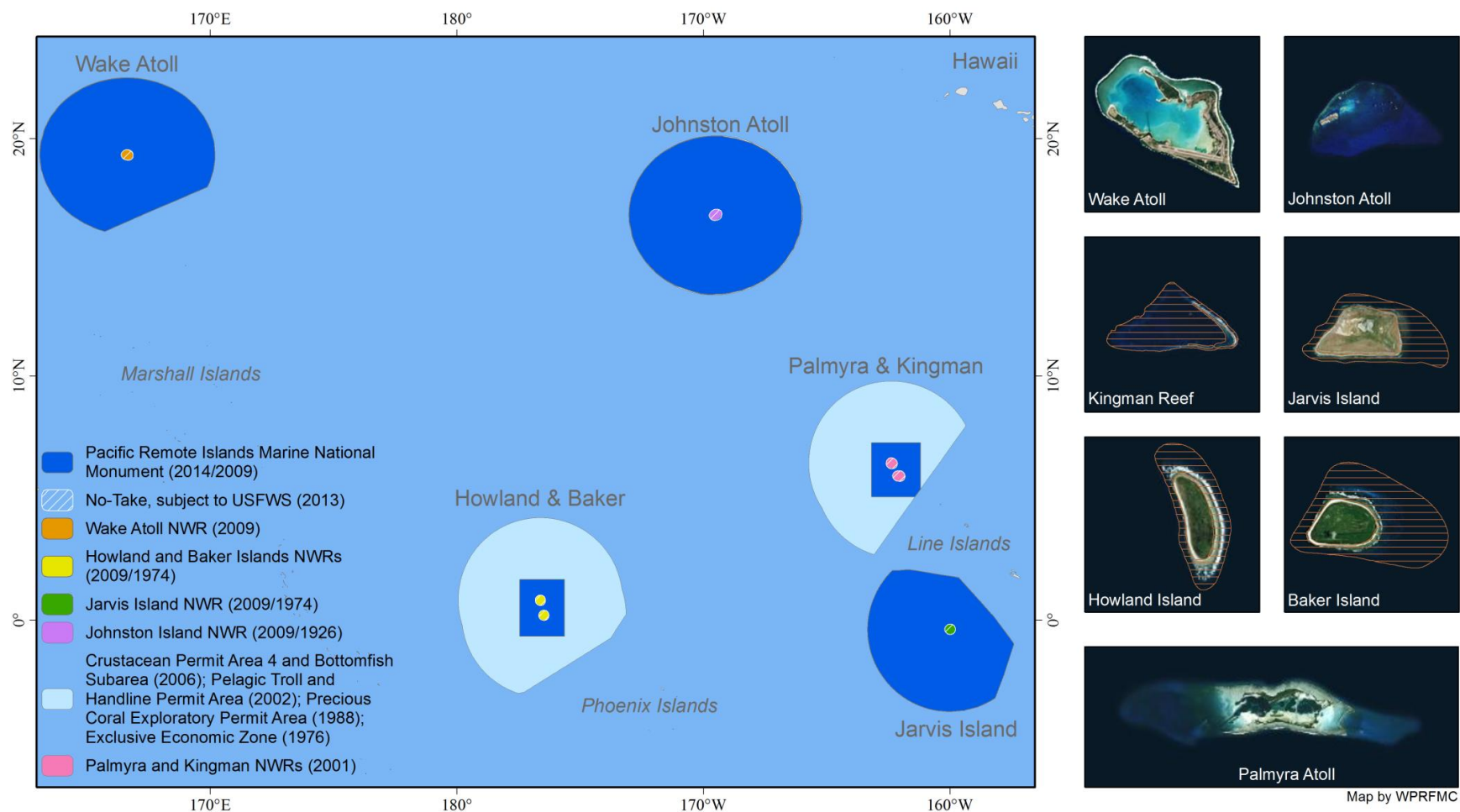


Figure 1. Regulated fishing areas of the PRIA

**Table 1. MMAs established under FEPs from [50 CFR § 665](#)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>FEP</b>	<b>Island</b>	<b>50 CFR /FR /Amendment Reference</b>	<b>Marine Area (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Fishing Restriction</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Most Recent Evaluation</b>	<b>Review Deadline</b>
Howland Island No-Take MPA/PRIMNM	PRIA/ Pelagic	Howland Island	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) <a href="#">69 FR 8336</a> <a href="#">Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan (FMP)</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996</a> <a href="#">PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; commercial fishing prohibited within 12 nm.	2013	-
Jarvis Island No-Take MPA/PRIMNM	PRIA/ Pelagic	Jarvis Island	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) <a href="#">69 FR 8336</a> <a href="#">Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996</a> <a href="#">PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; commercial fishing prohibited within 12 nm.	2013	-
Baker Island No-Take MPA/PRIMNM	PRIA/ Pelagic	Baker Island	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) <a href="#">69 FR 8336</a> <a href="#">Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996</a> <a href="#">PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; commercial fishing prohibited within 12 nm.	2013	-

Name	FEP	Island	50 CFR /FR /Amendment Reference	Marine Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Fishing Restriction	Goals	Most Recent Evaluation	Review Deadline
Kingman Reef No-Take MPA/PRIMNM	PRIA/ Pelagic	Kingman Reef	665.599 and 665.799(a)(1) <a href="#">69 FR 8336</a> <a href="#">Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996</a> <a href="#">PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	All Take Prohibited	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; all fishing prohibited within 12 nm.	2013	-
Johnston Atoll Low-Use MPA/ PRIMNM	PRIA/ Pelagic	Johnston Atoll	<a href="#">69 FR 8336</a> <a href="#">Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996</a> <a href="#">PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	Special Permit Only	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; superseded by prohibiting fishing within 12 nm in Am. 2.	2013	-
Palmyra Atoll Low-Use MPAs/ PRIMNM	PRIA/ Pelagic	Palmyra Atoll	<a href="#">69 FR 8336</a> <a href="#">Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996</a> <a href="#">PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	Special Permit Only	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; superseded by prohibiting fishing within 12 nm in Am. 2.	2013	-
Wake Island Low-Use MPA/ PRIMNM	PRIA/ Pelagic	Wake Island	<a href="#">69 FR 8336</a> <a href="#">Coral Reef Ecosystem FMP</a> <a href="#">78 FR 32996</a> <a href="#">PRIA FEP Am. 2</a>	-	Special Permit Only	Minimize adverse human impacts on coral reef resources; superseded by prohibiting fishing within 12 nm in Am. 2.	2013	-

## 2.6.2 Activities and Facilities

There are no aquaculture facilities, alternative energy facilities, or military training and testing activities occurring in the US EEZ around the PRIA at this time. The Plan Team will add to this section as new facilities or activities are proposed and/or built.

## 2.6.3 Additional Considerations

### 2.6.3.1 Critical Habitat for the Threatened Indo-Pacific Corals

On November 27, 2020, NMFS published a proposed rule in the Federal Register (85 FR 76262) to designate critical habitat for the seven threatened corals in U.S. waters in the Indo-Pacific pursuant to section 4 of the ESA. Three of these corals occur within the PRIA: *Acropora globiceps*, *A. retusa*, and *A. speciosa*. The geographic distribution of at least one of these three species has been confirmed around Howland Island, Palmyra Atoll, Kingman Reef, Johnston Atoll, Wake Atoll, and Jarvis Island. Specific occupied areas containing physical features essential to the conservation of these coral species are being proposed for designation as critical habitat. The purpose of designating critical habitat is to identify the areas that are essential to the species' recovery to help focus conservation efforts. If the proposal is finalized, the designation of the critical habitat would provide significant regulatory protection by ensuring that the Federal government considers the effects of its actions in accordance with section 7(a)(2) of the ESA and avoids or modifies those actions that are likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

