

Laysan albatross



nairagi (striped marlin)



blue shark

Photo: David Itano

Key Fishing Requirements

ALL LONGLINE VESSELS

- Longline gear must be marked
- Must carry and use dip nets, line clippers, bolt cutters and other mitigation gear, and follow handling, resuscitation, and release requirements for incidentally hooked or entangled sea turtles and seabirds
- Federal permits and logbooks required
- Mandatory annual protected species workshops for all vessel owners and operators

GENERAL LONGLINE (Guam, CNMI and PRIAs)

- Longline exclusion zone in federal waters around Guam approximately 3 to 50 nautical miles (nm) offshore
- Longline exclusion zone in federal waters around CNMI out to 30 nm

HAWAII' LONGLINE

- Limited entry fishery with a maximum of 164 vessels
- Maximum vessel size 101 feet in length
- Longline exclusion zones throughout the Hawai'i Archipelago out to 50 to 75 nm from shore
- Mandatory notification to NMFS at least 72 hours (not including weekends and federal holidays) before leaving port to fish in the EEZ

- Mandatory vessel monitoring system (VMS)

- Shallow-set fishery
 - Mandatory observer program with 100% coverage
 - Annual limits on interactions with 34 loggerhead and 26 leatherback sea turtle interactions
 - Other gear requirements to minimize incidental bycatch of sea turtles (circle hooks and mackerel-type bait) and seabirds (side set or use blue-dyed bait, strategically discard offal and set at night)

- Deep-set fishery
 - Mandatory observer program with 20 percent coverage
 - Follow shallow-set fishery seabird mitigation requirements when fishing north of 23° N
 - Mandatory "weak" hooks to mitigate incidental bycatch of false killer whales. [Regulation created under the False Killer Whale Take Reduction Plan.]

AMERICAN SAMOA

- Limited entry of longline vessels in different vessel-size classes
- Mandatory VMS

- Mandatory notification to NMFS at least 72 hours (not including weekends and federal holidays) before leaving port to fish in the EEZ
- Exclusion zone for pelagic vessels >50 feet in length
- Gear restrictions to mitigate green sea turtle interactions

TROLL AND HANDLINE

- Federal permits and logbooks required when operating in the PRIAs
- Sea turtle handling requirements

Get Involved!

To learn how you can become involved in the decision-making process for the Pacific Pelagic FEP, visit the Council website at www.WPCouncil.org, or contact the Council staff at (808) 522-8220 or email info@wpcouncil.org. Stay connected through [facebook.com/wprfmc](https://www.facebook.com/wprfmc) and on Twitter [@wpcouncil](https://twitter.com/wpcouncil).

A complete listing of federal fishing regulations applicable to the Western Pacific Region can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50: Wildlife & Fisheries, Chapter 7, Part 665, which can be accessed at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>.



Longline fishing vessel *Samoan Boy*, American Samoa



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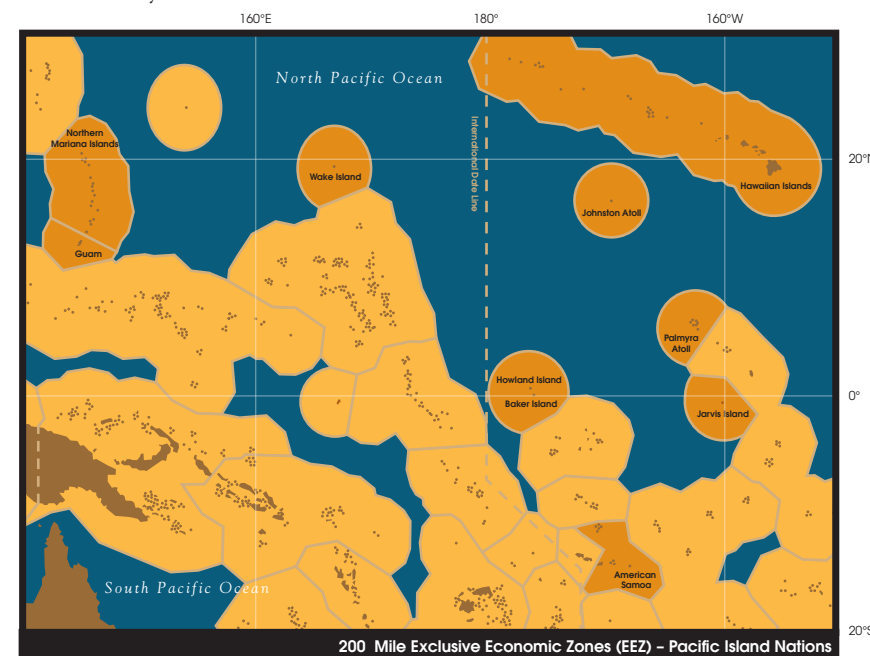
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Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plan

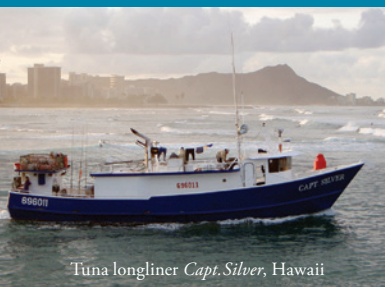
- Identifies management goals and objectives,
- Delineates geographical boundaries,
- Fosters increased coordination and community participation through various advisory bodies and an appropriate management structure,
- Designates managed species, and
- Details applicable fishery regulations

THE PACIFIC PELAGIC FISHERY ECOSYSTEM PLAN (FEP) WAS DEVELOPED TO CONSERVE PELAGIC SPECIES AND MANAGE US VESSELS THAT HARVEST THEM IN THE OFFSHORE WATERS OF THE EASTERN, CENTRAL AND WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN. THIS APPROACH IS ADAPTIVE, ACCOUNTS FOR ECOSYSTEM KNOWLEDGE AND UNCERTAINTIES, CONSIDERS CHANGES IN THE ECOSYSTEM AND MULTIPLE EXTERNAL INFLUENCES, AND STRIVES TO BALANCE DIVERSE SOCIAL OBJECTIVES.

ECOSYSTEM: A geographically specified system of organisms (including humans) and their environment and the processes that control its dynamics



Ecosystem-Based Management of Fisheries in the US Pacific Islands



Tuna longliner *Capt. Silver*, Hawaii



Green sea turtle



Yellowfin tuna

Management Goals*

1. Conserve and manage target and non-target stocks
2. Protect species and habitats of special concern
3. Understand and account for important ecosystem parameters and their linkages
4. Meet the needs of fishermen, their families, and communities

Management Objectives*

1. Support fishing communities
2. Prevent overfishing while achieving on a continual basis the optimum yield from each fishery
3. Improve fishery monitoring and data collection
4. Promote compliance
5. Reduce bycatch and minimize interactions and impacts to protected species to the extent practicable
6. Refine designations of and minimize impacts to essential fish habitat (EFH)
7. Increase traditional and local knowledge in decision-making
8. Consider the implications of spatial management arrangements in Council decision-making
9. Consider the implications of climate change in Council decision-making

* Adopted by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in March 2016.

Geographical Boundaries

The Pacific Pelagic FEP encompasses all areas of pelagic fishing operations in the US exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and on the high seas for any domestic vessels that a) fish for, possess or transship Pacific Pelagic managed species within the EEZ waters of the Western Pacific Region, or b) land Pacific Pelagic managed species within the Western Pacific Region.

The Western Pacific Region includes the State of Hawai'i, the Territories of American Samoa and of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the US Pacific remote island areas (PRIAs), consisting of Johnston, Midway, Palmyra and Wake Atolls; Baker, Howland and Jarvis Islands; and Kingman Reef.

Management Structure and Community Participation

The management structure of the Pacific Pelagic FEP fosters collaboration with territorial, federal and international government and non-government organizations to address the social, cultural, economic, biological, ecological and other scientific issues related to successful ecosystem management. Ecosystem issues include both human and non-human factors. They range from climate change and its impacts on the ocean's primary productivity areas; to fishing impacts on bycatch, forage fish and protected species; to non-fishing activities that lead to pollution, nutrient loading, marine debris and ocean acidification.

The FEP structure also facilitates enhanced involvement in the decision-making process by communities, especially those who rely on the environment for their livelihood, social relations, cultural identity and nutrition. The Pelagic FEP uses a bottom-up approach to fisheries management. It begins with recommendations from communities during public meetings and through several advisory groups.

FEP ADVISORY PANEL (AP)

The AP provides the Council with advice on fishery management issues and on the content and likely effects of management measures. It is comprised of several subpanels. The Pelagic Fisheries Sub-panel has 12 members. Each member serves a four-year term.

FISHING INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FIAC)

The FIAC provides information and recommendations on and assists in the development and amendments of the Council's FEPs.

REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (REAC)

REACs include Council members and representatives from federal and local government agencies; businesses; and non-governmental organizations with responsibility and interest in land-based and non-fishing activities that potentially affect the area's marine environment, including the pelagic environment. Separate REACs are established in Hawai'i, American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI.

PELAGIC FEP PLAN TEAM

The Pelagic FEP Plan Team oversees the ongoing development and implementation of the Pelagic FEP and is responsible for reviewing information pertaining to the performance of the fisheries and the status of the stocks managed under it. The FEP Plan Team is made up of federal and local

government and non-government specialists who are appointed by the Council and serve indefinite terms.

SCIENCE AND STATISTICAL COMMITTEE (SSC)

The SSC is composed of scientists from local and federal agencies, academic institutions, and other organizations. These scientists represent a range of disciplines required for the scientific oversight of fishery management in the Western Pacific Region.

OTHER ADVISORY BODIES

The Council convenes and solicits recommendations from a variety of other committees as needed. The Marine Planning and Climate Change Committee, Protected Species Advisory Committee and Social Science Planning Committee review relevant ecosystem sections of the annual SAFE reports for each FEP. Other advisory bodies include the Education Committee, the Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee and the Non-Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee.

INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Council's Community Development Program, Community Demonstration Projects Program and Marine Education and Training Program are designed to foster increased fishery participation by indigenous communities in the US Pacific Islands.

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

The Council actively participates in the development and implementation of international agreements and research regarding marine resources. The most important international issues for the Pacific Pelagic FEP are the management of highly migratory species (particularly tunas) and conservation of protected species (e.g., sea turtles and seabirds). Since the start of the new millennium, tuna management in the Pacific Ocean has been divided between two international Regional Fishery Management Organizations: the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

Managed Species

TUNAS

Bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*)
Yellowfin (*T. albacares*)
Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)
Albacore (*T. alalunga*)
Pacific Bluefin (*T. orientalis*)
Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*)
Other Tuna Relatives (*Auxis* spp.; *Scomber* spp.; *Euthynnus* spp.)

BILLFISH

Shortbill Spearfish (*Tetrapturus angustirostris*)
Striped Marlin (*Kajikia audax*)

Swordfish (*Xiphus gladius*)

Sailfin (*Istiophorus platypterus*)
Blue Marlin (*Makaira nigricans*)
Black Marlin (*Istiompax indica*)

SHARKS

Pelagic Thresher (*Alopias pelagicus*)
Bigeye Thresher (*A. superciliosus*)
Common Thresher (*A. vulpinus*)
Silky Shark (*Carcharhinus falciformis*)
Oceanic Whitetip (*C. longimanus*)
Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*)
Shortfin Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)
Longfin Mako (*I. paucus*)
Salmon Shark (*Lamna ditropis*)

OTHER PELAGIC SPECIES

Mahimahi/Dorado (*Coryphaena* spp.)
Moonfish (*Lampris* spp.)
Wahoo (*Acanthocybium solandri*)
Oilfish (Family *Gempylidae*)
Pomfret (Family *Bramidae*)
Neon Flying Squid (*Ommastrephes bartramii*)
Diamondback Squid (*Thysanoteuthis rhombus*)
Purple Flying Squid (*Sthenoteuthis oualaniensis*)

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is one of eight councils authorized by the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. It is the federal agency responsible for managing the offshore fisheries of Hawaii and other US Pacific islands.

www.wpcouncil.org

