

8.0 Western Pacific: Tables 1-8 provide summaries of areas WP1-4.

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Table 1 - ATB Conservation Area Worksheet for Western Pacific Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM), Monument Expansion

General Information	
Area name	Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) and Expansion
Implementation Action (Year)	Proclamation 8031 (2006), Proclamation 8112 (2007), and Expansion: Proclamation 9478 (2016)
Regulations (with link of geographic area defined, if available)	3 CFR 8112 - Proclamation 8112 of February 28, 2007. Amending Proclamation 8031 of June 15, 2006, To Read, “Establishment of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument” https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/CFR-2008-title3-vol1/CFR-2008-title3-vol1-proc8112 3 CFR 9478 - Proclamation 9478 of August 26, 2016. Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Expansion https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/CFR-2017-title3-vol1/CFR-2017-title3-vol1-proc9478 50 CFR Part 404, https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-IV/subchapter-A/part-404?toc=1
Size	439,604 nm ²
Number of areas (if applicable)	One continuous spatial area (waters seaward of Northwest Hawaiian Islands inside US EEZ). The area includes numerous management or designated areas: -State of Hawaii Seabird Sanctuary

	-Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) -Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (NOAA) -World Heritage Site (IUCN) -State of Hawaii Marine Refuge (State) -Midway National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS) -Battle of Midway National Memorial (NPS) -Proposed National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA) -NWHI Protected Species Zone (Council) -Mau and Hoomalu Bottomfish Zones (Council)
Step 1 – Conservation Area Definition	
Criteria for Step 1	Detailed explanation
1a. Established, geographically defined area?	Yes, as detailed in the regulations.
1b. Planned management or regulation?	No. Created through Presidential Proclamation
1c. Provides for the maintenance of biological productivity and biodiversity, ecosystem function and services?	Yes. The areas establish nearly full protection for various habitat types and their important ecosystem functions throughout the Pacific Islands
Step 2 – Defining Governance	
Criteria for Step 2	Detailed explanation
2a. What is the governance type (federal government, shared or collaborative governance, private governance, or indigenous and local communities)?	Federal. The areas are implemented through Federal Government regulations. Available here https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/CFR-2008-title3-vol1/CFR-2008-title3-vol1-proc8112 and https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/CFR-2017-title3-

	vol1/CFR-2017-title3-vol1-proc9478 Governance is shared/collaborative through the monument trustees: DOC (NOAA), DOI (USFWS), State of Hawaii: Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)
2b. Are the boundaries clear and well understood?	Yes. The areas have clear boundaries. Info available here: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/habitat-conservation/papahānaumokuākea-marine-national-monument
2c. Who is the lead Agency?	Trusteeship by the four partners: NOAA/USFWS/DLNR/OHA
2d. Are there multiple entities involved in management of the area? If so, which ones?	Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is administered jointly by four co-trustees – the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Interior, the State of Hawaii DLNA, and the OHA. According to Proclamation 8031, which established the Monument, management responsibilities together jointly implement by consensus according to the 2008 Monument Management Plan (MMP)
2e. Is enforcement of the area adequate?	Yes. US Coast Guard, NOAA OLE, and State of Hawaii enforcement agencies patrol with respect to their authority/jurisdiction, but more resources are needed.
Step 3 – Category/Objective	
Criteria for Step 3	Detailed explanation

3a. For fishery conservation areas, three categories are recommended; which one best describes the candidate area best? 1) ecosystem conservation; 2) year-round fishery management; or 3) seasonal fishery management / other.	1. Ecosystem conservation
3b. Which sub-category best describes the candidate area? For ecosystem conservation there are 4 sub-categories (habitat, vulnerable species, vulnerable ecosystem, biodiversity). For year-round/seasonal fishery management or other areas there are 4 sub-categories (bycatch, spawning, allocation, other).	These areas support all 4 sub-categories of ecosystem conservation (1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d) supporting conservation of habitat, vulnerable species, vulnerable ecosystems, and biodiversity.
Step 4 – America the Beautiful Principles	
Criteria for Step 4	Detailed explanation
4a. Does the area meet at least 3 of the America the Beautiful (ATB) principles? Which ones?	Yes, these areas partially or fully meet ATB principles: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7.
1. Pursue a Collaborative and Inclusive Approach to Conservation	<i>These areas partially meet this principle.</i> These areas were established through Presidential Proclamation and not through the Council process, which by design is a collaborative, consensus-building process among diverse stakeholders. Fishing industry, particularly from the largest fishery in the region (Hawaii longline fishery) was not consulted or member of the management paradigm. Members and representatives from various academia, research and conservation organizations were actively involved in development of the designations.

2. Conserve America's Lands and Waters for the Benefit of All People	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> These areas provide conservation of a completely undisturbed natural place that yields meaningful benefits to all Americans.
3. Support Locally Led and Locally Designed Conservation Efforts	<i>These areas meet this principle.</i> These areas were developed by Presidential Proclamation, though managed by recommendations provided by the Reserve Advisory Council (RAC) in accordance with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and advisory to the ONMS. The RAC is a community-based advisory group consisting of representatives from various constituencies, providing a public forum for community consultation and deliberation on resource management issues affecting the Reserve. The MMP and State agencies also have procedures in place. The MMP went through public review with NEPA and HEPA.
4. Honor Tribal Sovereignty and Support the Priorities of Tribal Nations	<i>These areas meet this principle.</i> The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a constitutionally established body set as a separate state entity independent of the executive branch of the State of Hawaii, is responsible for representing the interests of the Native Hawaiian community pertaining to activities in the monument, including Native Hawaiian customary and traditional rights and practices exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes under the Hawaii Constitution.
5. Pursue Conservation and Restoration Approaches that Create Jobs and Support Healthy Communities	<i>These areas do not fully meet this principle.</i> Establishment of these areas were intended to support protection of biodiversity and habitat, but not with the intention of optimizing yields or economic benefits. It supports government bureaucracy/jobs

6. Honor Private Property Rights and Support the Voluntary Stewardship Efforts of Private Landowners and Fishers	There are no private property rights in these portions of the EEZ.
7. Use Science as a Guide	<i>These areas partially meet this principle.</i> The areas were established based on the best available science and informed by the recommendations of scientists for inshore waters where fishing activities may interfere with static habitats. This area overlapped a pre-existing longline closure, 0 to 50 nm seaward of all Hawaiian islands. The expansion was not based on verifiable scientific evidence that dynamic pelagic habitats seaward of 50-200 nm would demonstrably achieve objectives. In fact scientific evidence (Pons et al, 2022) shows that dynamic area closures/restrictions are superior to large static closures in reaching objectives associated with reducing intended catch of protected species/bycatch.
8. Build on Existing Tools and Strategies with an Emphasis on Flexibility and Adaptive Approaches	<i>It is unknown if and unlikely that these areas meet the principle.</i> The Presidential Proclamations do not provide an adaptive or iterative management framework akin to the Council process in the MSA. The Monuments are established as large static management areas.

Table 2 – Effectiveness checklist for ATB conservation area - Western Pacific Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM), Monument Expansion

ATB Area Name	Western Pacific Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM), Monument Expansion			
ATB Area ID	WP-1			
Number of areas (if applicable)	2 (one continuous area of the original monument and the expansion area)			
Elements of Effectiveness	Description of Effectiveness Elements	Yes/ No/ Uncertain	Rationale	If “no” for effectiveness, specific action that could be taken to improve conservation benefits
1. What supports conservation	Are there limitations or prohibitions on fishing activities or gear use in this area that support conservation objectives? Describe how these measures apply.	Yes	Commercial fishing prohibited. Sustenance or subsistence fishing possible as an ancillary activity of other permitted activities. All Western Pacific areas prohibit bottom-tending, trawling, or ‘destructive gears’	
2. Other activities	Are other activities with potentially negative impacts on conservation prohibited within the area (e.g., mining, dumping, anchoring, oil and gas extraction, offshore energy activity, etc.)? If some are allowed within the area, are they limited? Are any activities anticipated to occur	Yes	All extractive activities are restricted; no mining, drilling, or exploring for oil and gas; no use of explosives, poisons, or electrical charges; discharge or disposition of any materials prohibited or severely restricted; etc. https://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/w/heritage/measures.html	

	in the area in the near future (i.e., next 5 years) that are important to flag?		50 CFR Part 404, https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-IV/subchapter-A/part-404?toc=1	
3. Enforceability	Is the overall enforcement of the area effective? What are the enforcement approaches and specific [fishery] monitoring tools used for enforcement, who is responsible for enforcement, are there enforcement partnerships?	Yes	These areas are enforced by the USCG and NOAA. More resources are needed, however. Longline vessels fishing with federal permits in the Western Pacific are required to have VMS, and 20% of longline vessels are required to carry a human at-sea observer or approved electronic monitoring device (at various coverage rates).	
4. Climate Change Resiliency	Can the conservation area adapt; is it resilient to climate change? Is the governance process nimble enough to adapt to uncertainty in an era of climate change? Can the area be modified relatively easily to incorporate new science?	No.	The areas are not designed to be readily adaptive with respect to spatial coverage to climate change and new science through a relatively nimble Council process. The Monument areas are static in spatial design, through the managing agencies have had a Climate Change feasibility study and action plan in place for the last decade	There could be research and monitoring in place to explore dynamic closure designs with other management areas to achieve adaptability.
5. Stakeholder participation / Collaboration	Is there general support for the conservation area by regulated participants, other stakeholders, tribal or local communities, and regulators? Was the area developed in a collaborative way, is there overall support that the conservation area is effective and meeting objectives?	Uncertain.	These areas were developed by Presidential Proclamation. The RAC provides a public forum for community consultation and deliberation on resource management issues affecting the Reserve to the ONMS. There was strong public support, but lacked participation of fishing industry. A relatively pristine area prior to implementation, meeting objectives are difficult. There is a Monument management board, but no Monument management board.	

6. Research/ biological monitoring/ restoration	Are there any biological monitoring programs in place now or when the area was adopted? Are any research programs planned to evaluate the conservation area in the short-term or long-term? Are there specific restoration efforts taking place or planned for the area?	Yes.	https://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/research/welcome.html NOAA conducts reef assessment and monitoring program in the area; also intertidal monitoring, maritime archaeology, etc.	A specific biological monitoring program could be developed to evaluate the short and long-term conservation benefits of these areas; however, this would require additional resources.
7. Public access	Are there opportunities for the public to access the conservation area for recreational opportunities? Are there specific programs in place to promote equitable access to the outdoors?	Yes	All activities, regardless of location within PMNM , are either prohibited (not allowed), exempted (no permit is needed), or regulated (must be considered through the Monument's joint-permitting process). The following activities are regulated through the Monument's permitting process https://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/permit/ : • Further the understanding of Monument resources and qualities through research; • Further the educational value of the Monument; • Assist in the conservation and management of the Monument; • Allow Native Hawaiian practices; • Allow a special ocean use; • Allow recreational activities within the Midway Atoll Special Management Area.	NOAA should work with monument trustees to explicitly allow cultural fishing and subsistence fishing through a specific fishing permit.

8. Other elements of effectiveness	Are there other details about this conservation area that make it more, or less effective in terms of meeting conservation objectives? Are there aspects about the management program in this area that are important to note that are not captured in the topics above?	Yes	There is no open, iterative process to evaluate the efficacy of these areas with respect to stated objectives.	Provide fishing regulations to be managed under the MSA.
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Table 3 - ATB Conservation Area Worksheet for Western Pacific Pacific Island Remote Island Areas, Marianas, and Rose Atoll Monuments

General Information	
Area name	Pacific Island Remote Island Areas (PRIA), Marianas Trench, and Rose Atoll Monuments
Implementation Action (Year)	PRIAS: Proclamation 8336 (2009), PRIA Expansion Proclamation 9173 (2014), Marianas (MTMNM) and Rose Atoll: Proclamations 8335 and 8337 (2009)
Regulations (with link of geographic area defined, if available)	PRIAS: 50 CFR Part 665 Subpart H https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-665/subpart-H Marianas Trench MNM: 50 CFR Part 665 Subpart G https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-665/subpart-G Rose Atoll MNM: 50 CFR 665 Subpart I https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-665/subpart-I
Size	512,314 nm ²
Number of areas (if applicable)	7 – Total US EEZ around Wake Island, Johnston Atoll, Jarvis Island; partial US EEZs around Howland and Baker Islands, Palmyra Atoll, Rose Atoll, and the Marianas Archipelago
Step 1 – Conservation Area Definition	
Criteria for Step 1	Detailed explanation

1a. Established, geographically defined area?	Yes, as detailed in the regulations.
1b. Planned management or regulation?	No. Created through Presidential Proclamation. PRIMNM does not an updated MMP since expansion in 2014. The Marianas Trench MNM Management Plan was made public in 2020. Rose Atoll Comprehensive Conservation Plan was drafted in 2012, published in 2014.
1c. Provides for the maintenance of biological productivity and biodiversity, ecosystem function and services?	Yes. The areas establish nearly full protection for various habitat types and their important ecosystem functions throughout the Pacific Islands
Step 2 – Defining Governance	
Criteria for Step 2	Detailed explanation
2a. What is the governance type (federal government, shared or collaborative governance, private governance, or indigenous and local communities)?	Federal. The areas are implemented through Federal Government regulations. Available in the application Presidential Proclamations
2b. Are the boundaries clear and well understood?	Yes. The areas have clear boundaries. Info available here: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/habitat-conservation/marine-national-monuments-pacific ; https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/habitat-conservation/pacific-remote-islands-marine-national-monument , https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/habitat-conservation/marianas-trench-marine-national-monument , https://www.fws.gov/national-monument/rose-atoll-marine
2c. Who is the lead Agency?	NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — in cooperation with the Commonwealth of the Northern

	Mariana Islands and American Samoa governments for the Marianas Trench and Rose Atoll Monuments, respectively — maintain management responsibility for the Marine National Monuments.
2d. Are there multiple entities involved in management of the area? If so, which ones?	NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — in cooperation with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa governments for the Marianas Trench and Rose Atoll Monuments, respectively — maintain management responsibility for the Marine National Monuments.
2e. Is enforcement of the area adequate?	<i>Uncertain.</i> The USCG and NOAA OLE report on enforcement efforts and cases at each Council meeting. However, given the size of these areas, more resources are needed
Step 3 – Category/Objective	
Criteria for Step 3	Detailed explanation
3a. For fishery conservation areas, three categories are recommended; which one best describes the candidate area best? 1) ecosystem conservation; 2) year-round fishery management; or 3) seasonal fishery management / other.	1. Ecosystem conservation
3b. Which sub-category best describes the candidate area? For ecosystem conservation there are 4 sub-categories (habitat, vulnerable species, vulnerable ecosystem, biodiversity). For year-round/seasonal fishery management or other	These areas support all 4 sub-categories of ecosystem conservation (1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d) supporting conservation of habitat, vulnerable species, vulnerable ecosystems, and biodiversity.

areas there are 4 sub-categories (bycatch, spawning, allocation, other).	
Step 4 – America the Beautiful Principles	
Criteria for Step 4	Detailed explanation
4a. Does the area meet at least 3 of the America the Beautiful (ATB) principles? Which ones?	Yes, these areas partially or fully meet ATB principles: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7.
1. Pursue a Collaborative and Inclusive Approach to Conservation	<i>These areas partially meet this principle.</i> These areas are not managed consensus-building process across all diverse stakeholders. Fishing industry, particularly from the largest fisheries in the region (US purse seine fishery American Samoa, longline fishery, Hawaii longline fishery) are not members of the management paradigm. Members and representatives from various academia, research and conservation organizations were initially involved in development of the designations.
2. Conserve America's Lands and Waters for the Benefit of All People	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> These areas provide conservation of a nearly undisturbed natural place that yields meaningful benefits to all Americans.
3. Support Locally Led and Locally Designed Conservation Efforts	<i>These areas partially meet this principle.</i> These areas were developed by Presidential Proclamation. Marianas Trench Monument Advisory Council (MTMAC) was formed to provide advice and recommendations on the development of management plans and management of the monument. The Advisory Council shall consist of three officials of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern

	Mariana Islands and one representative each from the Department of Defense and the United States Coast Guard. There is no such advisory council for the PRIAS or for Rose Atoll
4. Honor Tribal Sovereignty and Support the Priorities of Tribal Nations	<i>These areas meet this principle.</i> Executive Order 12962 of June 7, 1995, as amended, “shall ensure that sustenance, recreational, and traditional indigenous fishing shall be managed as a sustainable activity consistent with other applicable law and after due consideration with respect to traditional indigenous fishing of any determination by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Traditional access by indigenous persons, as identified by the Secretaries in consultation with the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for culturally significant subsistence, cultural and religious uses within the monument.” 50 CFR Part 665, Subpart G § 665.905 and Subpart I § 665.965 recognize indigenous practices and customary exchange in MTMNM and Rose Atoll MNM, but prohibited for recreation. Customary exchange of fish harvested in the PRIMNM is prohibited.
5. Pursue Conservation and Restoration Approaches that Create Jobs and Support Healthy Communities	<i>These areas do not fully meet this principle.</i> Establishment of these areas were intended to support protection of biodiversity and habitat, but not with the intention of optimizing yields or economic benefits.
6. Honor Private Property Rights and Support the Voluntary	There are no private property rights in these portions of the EEZ. These conservation areas were developed through a collaborative approach with fishers and other

Stewardship Efforts of Private Landowners and Fishers	stakeholders voluntarily working together to balance conservation benefits and maintain sustainable access to fisheries.
7. Use Science as a Guide	<i>These areas partially meet this principle.</i> The areas were established based on the best available science and informed by the recommendations of scientists for inshore waters where fishing activities may interfere with static vulnerable habitats and deep-water vent systems. US EEZ closures of Wake Island, Johnston Atoll, Jarvis Island close waters that are largely pelagic in nature, with very dynamic ecosystems where the efficacy of large static closures remain unknown (Hilborn et al, 2021). Recent evidence (Pons et al, 2022) shows that dynamic area closures/restrictions are superior to large static closures in reaching objectives associated with reducing intended catch of protected species/bycatch.
8. Build on Existing Tools and Strategies with an Emphasis on Flexibility and Adaptive Approaches	<i>It is unknown and unlikely if these areas meet the principle.</i> The Monument Management Plan does not provide adaptive approaches akin to the Council process in the MSA. The Monuments are established as large static management areas.

Table 4 – Effectiveness checklist for ATB conservation area - Western Pacific Pacific Island Remote Island Areas, Marianas, and Rose Atoll Monuments

ATB Area Name	Pacific Island Remote Island Areas (PRIA), Marianas Trench, and Rose Atoll Monuments			
ATB Area ID	WP-2			
Number of areas (if applicable)	7 – Total US EEZ around Wake Island, Johnston Atoll, Jarvis Island; partial US EEZs around Howland and Baker Islands, Palmyra Atoll, Rose Atoll, and the Marianas Archipelago			
Elements of Effectiveness	Description of Effectiveness Elements	Yes/ No/ Uncertain	Rationale	If “no” for effectiveness, specific action that could be taken to improve conservation benefits
1. What supports conservation	Are there limitations or prohibitions on fishing activities or gear use in this area that support conservation objectives? Describe how these measures apply.	Yes	PRINMN: 50 CFR Part 665 Subpart H https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-665/subpart-H MTMNM: 50 CFR Part 665 Subpart G https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-665/subpart-G Rose Atoll MNM: 50 CFR 665 Subpart I https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-665/subpart-I Commercial, all gears prohibited in the PRIAs and Rose Atoll, with exception of the Marianas	

			Trench Marine National Monument. Bottomfishing vessels limits are in place. All Western Pacific areas prohibit bottom-tending, trawling, or 'destructive gears'	
2. Other activities	Are other activities with potentially negative impacts on conservation prohibited within the area (e.g., mining, dumping, anchoring, oil and gas extraction, offshore energy activity, etc.)? If some are allowed within the area, are they limited? Are any activities anticipated to occur in the area in the near future (i.e., next 5 years) that are important to flag?	No	No other commercial activities or extraction	
3. Enforceability	Is the overall enforcement of the area effective? What are the enforcement approaches and specific [fishery] monitoring tools used for enforcement, who is responsible for enforcement, are there enforcement partnerships?	Yes	These areas are enforced by the USCG and NOAA. Longline vessels fishing with federal permits in the Western Pacific are required to have VMS, and 20% of longline vessels are required to carry a human at-sea observer or approved electronic monitoring device (at various coverage rates). At least 50% of US purse seine sets in the last decade have on-board observers.	
4. Climate Change Resiliency	Can the conservation area adapt; is it resilient to climate change? Is the governance process nimble enough to adapt to uncertainty in an era of climate change? Can the area be modified relatively easily to incorporate new science?	No.	The areas are not designed to be readily adaptive with respect to spatial coverage to climate change and new science through a relatively nimble Council process. The Monument areas are static in spatial design, are large and already offer maximum levels of protection	There could be research and monitoring in place to explore dynamic closure designs with other management areas to achieve adaptability.

5. Stakeholder participation / Collaboration	Is there general support for the conservation area by regulated participants, other stakeholders, tribal or local communities, and regulators? Was the area developed in a collaborative way, is there overall support that the conservation area is effective and meeting objectives?	No	These areas were developed by Presidential Proclamation. Mariana Trench Monument Advisory Council (MTMAC) is to provide advice and recommendations on the development of management plans and management of the monument. The Advisory Council shall consist of three officials of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and one representative each from the Department of Defense and the United States Coast Guard. This does not explicitly include fishing or stakeholder interests. There are no equivalences in the PRIA or Rose Atoll	
6. Research/ biological monitoring/ restoration	Are there any biological monitoring programs in place now or when the area was adopted? Are any research programs planned to evaluate the conservation area in the short-term or long-term? Are there specific restoration efforts taking place or planned for the area?	No	Specific biological monitoring programs were not adopted for these areas when they were approved. The annual research priorities for the Council include evaluation of area-based management, but currently there are no specific research programs for these areas.	A specific biological monitoring program could be developed to evaluate the short and long-term conservation benefits of these areas; however, this would require additional resources.
7. Public access	Are there opportunities for the public to access the conservation area for recreational opportunities? Are there specific programs in place to promote equitable access to the outdoors?	Yes and Uncertain	The Mariana Trench Marine National Monument allow fishing in most of its waters, with a bottomfish vessel limit. Rose Atoll can permit cultural and subsistence fishing. PRIA do not have permits at this time. Transiting the waters is allowed, but with notification.	NOAA should develop permitting for cultural fishing and subsistence fishing.

8. Other elements of effectiveness	Are there other details about this conservation area that make it more, or less effective in terms of meeting conservation objectives? Are there aspects about the management program in this area that are important to note that are not captured in the topics above?	Yes	There is no open, iterative process to evaluate the efficacy of these areas with respect to stated objectives.	Relinquish management of the Monuments to the Council.
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Table 5 - ATB Conservation Area Worksheet for Western Pacific Permanent Longline Exclusion Areas

General Information	
Area name	Western Pacific Permanent Longline Exclusion Areas
Implementation Action (Year)	1991, 1992, and 2011
Regulations (with link of geographic area defined, if available)	50 C.F.R. Part 665.806(a)(2) 50 C.F.R. Part 665.806(a)(4) 50 C.F.R. Part 665.806(a)(3) https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-665/subpart-F/section-665.806
Size	136,358 nm ² , 241,927 nm ² if including overlapping areas with Marine National Monuments.
Number of areas (if applicable)	4 – 0-50 nm seaward of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, 0-50 nm and 0-75 nm seaward of Main Hawaiian Islands, 0-50 nm seaward of Guam, and 0-30 nm of the Northern Mariana Islands
Step 1 – Conservation Area Definition	
Criteria for Step 1	Detailed explanation
1a. Established, geographically defined area?	Yes, as detailed in the regulations.
1b. Planned management or regulation?	Yes. The Council and NMFS Implemented these in Pelagic FEP Amendment 2
1c. Provides for the maintenance of biological productivity and	Yes. The areas were intended to reduce competition to facilitate access for smaller vessel fisheries, reduce impacts to vulnerable species (such as monk seals), reduce impact to nearshore habitats.

biodiversity, ecosystem function and services?	
Step 2 – Defining Governance	
Criteria for Step 2	Detailed explanation
2a. What is the governance type (federal government, shared or collaborative governance, private governance, or indigenous and local communities)?	Federal. The areas are implemented through Federal Government regulations. Available here: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-665/subpart-F/section-665.806
2b. Are the boundaries clear and well understood?	Yes. The areas have clear boundaries, as defined here: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-665/subpart-F/section-665.806
2c. Who is the lead Agency?	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
2d. Are there multiple entities involved in management of the area? If so, which ones?	NOAA is the lead agency. However, WPRFMC developed and approved these conservation areas.
2e. Is enforcement of the area adequate?	Yes. The USCG and NOAA report on enforcement efforts and cases at each Council meeting.
Step 3 – Category/Objective	
Criteria for Step 3	Detailed explanation
3a. For fishery conservation areas, three categories are recommended; which one	1. Ecosystem conservation 2. Year-round fishery management

best describes the candidate area best? 1) ecosystem conservation; 2) year-round fishery management; or 3) seasonal fishery management / other.	
3b. Which sub-category best describes the candidate area? For ecosystem conservation there are 4 sub-categories (habitat, vulnerable species, vulnerable ecosystem, biodiversity). For year-round/ seasonal fishery management or other areas there are 4 sub-categories (bycatch, spawning, allocation, other).	These areas indirectly support all 4 sub-categories of ecosystem conservation (1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d) supporting conservation of habitat, vulnerable species, vulnerable ecosystems, and biodiversity.
Step 4 – America the Beautiful Principles	
Criteria for Step 4	Detailed explanation
4a. Does the area meet at least 3 of the America the Beautiful (ATB) principles? Which ones?	Yes, these areas fully meet ATB principles: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8.
1. Pursue a Collaborative and Inclusive Approach to Conservation	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> These areas were established through the Council process, which by design is a collaborative, consensus-building process among diverse stakeholders. Council members represent Hawaii and the US Pacific Territories, stakeholder types, and interests to work

	together to conserve the health and productivity of marine resources. Members of the fishing industry and representatives from various academia, research and conservation organizations were actively involved in Council advisory bodies that inform these recommended regulations.
2. Conserve America's Lands and Waters for the Benefit of All People	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> These areas provide conservation of a relatively undisturbed natural place that yields meaningful benefits to all Americans.
3. Support Locally Led and Locally Designed Conservation Efforts	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> These areas were developed through the Council process that includes stakeholders from diverse backgrounds throughout the region (see criteria 1). These conservation areas support Council priorities to conserve marine ecosystems.
4. Honor Tribal Sovereignty and Support the Priorities of Tribal Nations	<i>These areas partially meet this principle.</i> Although these areas were not established specifically to honor Tribal sovereignty, treaty and subsistence rights, and religious practices, they do advance general priorities of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island communities that access archipelagic and pelagic waters where these longline exclusion areas are in place.
5. Pursue Conservation and Restoration Approaches that Create Jobs and Support Healthy Communities	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> Establishment of these areas indirectly supports productive fisheries and vibrant working waterfronts for the local communities of the Pacific Islands by providing overall conservation benefits to the ecosystem in this region. Thus, the areas enhance the economy, address environmental justice, and improve the quality of life for those involved in regional fisheries.
6. Honor Private Property Rights and Support the Voluntary Stewardship Efforts	There are no private property rights in these portions of the EEZ. These conservation areas were developed through a collaborative approach with fishers and other stakeholders voluntarily working together to balance conservation benefits and maintain sustainable access to fisheries.

of Private Landowners and Fishers	
7. Use Science as a Guide	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> The areas were established based on the best available science and informed by the recommendations of scientists at the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center and other groups within NOAA as well as regional experts and the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the WPRFMC. All information used to evaluate the areas was transparent and accessible to the public. Pelagic FMP Amendments 3 and 5, and their analyses available here: https://www.wpcouncil.org/pelagic/Documents/FMP/Amendment3-FR-FinalRule.pdf; https://www.wpcouncil.org/pelagic/Documents/FMP/Amendment5.pdf;
8. Build on Existing Tools and Strategies with an Emphasis on Flexibility and Adaptive Approaches	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> The Council process is iterative and all fishery ecosystem plans are subject to periodic five year review. The Council, with NOAA, develops research priorities that coincide with management obligations.

Table 6 – Effectiveness checklist for ATB conservation area Western Pacific Permanent Longline Exclusion Areas

ATB Area Name	Western Pacific Permanent Longline Exclusion Areas			
ATB Area ID	WP-3			
Number of areas (if applicable)	4 – 0-50 nm seaward of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, 0-50 nm and 0-75 nm seaward of Main Hawaiian Islands, 0-50 nm seaward of Guam, and 0-30 nm of the Northern Mariana Islands			
Elements of Effectiveness	Description of Effectiveness Elements	Yes/ No/ Uncertain	Rationale	If “no” for effectiveness, specific action that could be taken to improve conservation benefits
1. What supports conservation	Are there limitations or prohibitions on fishing activities or gear use in this area that support conservation objectives? Describe how these measures apply.	Yes and Yes	Longline fishing is prohibited in these areas, the largest fishery under Council-management. The intention was to protect habitat and reduce interactions with protected species. Pelagic FMP Amendments 3 and 5, Pelagic FEP Amendment 2 analyze impacts of these closures that created a 50 nm longline exclusion zone around the Northwest Hawaiian Islands to protect endangered Hawaiian monk seals and another 50 – 75 closure to longline fishing around the Main	If research is not conducted in these areas their overall effectiveness in terms of supporting overall conservation plans and analysis is reduced.

			Hawaii Islands and around Guam. They also implemented framework provisions for establishing a mandatory observer program to collect information on interactions between longline fishing and sea turtles, beginning in 1991. All Western Pacific areas prohibit bottom-tending, trawling, or 'destructive gears'	
2. Other activities	Are other activities with potentially negative impacts on conservation prohibited within the area (e.g., mining, dumping, anchoring, oil and gas extraction, offshore energy activity, etc.)? If some are allowed within the area, are they limited? Are any activities anticipated to occur in the area in the near future (i.e., next 5 years) that are important to flag?	No	There are no other non-fishery related extractive activities ongoing.	If other activities are permitted in these areas and found to have negative impacts on overall conservation benefits, additional restrictions could be considered.
3. Enforceability	Is the overall enforcement of the area effective? What are the enforcement approaches and specific [fishery] monitoring tools used for enforcement, who is responsible for enforcement, are there enforcement partnerships?	Yes	These areas are enforced by the USCG and NOAA. All longline fishing with federal permits are required to have VMS, and all vessels are required to carry a human at-sea observer or approved electronic monitoring device (at various coverage rates ~ 20% for deep-set and 100% for shallow-set) that collect location data that can be used to monitor the fishery.	
4. Climate Change Resiliency	Can the conservation area adapt; is it resilient to climate change? Is the governance process nimble enough to adapt to uncertainty in an era of climate change? Can the area be modified relatively easily to incorporate new science?	Yes	The areas can be readily adaptive to climate change and new science through the relatively nimble Council process. The Council can adjust the boundaries or specific prohibitions of these areas through the framework adjustment process; timing varies but on	

			average takes about 12-18 months to develop and implement modifications via framework. The Pelagic FEP is to be reviewed every 5 years and incorporate new information.	
5. Stakeholder participation / Collaboration	Is there general support for the conservation area by regulated participants, other stakeholders, tribal or local communities, and regulators? Was the area developed in a collaborative way, is there overall support that the conservation area is effective and meeting objectives?	Yes	These areas were developed with input from regulated participants as well as other stakeholders. These areas were recommended by the Council by and were supported by the Scientific and Statistical Committee as well as Advisory Panels. These MSA-activated areas predate the Monuments (MSA actions beginning 1991), the effectiveness of these areas maybe greatest at protecting habitat in nearshore static ecosystems.	
6. Research/ biological monitoring/ restoration	Are there any biological monitoring programs in place now or when the area was adopted? Are any research programs planned to evaluate the conservation area in the short-term or long-term? Are there specific restoration efforts taking place or planned for the area?	Yes	The Council's Plan Team and Advisory bodies inform monitoring of fishery activities and ecosystem impacts, documented in annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Reports. Specific biological monitoring programs were not adopted for these areas when they were approved. However, the Council and PIFSC work to identify these research areas to help promote future research endeavors.	A specific research/ monitoring program could be developed to help ensure research is conducted in these areas, however this would require additional resources.
7. Public access	Are there opportunities for the public to access the conservation area for recreational opportunities? Are there specific programs in place to promote equitable access to the outdoors?	Yes	There are no restrictions to recreational fishing in these areas or other small-boat pelagic commercial fisheries	

8. Other elements of effectiveness	Are there other details about this conservation area that make it more, or less effective in terms of meeting conservation objectives? Are there aspects about the management program in this area that are important to note that are not captured in the topics above?	Yes	These areas predate the Marine National Monument and add protections to static vulnerable habitats, while reducing competition of the larger regional longline fisheries with smaller scale and subsistence fisheries.	
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Table 7 - ATB Conservation Area Worksheet for Western Pacific False Killer Whale Southern Exclusion Zone (SEZ)

General Information	
Area name	Western Pacific False Killer Whale Southern Exclusion Zone (SEZ)
Implementation Action (Year)	2012
Regulations (with link of geographic area defined, if available)	50 C.F.R. Part 229.37(d) https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-II/subchapter-C/part-229/subpart-C/section-229.37
Size	99,931 nm ²
Number of areas (if applicable)	1 - The Southern Exclusion Zone is the portion of the EEZ around Hawaii bounded by 165° 00' W. longitude on the west, 154° 30' W. longitude on the east
Step 1 – Conservation Area Definition	
Criteria for Step 1	Detailed explanation
1a. Established, geographically defined area?	Yes, as detailed in the regulations.
1b. Planned management or regulation?	Yes. The areas were implemented through the False Killer Whale Take Reduction Plan under auspices of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).
1c. Provides for the maintenance of biological productivity and biodiversity, ecosystem function and services?	Yes. The areas establish nearly full protection for pelagic ecosystem in the defined area when trigger by take of false killer whales by the pelagic longline fishery.
Step 2 – Defining Governance	

Criteria for Step 2	Detailed explanation
2a. What is the governance type (federal government, shared or collaborative governance, private governance, or indigenous and local communities)?	Federal. The areas are implemented through Federal Government regulations. Available here: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-II/subchapter-C/part-229/subpart-C?toc=1
2b. Are the boundaries clear and well understood?	Yes. The areas have clear boundaries. The Southern Exclusion Zone is the portion of the EEZ around Hawaii bounded by 165° 00' W. longitude on the west, 154° 30' W. longitude on the east, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and the Main Hawaiian Islands Longline Fishing Prohibited Area on the north, and the EEZ boundary on the south.
2c. Who is the lead Agency?	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
2d. Are there multiple entities involved in management of the area? If so, which ones?	No. NOAA is the lead agency.
2e. Is enforcement of the area adequate?	Yes. The USCG and NOAA report on enforcement efforts and cases at each Council meeting.
Step 3 – Category/Objective	
Criteria for Step 3	Detailed explanation
3a. For fishery conservation areas, three categories are recommended; which one best describes the candidate area best? 1) ecosystem conservation; 2) year-round fishery management; or 3) seasonal fishery management / other.	1. Ecosystem conservation 3. Seasonal fishery management/other This area is closed by a trigger based on a potential removal of pelagic false killer whales. The Assistant Administrator will publish in the Federal Register the expected observer coverage for a fishing year, the potential biological

	removal level for the Hawaii Pelagic stock of false killer whales, and the associated trigger calculated using the specifications the above regulations. This trigger will remain in effect until superseded by publication of a revised trigger.
3b. Which sub-category best describes the candidate area? For ecosystem conservation there are 4 sub-categories (habitat, vulnerable species, vulnerable ecosystem, biodiversity). For year-round/seasonal fishery management or other areas there are 4 sub-categories (bycatch, spawning, allocation, other).	These areas support all 4 sub-categories of ecosystem conservation (1a, 1b, 1c, and 1d) supporting conservation of habitat, vulnerable species, vulnerable ecosystems, and biodiversity.
Step 4 – America the Beautiful Principles	
Criteria for Step 4	Detailed explanation
4a. Does the area meet at least 3 of the America the Beautiful (ATB) principles? Which ones?	Yes, these areas fully meet ATB principles: 1, 2, 7, and 8.
1. Pursue a Collaborative and Inclusive Approach to Conservation	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> These areas were established through the Take Reduction Team, which by design is a collaborative, consensus-building process among diverse stakeholders. Members of the fishing industry and representatives from various academia, research and conservation organizations were actively involved in development of the designations.
2. Conserve America’s Lands and Waters for the Benefit of All People	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> These areas provide conservation of an ecosystem to the primary commercial fishery when triggered to close the area to longline fisheries.

3. Support Locally Led and Locally Designed Conservation Efforts	<i>These areas do not clearly meet this principle.</i> These areas were developed through a Take Reduction Plan under the MMPA, but not a region-specific conservation effort
4. Honor Tribal Sovereignty and Support the Priorities of Tribal Nations	Unclear how this action is to advance general priorities of Tribal Nations regarding the conservation of natural, cultural, and historical resources.
5. Pursue Conservation and Restoration Approaches that Create Jobs and Support Healthy Communities	<i>These areas do not fully meet this principle.</i> Establishment of these areas does not directly or indirectly support productive fisheries and vibrant working waterfronts for the local communities of the Pacific Islands. Thus, the area do not clearly enhance the economy, address environmental justice, and improve the quality of life for those involved in regional fisheries.
6. Honor Private Property Rights and Support the Voluntary Stewardship Efforts of Private Landowners and Fishers	There are no private property rights in these portions of the EEZ. These conservation areas were developed through a collaborative approach with fishers and other stakeholders voluntarily working together to balance conservation benefits and maintain sustainable access to fisheries.
7. Use Science as a Guide	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> The areas were established based on the best available science and informed by the recommendations of scientists of the Take Reduction Team.
8. Build on Existing Tools and Strategies with an Emphasis on Flexibility and Adaptive Approaches	<i>These areas fully meet this principle.</i> The concept of a “trigger” is to be adaptive with respect to the health of the false killer whale stock. The Take Reduction Team could amend the area or trigger information as new information is provided.

Table 8 – Effectiveness checklist for ATB conservation area - Western Pacific False Killer Whale Southern Exclusion Zone (SEZ)

ATB Area Name	Western Pacific False Killer Whale Southern Exclusion Zone (SEZ)			
ATB Area ID	WP-4			
Number of areas (if applicable)	1 - the portion of the EEZ around Hawaii bounded by 165° 00' W. longitude on the west, 154° 30' W. longitude on the east			
Elements of Effectiveness	Description of Effectiveness Elements	Yes/ No/ Uncertain	Rationale	If “no” for effectiveness, specific action that could be taken to improve conservation benefits
1. What supports conservation	Are there limitations or prohibitions on fishing activities or gear use in this area that support conservation objectives? Describe how these measures apply.	Yes	A trigger, as defined by the Take Reduction Plan, https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-II/subchapter-C/part-229/subpart-C/section-229.37, closes the area off to longline fishing, which is the largest fishery in the area, whereas almost all other fisheries cannot access. By effect, this is closing nearly all commercial fishing that currently operates in the Hawaii EEZ. All Western Pacific areas prohibit bottom-tending, trawling, or ‘destructive gears’	

2. Other activities	Are other activities with potentially negative impacts on conservation prohibited within the area (e.g., mining, dumping, anchoring, oil and gas extraction, offshore energy activity, etc.)? If some are allowed within the area, are they limited? Are any activities anticipated to occur in the area in the near future (i.e., next 5 years) that are important to flag?	No	The management area does not address these other activities, but no such activities exist.	If other activities are permitted in these areas and found to have negative impacts on overall conservation benefits, additional restrictions could be considered.
3. Enforceability	Is the overall enforcement of the area effective? What are the enforcement approaches and specific [fishery] monitoring tools used for enforcement, who is responsible for enforcement, are there enforcement partnerships?	Yes	These areas are enforced by the USCG and NOAA. All longline vessels are required to have VMS, and all vessels are required to carry a human at-sea observer or approved electronic monitoring device (at various coverage rates) that collect location data that can be used to detect violations.	
4. Climate Change Resiliency	Can the conservation area adapt; is it resilient to climate change? Is the governance process nimble enough to adapt to uncertainty in an era of climate change? Can the area be modified relatively easily to incorporate new science?	Yes	The Take Reduction Team could redefine triggers and the conservation area if there is evidence the false killer whale population is shifting its distribution or growing upward.	
5. Stakeholder participation / Collaboration	Is there general support for the conservation area by regulated participants, other stakeholders, tribal or local communities, and regulators? Was the area developed in a collaborative way, is there overall support that the conservation area is effective and meeting objectives?	Uncertain	These areas were developed under the purview of a Take Reduction Team	

6. Research/ biological monitoring/ restoration	Are there any biological monitoring programs in place now or when the area was adopted? Are any research programs planned to evaluate the conservation area in the short-term or long-term? Are there specific restoration efforts taking place or planned for the area?	Yes	Specific biological monitoring programs were not adopted for these areas when they were approved. However, research priorities are developed annually for external funding. The Hawaii longline fishery has 20% observer coverage and electronic reporting technologies to document interactions, which are then used to inform a trigger	
7. Public access	Are there opportunities for the public to access the conservation area for recreational opportunities? Are there specific programs in place to promote equitable access to the outdoors?	Yes and No	There are no restrictions to recreational fishing in these areas. However, these areas are relatively far offshore and not very accessible to the general public. There are no specific programs in place to promote equitable access to these areas.	
8. Other elements of effectiveness	Are there other details about this conservation area that make it more, or less effective in terms of meeting conservation objectives? Are there aspects about the management program in this area that are important to note that are not captured in the topics above?	Yes	This area has remained closed the majority of the last 3 years and is essentially closing the defined area to the only fishery that has the capability to access the closed area – with exception of a few non-longline pelagic fishing vessels.	