



A lone U.S. longline fishing vessel, the F/V Kawaiola, based out of Hawai'i in transit to fishing grounds beyond 50 nm from islands within U.S. jurisdiction in the Pacific. Photo: Caleb McMahan.

Western Pacific Region

Status of the Fisheries 2024

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council provides stewardship of marine resources and promotes sustainable fisheries 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 (PRIA), as well as pelagic fisheries on the open ocean in these jurisdictions. The Council's authority over federal commercial and non-commercial (i.e., subsistence, recreational, cultural) fisheries is mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

The Council publishes annual reports as required by its five Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs). This publication summarizes and highlights some of the interannual changes described in the annual reports. For the full reports, please visit www.wpcouncil.org/annual-reports.

Fishery statistics can be influenced by numerous factors, including data reporting, environmental changes and socioeconomic variables. In recent years, climate events and the lingering impacts and ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic also affected regional fisheries in several ways. Some of these effects are observable in the summary trends below, in addition to recent stock statuses and management measures.

Region-Wide Patterns in Pelagic Fisheries: In 2024, pelagic fisheries across the U.S. Pacific Islands showed varied performance. One consistent trend was the increase in total blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*) catch throughout the region, which exceeded the historical 10-year average. The greatest increases were seen in the CNMI and Guam, where catches more than doubled, while Hawai'i and American Samoa also recorded gains of more than 70%. Another notable trend was the decrease in trolling trips, which declined across all regions, likely due to rising trip costs, including fuel.

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'Ahi sashimi plate.
Photo: John Kaneko.

Fishing Costs: For longline fisheries in American Samoa and Hawai'i, fuel consistently accounted for more than half of all fishing trip expenses. Across all island areas, fuel prices were notably high, ranging from an average of \$4.36/gallon in American Samoa to \$5.41/gallon in the CNMI. While 2024 saw relatively consistent or slightly decreased costs compared to 2023, substantial increases since 2020 have created a lasting impact. Participants in the Hawai'i small-boat fishery reported that many fishers are limiting their trip number or duration to cut fuel costs.

Fisher Observations: To complement scientific data, the Council, its Advisory Panels and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) continued to document invaluable "on-the-water" observations from fishers. Across the region, common issues emerged including more frequent shark depredation, rougher ocean conditions, a pivot toward digital and informal market channels and persistently high fuel-related expenses.

Environmental Changes: Surface waters around the U.S. Pacific Islands warmed, and ocean acidification intensified, contributing to significant heat stress on coral reefs,



likely leading to mass bleaching and mortality events. The Pacific Ocean also transitioned from El Niño to neutral conditions.

Internationally Managed Pelagic Species: Stock assessments provide a mixed but generally positive outlook for internationally managed pelagic species:

- **Sustainably Harvested:** Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) assessments indicate that Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye tunas are sustainably harvested, meaning they are not overfished and not experiencing overfishing. Similarly, the International Scientific Committee for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the North Pacific Ocean (ISC) found North Pacific (NP) albacore and NP swordfish are also sustainably harvested.
- **Overfished and Overfishing Concerns:** Striped marlin in the WCPO is likely experiencing overfishing and is considered overfished, primarily due to foreign landings. This stock remains under an international WCPFC rebuilding plan.

Current and former members, staff and partners of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council celebrate its 200th meeting, reflecting on milestones such as pioneering the first ecosystem-based coral reef fishery plan in the United States in 2001 and achieving dramatic reductions in sea turtle and seabird bycatch in Pacific longline fisheries.

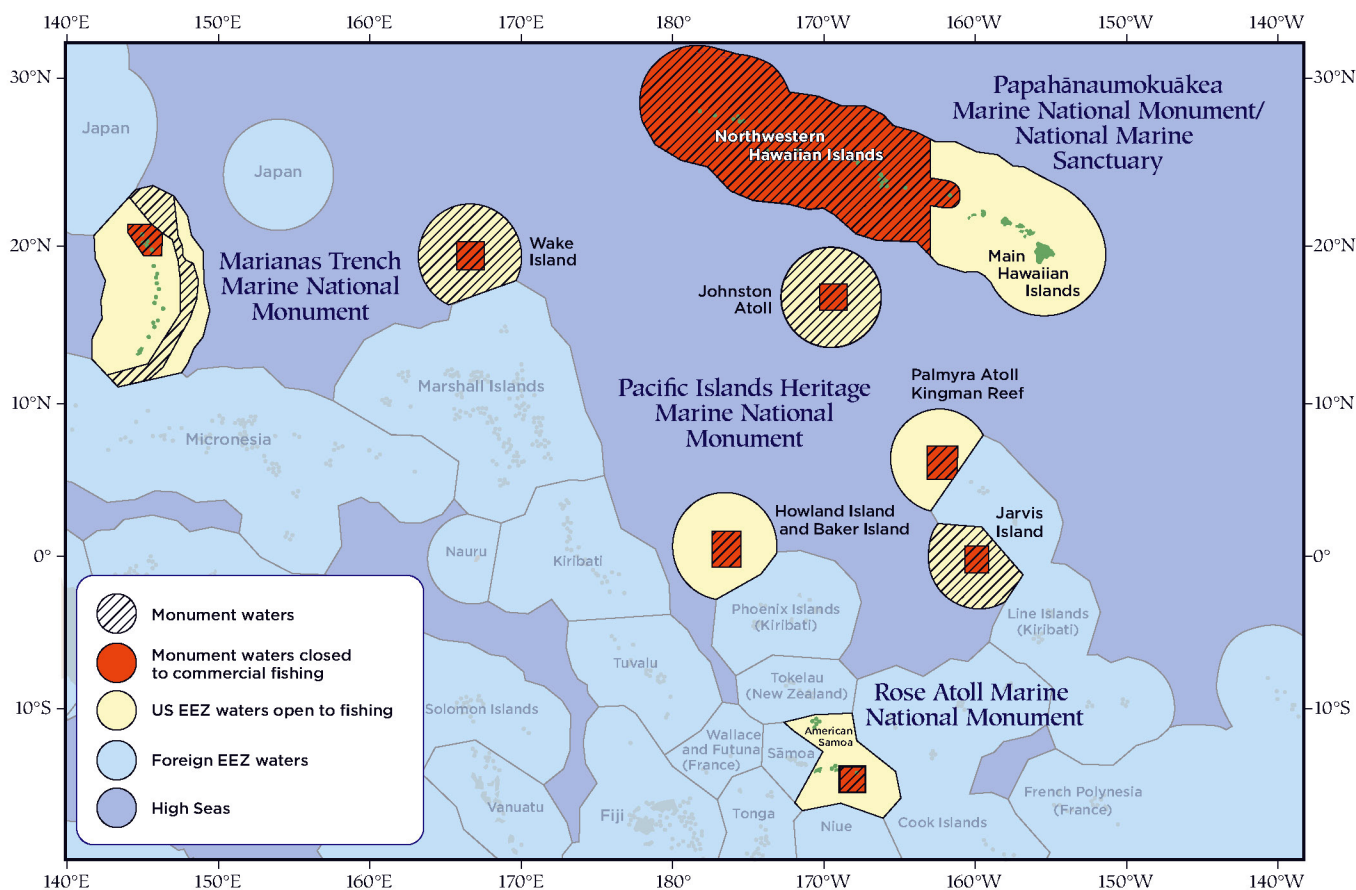


Summary of 2024 Fishery Performance for Hawai'i, American Samoa, the CNMI and Guam

*Trends compare 2024 performance against 2022 and 2023. Data differences between this report and previous publications could be explained by the way the estimates are calculated from survey data. **Green text** indicates the interannual value increased 25% or more from the preceding year and **red text** the value decreased 25% or more. Some data cannot be reported because of confidentiality rules (i.e., if they are derived from fewer than three sources).*



United States Exclusive Economic Zones of the US Western Pacific Region



Hawai'i

Hawai'i's deep-set longline fishery, primarily targeting tuna, experienced a modest increase (+12.8%) in total catch in 2024 compared to the previous year. However, the increased volume did not translate to higher profits. Revenue for the deep-set fishery decreased by nearly \$3 million (-2.9%), a direct result of a 15.7% drop in average fish price from \$4.85/pound to \$4.09/pound.

Onaga platter. Photo: Len Nakano.

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Hawai‘i *(continued)*

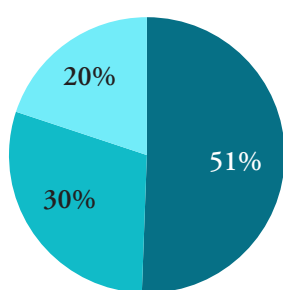
Similarly, the shallow-set longline fishery, which targets swordfish, faced a dual challenge. It saw a 10% decrease in catch, falling to approximately 1.9 million pounds. This reduction was compounded by an 18% drop in the average fish price per pound, from \$4.19 to \$3.44, leading to a substantial revenue reduction of more than \$2.2 million. The precise drivers behind these price decreases remain unclear, but they may signal a return to typical market levels after the elevated prices experienced during post-pandemic recovery. Exacerbating these issues, small-boat fishers in Hawai‘i highlighted competition from imported seafood, while neighbor island fishers faced challenges in preserving catch for shipment to Honolulu’s auction block.



Fishers, managers and scientists take part in community meetings across the Hawaiian Islands to reconnect with small-boat fishers, strengthen trust and discuss better data and management for local fisheries.

Pelagic (commercial)	2022	2023		2024	
• Licenses	1,864	1,803	3% ↓	1,775	2% ↓
• Deep-Set Longline Vessels	147	150	2% ↑	150	0%
• Deep-Set Trips	1,534	1,594	4% ↑	1,635	3% ↑
• Shallow-Set Longline Vessels	22	23	5% ↑	21	9% ↓
• Shallow-Set Trips	69	71	3% ↑	54	24% ↓
• Landings (millions of pounds)	30.8	31	0%	33.6	8% ↑

Primary Fishing Method and Gear of Hawai‘i Pelagic Fishermen Licensed in 2023-2024

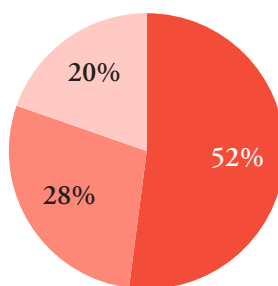


2023 Total = 1,803

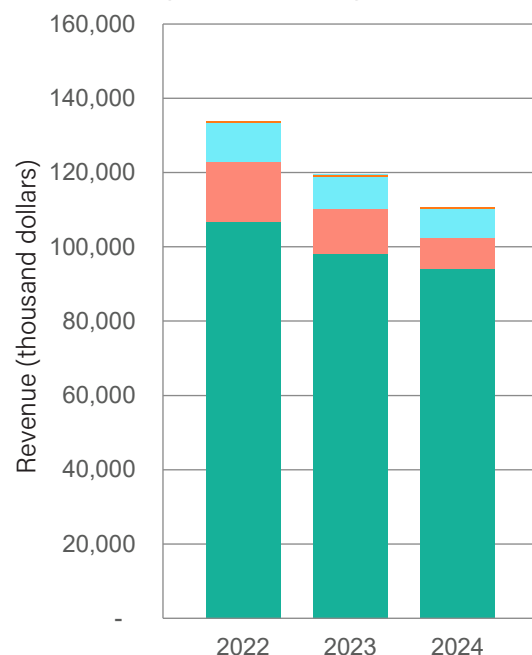
Longline	912
Troll	532
Handline	359

2024 Total = 1,775

Longline	924
Troll	502
Handline	349



Pelagic Revenue by Species



*Pelagic management unit species



Left: Yellowfin (top) and bigeye (bottom) tunas can be hard to distinguish at this size. This was the focus of the Council's June 2024 Fishers Forum, "Fish ID 101: Know Your Catch," which highlighted how accurate identification supports better catch data and stock assessments. Photo: David Itano.

Right: Hawai‘i-based longline fishing vessels docked at Pier 38 in Honolulu Harbor. Photo: Joshua DeMello.



Hawai‘i

The Deep 7 bottomfish fishery, a vital component of Hawai‘i’s local food supply, has been steadily declining since 2014. This persistent downturn is attributed to a confluence of factors, including increasing shark depredation, reduced fisher participation (with skilled "highliners" leaving the fishery) and shifts in market demand. Data from the State of Hawai‘i further underscore this trend, showing a decrease in active commercial fishers, trips and landings in 2024. Overall, Deep 7 landings plummeted by 23%, totaling just 151,828 pounds. A notable exception to this decline was lehi (*Aphareus rutilans*), which saw a significant catch increase (+68%) from 2023, totaling 12,261 pounds. This remarkable performance surpassed both its 10- and 20-year averages.

Commercial uku (gray snapper, *Aprion virescens*) catch fell to a record low in 2024, mirroring trends in the Deep 7 fishery. The decline reflects fewer licenses and trips, increased competition, shark depredation, experienced fishers exiting the industry and lingering pandemic effects.

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David Itano (left) and Ed Watamura with a nice onaga, a key Deep 7 bottomfish species for Hawai‘i’s small-boat fishery. Photo: Ed Watamura.

Deep 7 Bottomfish (commercial)

	2022	2023		2024	
• Licenses	380	359	6% ↓	284	21% ↓
• Fishing Trips	2,117	2,050	3% ↓	1,595	22% ↓
• Fish Caught (# of individuals)	57,823	58,538	1% ↑	43,054	26% ↓
• Landings (pounds)	189,264	197,158	4% ↑	151,828	23% ↓
• Deep-Sea Handline Landings (pounds)	185,612	194,831	5% ↑	147,673	24% ↓
• Revenue (dollars)	1,631,151	1,804,741	11% ↑	1,321,839	27% ↓

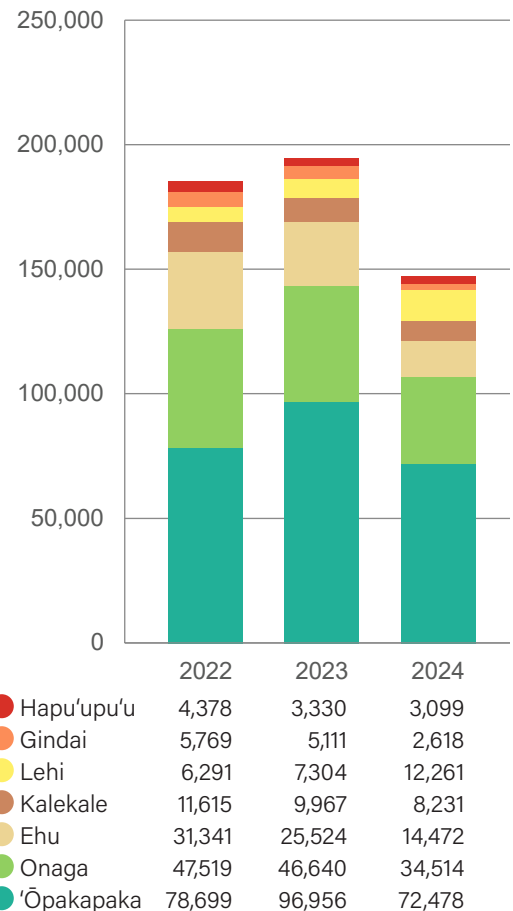
Uku (commercial)

	2022	2023		2024	
• Licenses	235	217	8% ↓	191	12% ↓
• Fishing Trips	895	830	7% ↓	691	17% ↓
• Fish Caught (# of individuals)	6,724	6,138	9% ↓	4,793	22% ↓
• Landings (pounds)	52,973	45,012	15% ↓	38,012	16% ↓
◦ 10-yr avg				76,302	
◦ 20-yr avg				85,258	
• Deep-Sea Handline Landings (pounds)	35,117	29,781	15% ↓	24,472	18% ↓
• Revenue (dollars)	341,529	302,431	11% ↓	242,865	20% ↓



Uku are long-lived, slow-growing bottomfish that can reach up to 40 inches in length and live more than 30 years. Photo: pyro_131313/Reddit.com.

Deep 7 Bottomfish Catch by Species



Note: Totals don't include confidential data from the inshore handline gear type.



Kona crab at the market. Photo: Blue Seafood Company.

Hawai‘i *(continued)*

To support the Kona crab fishery—which has been operating at catch levels well below the sustainable harvest limits—the State of Hawai‘i enacted key regulatory changes in 2024. These included lifting restrictions on harvesting female Kona crabs and extending the closed season by one month to encompass September. This extension was informed by fishers’ observations that female crabs often still carry eggs during this time. Following these measures, the fishery showed promising signs of recovery, with licenses, fishing trips and landings all surpassing their respective 10-year averages—a positive trend building on gains since the low point in 2016.

Kona Crab (commercial)

	2022	2023		2024	
• Licenses	19	20	5% ↑	25	25% ↑
• Fishing Trips	53	70	32% ↑	68	3% ↓
• Crabs Caught (# of individuals)	1,941	3,202	65% ↑	4,372	37% ↑
• Landings (pounds)	2,533	4,879	93% ↑	4,783	2% ↓
• Total Revenue (dollars)	12,330	20,764	68% ↑	17,613	15% ↓



Akule (left) and ‘ōpelu consistently rank as the top two ECS caught in Hawai‘i. Photos: Amy Vandehey and Keoki Stender.



Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) (commercial)

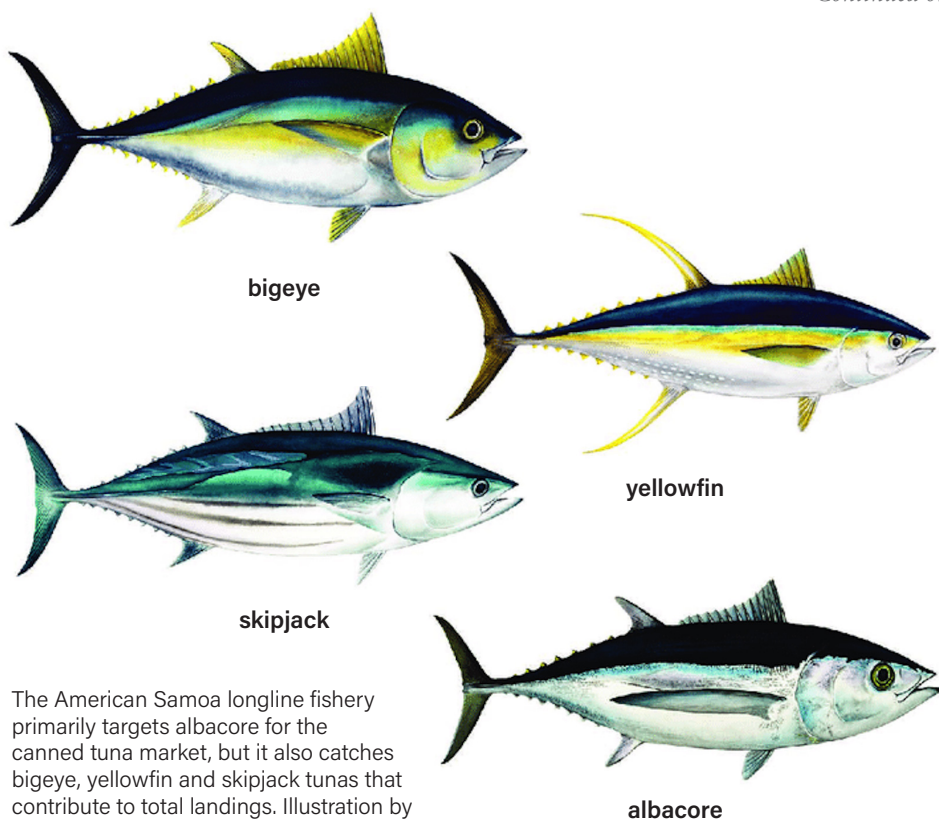
	2022	2023		2024	
<i>*top 3 ECS caught are ranked according to 2024 values</i>					
• Total Pounds Caught for Top 10 Harvested	561,657	545,711	3% ↓	460,612	16% ↓
◦ Top Caught ECS - akule	246,779	259,325	5% ↑	202,261	22% ↓
(bigeye scad, <i>Selar crumenophthalmus</i>) (pounds)					
◦ Second Most Caught ECS - ‘ōpelu	70,417	99,411	41% ↑	90,709	9% ↓
(mackerel scad, <i>Decapterus macarellus</i>) (pounds)					
◦ Third Most Caught ECS - ta‘ape	65,535	46,170	30% ↓	33,563	27% ↓
(<i>Lutjanus kasmira</i>) (pounds)					
• Total Pounds Sold for Top 10 Harvested ECS	488,358	452,008	7% ↓	419,701	7% ↓
• Total Revenue for Top 10 Harvested ECS (dollars)	1,904,994	1,837,095	4% ↓	1,788,678	3% ↓

American Samoa

American Samoa's pelagic fisheries experienced a significant boost in 2024, with landings reaching approximately 3.4 million pounds. This marks a substantial increase (+25%) from the 2.7 million pounds landed in 2023, and represents the highest catch recorded since 2019. The bulk of these pelagic landings (94%) comprised four tuna species—albacore, yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye—with albacore alone constituting 71% of the total tuna catch.

Despite the surge in catch volume, the American Samoa longline fishery is showing an overall declining trend, with the number of active boats reaching an all-time low in 2024. However, within this reduced fleet, there was a slight increase in the number of trips, sets and hooks deployed, indicating a more intensive effort by the remaining vessels.

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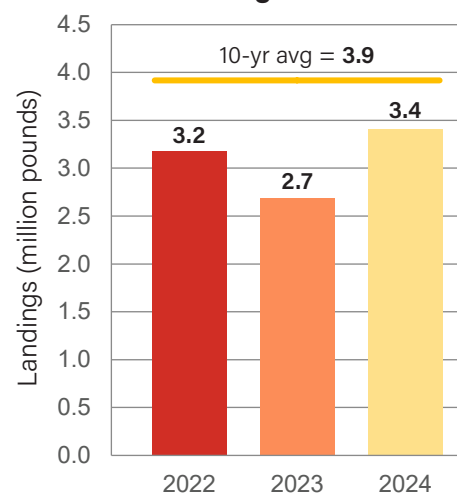


The American Samoa longline fishery primarily targets albacore for the canned tuna market, but it also catches bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas that contribute to total landings. Illustration by Les Hata/Pacific Community.

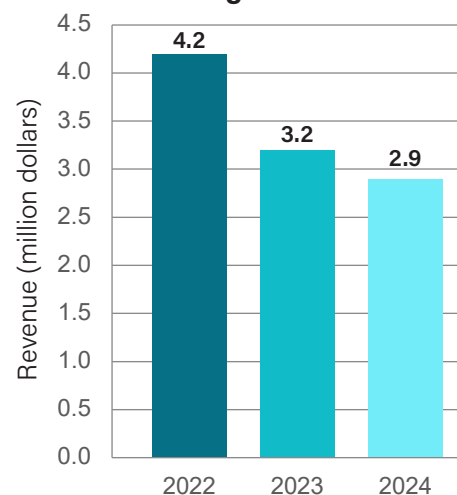
Pelagic (commercial)

	2022	2023		2024	
• Active Longline Vessels	11	10	9% ↓	9	10% ↓
• Longline Trips	42	37	12% ↓	47	27% ↑
• Longline Sets	1,336	1,224	8% ↓	1,359	11% ↑
• Active Trolling Vessels	9	9	0%	10	11% ↑
• Trolling Trips	105	339	223% ↑	72	79% ↓
• Revenue from Trolling (dollars)	n.d.	10,469		n.d.	

Pelagic Catch



Pelagic Revenue from Longline Vessels



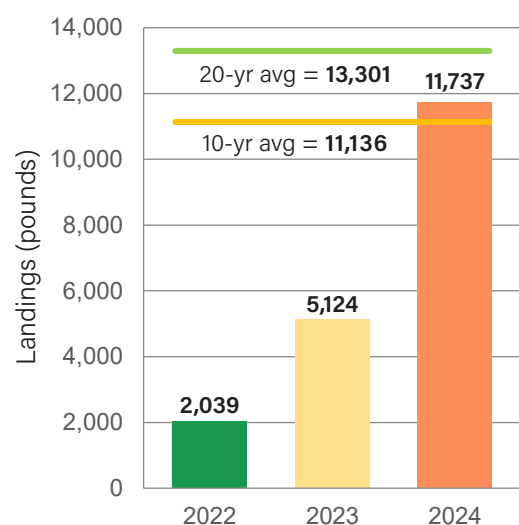
American Samoa *(continued)*

American Samoa's bottomfish fishery demonstrated a positive trend in 2024 compared to the previous year, with increased participation reflected by 11 vessels recorded. This represents a 22% increase over the 10-year average. Beyond participation, the 2024 season also had increases in key performance indicators. The number of trips, tallied gear hours and catch per unit effort (CPUE), measured as both pounds per trip and pounds per gear-hour, all rose from 2023 levels.



A young fisher holds a palu-gutusaliva (rusty jobfish), left, and asoama (green jobfish) showing two of the bottomfish species important to island communities.
Photo: Alex Min.

Estimated Bottomfish Catch from Shore and Boats



In 2024, American Samoa established annual catch limits (ACLs) for 11 bottomfish management unit species (BMUS). Notably, none of the BMUS catches exceeded these new ACLs, reflecting sustainable harvest levels. The total estimated catch was 11,737 pounds, a 5% increase over the 10-year historical average. Furthermore, eight of the 11 species recorded higher catches compared to their historic 10-year averages, with *Lutjanus kasmira*, *Pristipomoides filamentosus* and *Pristipomoides flavipinnis* as the exceptions.

Below: Alias moored at floating dock in Pago Pago. Photo: Felix Peñalosa.



American Samoa

American Samoan fishers reported major operational challenges, including unregulated sales of “bycatch” by foreign vessels that undercut local market prices. Korean, Chinese and Taiwanese-flagged vessels were said to sell non-target species at \$1.50 per pound—well below the \$2.50 per pound typically earned by local fishers for the same catch. Fishers also expressed concern over deteriorating infrastructure, citing unusable docks and ramps often obstructed by trash or broken wooden pallets, which disrupt efficient fishing operations.



Council staff support outreach events such as DMWR’s Flag Day Fishing Tournament by sharing handouts, cookbooks, newsletters and lunar calendars while engaging kids and adults in games that teach fisheries management and sustainable fishing practices. Photos: Felix Peñalosa.

Below: A mixed catch of primarily blue-banded surgeonfish and parrotfish, two of the three most commonly caught ECS. Photo: Joshua DeMello.

Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) (commercial)

**top 3 ECS caught are ranked according to 2024 values*

- Total Pounds Caught/Sold for Top 10 Harvested ECS
 - Top Caught ECS - blue-banded surgeonfish (*Acanthurus lineatus*) (pounds)
 - Second Most Caught ECS - unicornfishes (pounds)
 - Third Most Caught ECS - parrotfishes (pounds)
- Total Revenue for Top 10 Harvested ECS (dollars)

	2022	2023		2024	
	3,087	15,527	403% ↑	45,681	194% ↑
	1,089	6,278	476% ↑	19,361	208% ↑
	207	2,608	1160% ↑	10,192	291% ↑
	427	2,563	500% ↑	8,104	216% ↑
	12,310	63,005	412% ↑	184,075	192% ↑



CNMI

While fishing conditions were generally good early in the year, fishers encountered strong currents and reported a scarcity of large fish schools. They attributed these observations to warmer water temperatures, speculating that fish might be seeking deeper, cooler waters. Toward the end of the year, weather conditions deteriorated, with unpredictable winds from passing storms. Fishers also observed increased shark depredation, possibly linked to seasonality, rough waters and strong currents.

The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife, the agency responsible for creel surveys used in total catch estimates, faced major funding and staffing constraints in 2024. These challenges led to several months without sampling and only 18 surveys conducted between June and October. As a result, the 2024 catch estimate is likely underreported, limiting the ability to conduct a comprehensive assessment.

Based on the limited creel survey data, most pelagic species in 2024 showed decreases in trips, effort and catch. The solitary and striking exception to this trend was a significant increase in blue marlin landings, with nearly 40,000 pounds landed. However, fishers noted that most were relatively small, typically around 150 pounds or less.

Top right: Vessels head out from Smiling Cove Marina at the start of the 40th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament in July 2024. Photo: Angela Iriarte.

Pelagic

(commercial and non-commercial)

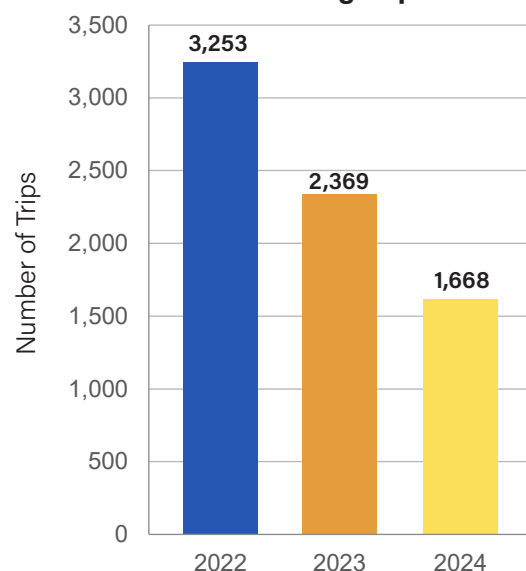
	2022	2023		2024	
• Active Commercial Fishers	95	87	8% ↓	34	61% ↓
• Commercial Fishing Trips	1,781	1,444	19% ↓	873	40% ↓
• Trolling Hours	14,429	12,323	15% ↓	6,898	44% ↓
• Commercial Revenue (dollars)	753,334	448,968	40% ↓	267,191	40% ↓



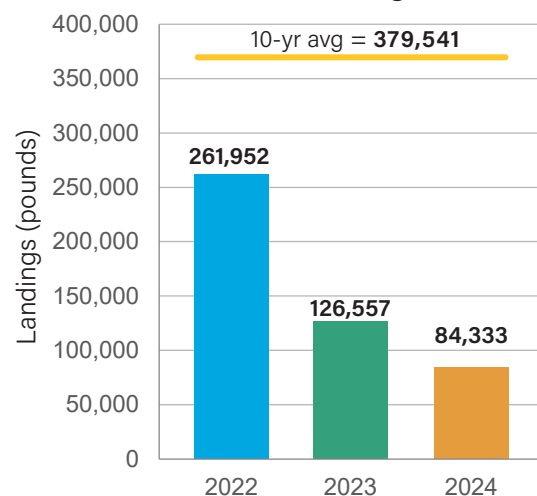
(left to right) Traven Quitugua, Jesse Boy Taitano and Jack Rios show off their catch near Anatahan. Photo: Christian Pangelinan.



Estimated Pelagic Trolling Trips



Estimated Pelagic Catch



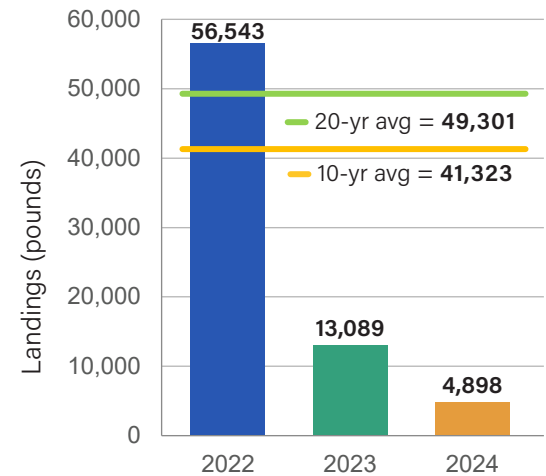
CNMI

The downward trend extended to bottomfish. Only 7,177 pounds were recorded in commercial sales—less than half the average amount caught over the past 10 and 20 years—showing a sharp decline in this fishery.

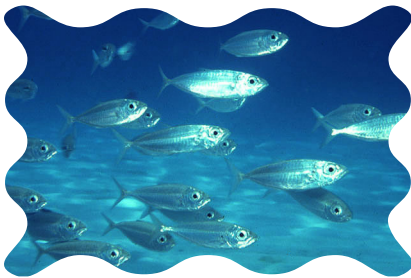
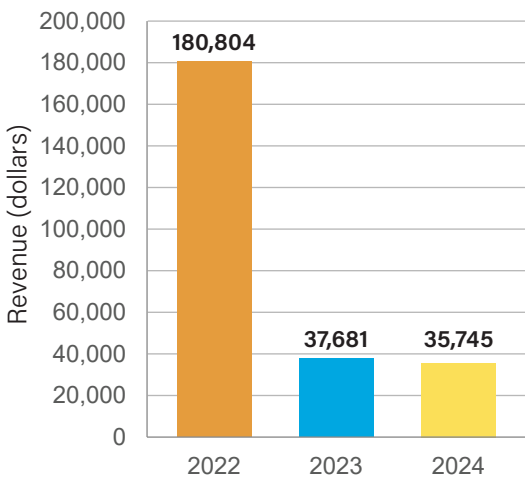
Bottomfish

(commercial and non-commercial)	2022	2023		2024	
• Commercial Landings (pounds)	32,205	7,036	78% ↓	7,177	2% ↑
• Vessels	20	19	5% ↓	2	89% ↓

Estimated Bottomfish Catch from Shore and Boats



Bottomfish Commercial Revenue



Above: Bottomfish catch. Photo: Lino Tenorio.

Left: Atulai are an important communal fish in the CNMI, where a single day's catch may be shared across many households so no one goes without. Photo: JE Randall/iNaturalist.org.

Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) (commercial)

*top 3 ECS caught are ranked according to 2024 values

	2022	2023		2024	
• Total Pounds Caught/Sold for Top 10 Harvested ECS	67,301	29,672	56% ↓	37,345	26% ↑
◦ Top Caught ECS - atulai (bigeye scad) (pounds)	20,295	9,687	52% ↓	12,584	30% ↑
◦ Second Most Caught ECS - misc. parrotfishes (pounds)	15,342	6,629	57% ↓	8,803	33% ↑
◦ Third Most Caught ECS - misc. emperors (pounds)	4,824	5,224	8% ↑	5,678	9% ↑
• Total Revenue for Top 10 Harvested ECS (dollars)	244,011	108,939	55% ↓	142,414	31% ↑

Guam

Fishers reported that fishing was "a bit slow" in 2024, with some suggesting that inshore fishing pressure might be higher than current observations indicate. The number of boats actively involved in Guam's pelagic fishery decreased slightly (-3.7%) from 2023, totaling 447 vessels. Despite the smaller fleet, fishing effort—measured by trips and hours—remained consistent with the previous year. However, the long-term decline over the past 15 years in average pelagic catch continued in 2024, with landings down 2.7% from 2023 to 699,120 pounds.



Photo: Phil Martinez.

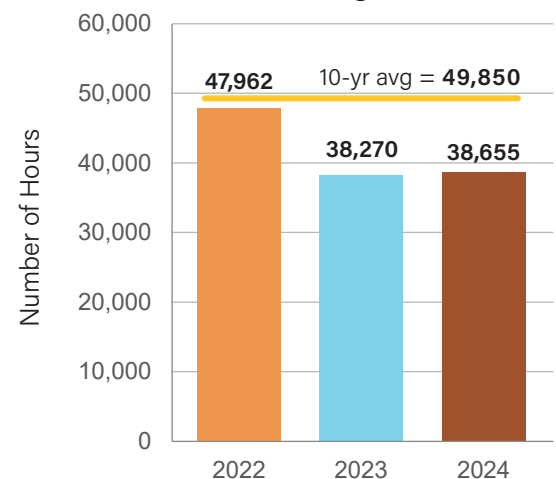
There are wide year-to-year fluctuations in the estimated landings of the five major pelagic species. Landings for three common species decreased: skipjack (-17%), yellowfin (-15%) and wahoo (-44%). Although wahoo arrived earlier in the year than expected, initial catches were small (5–10-pound range) until larger fish appeared later in the season. Conversely, mahimahi catch surged by an impressive 220%, and blue marlin increased by 183.6%. However, fishers expressed concern that the unusual presence of mahimahi in December could disrupt their regular February migration patterns around Guam waters in 2025.

Pelagic

(commercial and non-commercial)

	2022	2023		2024	
• Active Trolling Vessels	449	466	4% ↑	447	4% ↓
• Fishing Trips	9,758	8,347	14% ↓	8,386	0%

Estimated Pelagic Trolling Hours

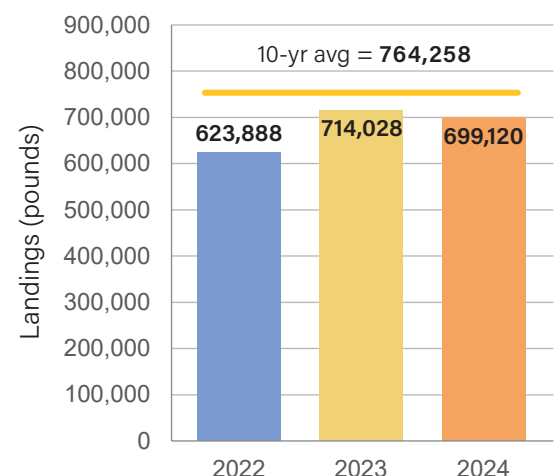


Left: Angler with a large blue marlin landed during the Marianas International Fishing Derby in Guam, showcasing the island's popular pelagic sport fishery and its importance to the local fishing community. Photo: Felix Reyes.



Right: Young fisher Isaiah Topasna holds two bottomfish from Guam—a lyretail grouper (left) and a smalltooth jobfish. Photo: Lorilee Topasna Crisostomo.

Estimated Pelagic Catch



Guam

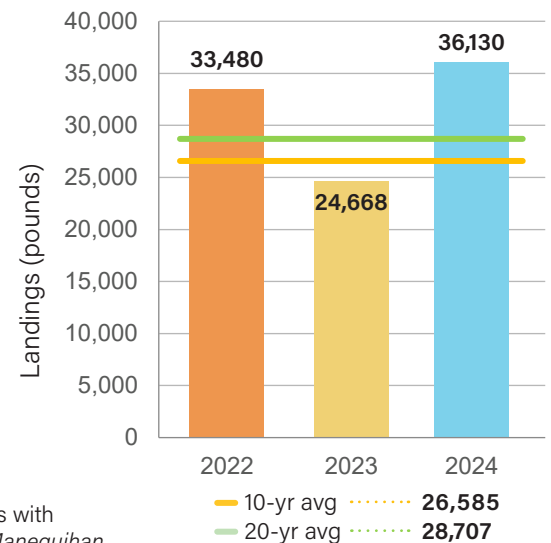
The 2024 stock assessment update for Guam's BMUS complex—which includes 13 species of shallow- and deep-water snappers, groupers, jacks and emperors—offered encouraging results. Using total catch estimates, creel survey CPUE and biological and fishery-dependent data through 2023, the assessment concluded that the complex is no longer overfished and is not experiencing overfishing; however, it is not rebuilt.

The Guam BMUS fishery performed strongly in 2024, with total catch reaching 36,130 pounds—36% above the 10-year and 26% above the 20-year averages. While this supports the stock's recovery, it exceeded the Council-recommended ACL of 34,500 pounds. Based on the Council's recommendation, to account for uncertainty in the catch estimates, the Council and NMFS would apply an overage adjustment if the most recent three-year average exceeds the ACL. However, the 2022–2024 average was 31,426 pounds, so no adjustment will be applied for 2025.

Top right: A customer inspects the day's fresh catch at the newly opened temporary facility of the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association, which began operations in June 2024 after Typhoon Mawar destroyed the original building in May 2023.



Estimated Bottomfish Catch from Shore and Boats



Bottomfish

(commercial and non-commercial)	2022	2023	2024
• Vessels	63	33 48% ↓	45 36% ↑



Council advisor Audrey Toves talks with visitors at the Guam Museum's *I Maneguihan* (Those that Fish) exhibit, a collaborative effort created by the Council, the museum and partners to highlight Guam's fishing families, traditions and fisheries. Photo: Felix Reyes.

Below: The Council connects with the community in many ways, including supporting kids' fishing derbies and creating lunar calendars featuring moon phases, tide charts and sustainable fishing information. Photos: Felix Reyes.



2024 ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIONS

For the Federal Register notices for these actions, go to www.federalregister.gov.

March 1 (89 FR 15062) **Final rule to modify seabird interaction mitigation measures in the Hawai'i deep-set longline fishery.** Requires federally permitted vessels that set fishing gear from the stern to use a tori line (bird-scaring streamer) instead of thawed, blue-dyed bait and strategic offal discharge when fishing north of 23 °N latitude. This aims to improve seabird bycatch reduction and enhance operational efficiency. The rule was effective April 1, 2024.

March 27 (89 FR 21241) **Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) for Guam approved.** Section 204(e) of the MSA authorizes the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary, and in consultation with the Council, to negotiate and enter into a PIAFA. The Governor of the Pacific Insular Area to which the PIAFA applies must request the PIAFA. The Secretary of State may negotiate and enter the PIAFA after consultation with, and concurrence of, the applicable Governor. Before entering into a PIAFA, the applicable Governor, with concurrence of the Council, must develop and submit to the Secretary a three-year MCP providing details on uses for any funds collected by the Secretary under the PIAFA. Payments collected under specified fishing agreements are deposited into the WPSFF, and any funds attributable to a particular territory may be used only for implementation of that territory's MCP. An MCP must be consistent with the Council's FEP for the applicable territory. NMFS approved the MCP for the three-year period from March 27, 2024, through Aug. 3, 2026.

April 5 (89 FR 23949) **Annual harvest guideline established for the commercial lobster fishery in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI)** for calendar year 2024 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)). Accordingly, NMFS established the harvest guideline for the NWHI commercial lobster fishery for calendar year 2024 at zero lobsters.

May 2 (89 FR 37984) **Amendments approved to the five FEPs for the Pacific Islands Region to revise descriptions of standardized bycatch reporting methodologies.** These updates align data collection mechanisms with current regulations and national guidance, improving consistency and clarity in bycatch monitoring.

May 7 (89 FR 37985) **Final rule to establish annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) for main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) Kona crab for fishing years 2024–2026.** The ACL is 30,802 pounds (13,972 kg), with an annual catch target (ACT) of 25,491 pounds (11,563 kg). If the ACT is reached, federal waters will close to Kona crab fishing for the remainder of the year. If the ACL is exceeded, future catch limits will be reduced. Catch from both state and federal waters counts toward the limits. This rule supports the long-term sustainability of the MHI Kona crab fishery and was effective June 6, 2024.

July 31 (89 FR 61356) **ACLs and AMs established for CNMI bottomfish in 2025–2026,** with an ACL of 82,000 pounds and an ACT of 75,000 pounds for 2024 and 2025. If the average catch of the three most recent years exceeds the ACL, subsequent ACLs and ACTs will be reduced. The rule was effective Aug. 30, 2024.

Aug. 6 (89 FR 63841) **Interim final rule to increase the bigeye tuna catch limit for U.S. longline vessels in the Western**

and Central Pacific Ocean from 3,554 metric tons to 6,554 metric tons. This action fulfills U.S. obligations under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and supports sustainable management of highly migratory species. The interim final rule was effective Aug. 6, 2024.

Aug. 30 (89 FR 70601) **NMFS approved the American Samoa MCP for the three-year period from Aug. 30, 2024, through July 24, 2027.**

Nov. 7 (89 FR 88170) **Final rule for Amendment 7 to the American Samoa Archipelago FEP to discontinue the rebuilding plan for American Samoa bottomfish** and implement new ACLs and AMs for fishing years 2024–2026. Based on updated scientific information showing that the stock is not overfished or experiencing overfishing, this action replaces the previous rebuilding measures with species-specific ACLs and AMs. The rule supports long-term sustainability of the fishery and was effective Dec. 9, 2024.

2024 PUBLICATIONS

2025 Eskaleran Pulan Chamorro/2025 Refaluwasch Pápáál Maram (Chamorro/Refaluwasch Lunar Calendar). 2024. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (classroom version). ISBN 978-1-950193-50-9



Council advisors from American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI and Hawai'i convene at the March 2024 meeting in Honolulu to voice community concerns and help shape regional fisheries policy. Photo: Amy Vandehey.

2025 Eskalera Pulan Chamorro/2025 Refaluwasch Pápáál Maram (Chamorro/Refaluwasch Lunar Calendar). 2024.

Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (fishermen version). ISBN 978-1-950193-52-3

2025 Kaulana Mahina (Hawaiian Lunar Calendar). 2024. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (classroom version). ISBN 978-1-950193-48-6

2025 Kaulana Mahina (Hawaiian Lunar Calendar). 2024. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (fishermen version). ISBN 978-1-950193-49-3

2025 Tau Masina o Amerika Samoa (American Samoa Lunar Calendar). 2024. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (classroom version). ISBN 978-1-950193-51-6

2025 Tau Masina o Amerika Samoa (American Samoa Lunar Calendar). 2024. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (fishermen version). ISBN 978-1-950193-53-0

Chaloupka M, Gilman E, Ishizaki A, Smith C, Kingma E, Swimmer Y, Rassel L. 2024. **Relative efficacy of paired tori-lines and night-setting with blue-dyed bait as seabird bycatch mitigation measures deployed in the Hawaii-based shallow-set longline fishery.** Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Honolulu, Hawaii. ISBN 978-1-950193-46-2

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)

Protocols and Tips for Visiting and Working in American Samoa. 2024. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-950193-60-8

Protocols and Tips for Visiting and Working in Guam. 2024. Honolulu:

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-950193-61-5

Protocols and Tips for Visiting and Working in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. 2024. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-950193-62-2

Western Pacific Region Status of the Fisheries 2023. 2024. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-950193-47-9

WPRFMC, 2024. **Annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for the American Samoa Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2023.** T Remington, J DeMello, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-950193-41-7

WPRFMC, 2024. **Annual SAFE Report for the Hawai'i Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2023.** T Remington, J DeMello, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-950193-42-4

WPRFMC, 2024. **Annual SAFE Report for the Mariana Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2023.** T Remington, J DeMello, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-950193-43-1

WPRFMC, 2024. **Annual SAFE Report for the Pacific Pelagic Fisheries Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2023.** T Remington, M Fitchett, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-950193-44-8

WPRFMC, 2024. **Annual SAFE Report for the Pacific Remote Island Areas Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2023.** T Remington, J DeMello, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-950193-45-5

2024 COUNCIL AND ADVISORY BODY MEETINGS

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (chair *Will Sword*): 198th meeting, March 18-20, Honolulu; 199th meeting, June 24-26, Honolulu; 200th meeting, Sept. 23-25, Honolulu; 201st meeting, Dec. 16-17, virtual

Scientific and Statistical Committee (chair *James Lynch*):

151st meeting, March 12-14, Honolulu; 152nd meeting, June 11-13, Honolulu; 153rd meeting, Sept. 11-13, Honolulu; 154th meeting, Dec. 12-13, Honolulu

Advisory Panel (chair *Clay Tam*)

- Joint Meeting: March 19
- American Samoa (chair *Nathan Ilaoa*): June 4, Sept. 3, Dec. 3
- Hawai'i (chair *Gil Kualii*): June 7, Sept. 6, Dec. 6
- Marianas Joint (chairs *Richard Farrell* and *Dominick San Gil*): June 8, Sept. 5, Dec. 7, CNMI; June 4, Sept. 7, Dec. 5, Guam

Plan Teams: Joint meetings: March 18-20, Honolulu; May 13-17, Honolulu; Archipelagic (chair *T. Todd Jones*); Pelagic (chair *Don Kobayashi*): Nov. 18, virtual

Education Committee (chair *Craig Severance*): May 29, virtual

Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee (chair *Jason Helyer*): June 12, virtual

Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee—Technical Committee (chair *Archie Soliai*): no meeting

Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee—Technical Committee: Data Collection Subpanel: no meeting

Fishing Industry Advisory Committee (chair *Michael Goto*): March 18-20, Honolulu; June 18, virtual; Sept. 5, virtual; Dec. 5, virtual

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

Non-Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee (chair *Dean Sensui*): March 18-20, Honolulu; Dec. 4, virtual

Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee

- American Samoa (chair *Will Sword*): no meeting
- CNMI (chair *Sylvan Igisomar*): no meeting
- Guam (chair *Manuel Dueñas*, January-August) (chair *Judith Guthertz*, August-December): no meeting
- Hawai'i (chair *Roger Dang*): no meeting

Social Science Planning Committee

(Chair *Craig Severance*): May 30, Honolulu

2024 WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review (WPSAR) for Guam Bottomfish Stock Assessment, Feb. 7-8, virtual

WPSAR for Guam Bottomfish Data for Benchmark Stock Assessment, July 7-12, Guam

WPSAR for Main Hawaiian Islands Uku, Sept. 9-10, Honolulu

2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Secretary of Commerce appointees from nominees selected by American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and Hawai'i governors: *Roger Dang*, Fresh Island Fish Co. (Hawai'i) (vice chair); *Manuel Dueñas II*, Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Guam) (vice chair, January-August); *Judith Guthertz*, University of Guam (Guam) (vice chair, August-December); *Pedro Itibus*, noncommercial fisher (CNMI); *Shaelene Kamaka'ala*, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (Hawai'i); *Frank Perez*, AC Sales and Service (Guam, August-December), *Matthew Ramsey*, Conservation International (Hawai'i); *Archie Soliai*, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) (American Samoa) (vice chair, August-December); *William Sword*, Pacific Energy South-West Pacific Ltd. (American Samoa) (chair); *Gerald Weaver*, Tasi to Table (CNMI)

Designated state officials: *Dawn Chang*, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources; *Sylvan Igisomar*, CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources; *Chelsa Muña*, Guam Department of Agriculture; *Archie Soliai*, American Samoa DMWR

Designated federal official (voting):

Sarah Malloy, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office

Designated federal officials (non-voting):

Charles Brinkman, U.S. Department of State; *Brian Peck*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; *RADM Michael Day/Sean Regan*, U.S. Coast Guard 14th District

2024 COUNCIL STAFF

Kitty Simonds, executive director; *Joanne Asosaoletoetu*, administrative financial assistant; *Angela Dela Cruz*, CNMI island coordinator; *Joshua DeMello*, island fisheries program coordinator; *Mark Fitchett*, pelagic fisheries ecosystem scientist; *Elysia Granger*, administrative officer; *Bella Hirayama*, travel and administrative clerk; *Randy Holmen*, fiscal officer; *Asuka Ishizaki*, protected species coordinator; *Mark Mitsuyasu*, program officer; *Felix Peñalosa*, American Samoa island coordinator; *Felix Reyes*, Guam island coordinator; *Amy Vandehey*, education and outreach coordinator; and *Zach Yamada*, fisheries analyst

2024 US PACIFIC TERRITORIES FISHERY CAPACITY-BUILDING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Kiana Camacho (CNMI-attending University of Guam); *Jeniel Mian* (Guam-attending University of Guam graduate school); *Christine Tominiko* (American Samoa-attending University of Hawai'i at Hilo graduate school); *Motusaga Vaeoso* (American Samoa-attending University of Guam graduate school); *Ami Vice* (Guam-attending University of Guam graduate school)



Shallow lagoon off the island of Ofu in American Samoa. Photo: Felix Peñalosa.

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Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council



Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Phone: (808) 522-8220
Email: info@wpcouncil.org
Web: www.wpcouncil.org

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