

## History

In April 2003, NOAA Fisheries Service transferred the responsibility for management and science of the marine resources in federal waters surrounding U. S. Pacific Islands from the Southwest Region based in California to the newly established Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Establishing the Pacific Islands Region allows us to employ regional expertise to provide stewardship of living marine resources within the expansive region of the Western Pacific. The Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) provide an integrated strategy that applies a science-based approach to living marine resource conservation and management in the Pacific Islands Region.

## Geographic Area of Responsibility

Bounded by the Hawaiian Archipelago in the north, American Samoa and U. S. Pacific Remote Island Areas in the south, and the Mariana Archipelago in the west, the Pacific Islands Region encompasses the largest geographical area within NOAA Fisheries' jurisdiction. The U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) within the region includes more than 1.7 million square nautical miles of ocean, roughly equal to the total EEZ of the continental United States and Alaska.



The Pacific Islands Region's jurisdiction includes activities in both domestic and international waters, with a focus on managing fisheries based in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIAs): Kingman Reef, Howland, Baker, Jarvis and Wake Islands; and Johnston and Palmyra Atolls.

## Mission

The mission of PIRO is to provide stewardship of the living marine resources in the Western and Central Pacific for the benefit of the Nation, its citizens, and the island communities through science-based conservation and management and the promotion of the health of the environment.



Responsibilities include the maintenance of healthy fish stocks for commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing; the conservation and recovery of protected species, the preservation and restoration of marine habitat, and the coordination with international organizations to implement and monitor fishery agreements and treaties.



NOAA Fisheries Service  
Pacific Islands Region  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
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Visit our website for more information.  
<http://www.fpir.noaa.gov>

# Pacific Islands Regional Office

## NOAA Fisheries Service

### Honolulu, Hawaii

# 2010

## Welcome from the Administrator

Aloha and welcome to Pacific Islands Regional Office of the NOAA Fisheries Service. Our vision for this region is to achieve healthy marine ecosystems that provide stability for fishery resources, recovery of threatened and endangered species, and enhanced opportunities for commercial, recreational, and cultural activities in the marine environment.

To do this we will focus on:

- Our People - being a great place to work where people are inspired to be the best they can be
- Our Partners - nurturing a productive network of partners and building mutual respect
- Our Oceans - being a responsible global citizen that makes a difference

We work closely with NOAA Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center to integrate cutting edge science into policy and management decision-making, working together for the conservation and management of domestic and international marine resources in the largest geographical management area within both the NOAA Fisheries Service and the regional fishery management council system - bound by the Hawaiian Archipelago in the north and east, American Samoa and U. S. Pacific remote island areas in the south and the Mariana Archipelago in the west. We are committed to the highest standards of customer service and stewardship of living marine resources within this expansive geographic region.

Thank you for your support.

## PIRO Headquarters and Field Offices in the Pacific Islands Region:



**Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO)**  
The PIRO headquarters is located at 1601 Kapiolani Blvd. in downtown Honolulu.



**NOAA Pacific Region Center on Ford Island**  
Plans for a NOAA campus on Ford Island are underway. Expected occupancy is 2013.

## Key Management Issues

- Implement the Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs) in all island areas
- Minimize sea turtle, marine mammal, and seabird interactions in the pelagic longline fisheries
- Lead Hawaiian monk seal recovery and response activities
- Protect and restore coral reef ecosystems including those areas impacted by the Department of Defense transition to the Mariana Islands
- Provide leadership for the international management of highly migratory species through the new Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
- Co-manage the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument along with NOAA, Department of Interior, and State of Hawaii partners
- Co-manage PRIA(s), Rose Atoll, and Mariana Trench Monuments with the Department of Interior

## Mandates

- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Other statutes including the Clean Water Act, the Federal Power Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Oil Pollution Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act
- Executive Orders and Directives

## Budget and Staff FY10

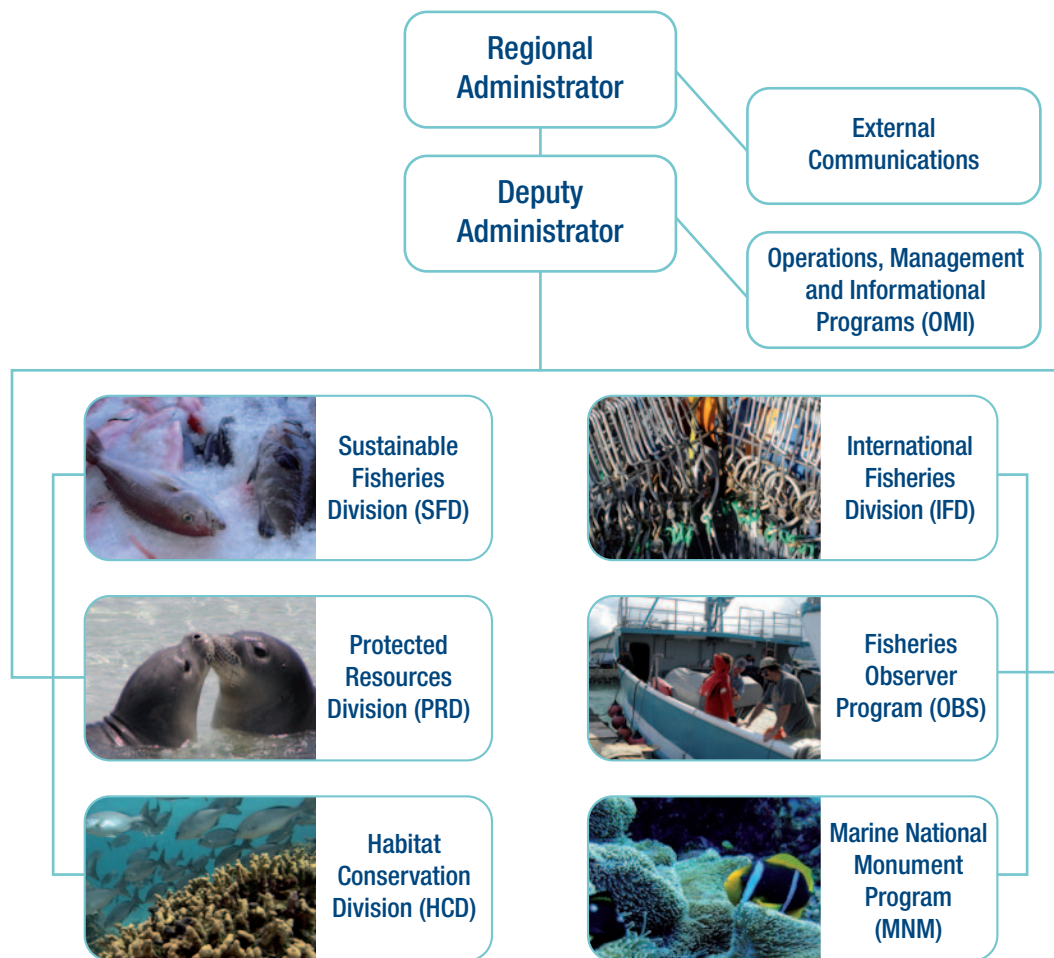
Basic programs	\$29.4M
Special Congressional programs	\$7.6M
Total	\$37 M
<b>Total Staff</b>	<b>105</b>
(Including UH-JIMAR, etc.)	

In addition to federal employees, a number of staff are employed by the University of Hawaii (UH) Joint Institute for the Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR).



# Pacific Islands Regional Office

## Regional Office Organization



## Sustainable Fisheries Division (SFD)

- Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs)
  - Hawaii Archipelago, Pacific Remote Island Areas, Mariana Archipelago, and American Samoa Archipelago

- Pelagics
- Protected Species Workshops: Seabird, Sea Turtle, & Marine Mammal Mitigation
- MSA & High Seas Permit Programs

The Sustainable Fisheries Division administers the region's marine resource conservation and management programs through ecosystem-based fishery management plans under authority specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Program objectives are to maintain healthy fish stocks for commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries; to end overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, and to increase long-term economic and social benefits to the nation from living marine resources. The division is responsible for fisheries management projects and regulations, issuing fishing permits, and conducting protected species mitigation workshops for fishermen.

## Protected Resources Division (PRD)

- Conservation and Recovery
  - Sea Turtles
  - Marine Mammals
- Fishery Interactions with Protected Species

- Ship Strikes
- Stranding Response
- U. S. Navy operations/acoustics

Under the authority of the ESA and MMPA, the Protected Resources Division works to protect and recover species of sea turtles, monk seals, whales, and dolphins by working with numerous partners and stakeholders. To conserve these species, the division conducts analyses of human impacts, recommends mitigation techniques to minimize or eliminate negative impacts, and responds to sick or injured animals.

## Habitat Conservation Division (HCD)

- Coral Program
- Regulatory Support
- Essential Fish Habitat for Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)

- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review
- Marine Debris, Invasive Species, Oil Pollution Act, Coastal Zone Management, etc.

The Habitat Conservation Division is responsible for habitat-related activities in all the island areas in the Pacific. The goal of the division is to conserve, protect, and restore marine habitat and coastal ecosystems in the Pacific Islands Region. Habitats of concern for fisheries and protected resources include coral reefs, seagrass beds, benthic algae beds, and mangrove forests. Under authorities provided by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Essential Fish Habitat Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, Marine Protection, Sanctuaries Act, and others; the division provides formal comments on public and private activities such as permit applications and construction projects.



## International Fisheries Division (IFD)

- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
- South Pacific Tuna Treaty
- Other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations

The International Fisheries Division provides policy advice on technical and administrative support for international fisheries agreements and related issues in the western and central Pacific Ocean. The International Fisheries Program participates in discussions, negotiations, and activities conducted under the South Pacific Tuna Treaty between the U.S. and 16 Pacific Island countries, as well as in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (the body that implements the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks). PIRO leads these international efforts working toward sustainable management of tuna and other highly migratory stocks in the Central and Western Pacific Ocean.

## Fisheries Observer Program (OBS)

- 100% Coverage – Swordfish Longline Fishery
- 20% of Tuna Longline Fishery
- 20% American Samoa Longline Fishery
- Regional / International Leadership and Training
- \$500K Annual Grant for Native Observer Program

The Fisheries Observer Program is responsible for debriefing longline observers to document interactions of all protected species, identify and enumerate fish catches and bycatch, and collect various requested life history information. Observer data is used to calculate catch and bycatch rates and produce technical reports, working very closely with the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center. Mandatory 100% observer coverage is required aboard all Hawaii-based longline vessels targeting swordfish. Twenty percent coverage is the goal for the longline fisheries targeting tunas in Hawaii, and 20% in American Samoa.

## Marine National Monument Program (MNM)

- Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
- Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument
- Rose Atoll Marine National Monument
- Mariana Trench Marine National Monument

NOAA's Marine National Monument Program implements the Presidential Proclamations that created the four Pacific Marine National Monuments. These protected areas, encompassing approximately 322,000 square miles, or 15% of the U.S. EEZ in the Pacific Islands Region, are co-managed by NOAA to achieve identified missions.

Under NOAA's existing authorities and the Antiquities Act, the Marine National Monument Program coordinates with federal and regional partners, as well as stakeholders, to conserve and protect the marine resources in these protected areas. Related mission goals also include promoting opportunities to conduct climate change research and ocean exploration.