



Pacific Islands Regional Office

NOAA Fisheries
Honolulu, Hawaii

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

Welcome from the Administrator

Aloha and welcome to the Pacific Islands Regional Office of NOAA Fisheries. 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 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 NOAA Fisheries and the regional fishery management council system. Our area of responsibility is 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.



Michael Tosatto
Regional Administrator



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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.

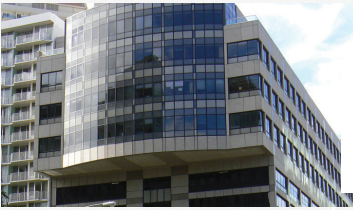
History

In April 2003, NOAA Fisheries 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.

PIRO Headquarters and Field Offices in the Pacific Islands Region:

PIRO headquarters is located on Kapiolani Boulevard in downtown Honolulu, Hawaii. The growing regional office currently has field offices in Pago Pago, American Samoa; Agana, Guam; and Saipan, CNMI. The NOAA Fisheries Honolulu Service Center was opened in July 2012 at the Pier 38 Fishermen's Village in Honolulu.



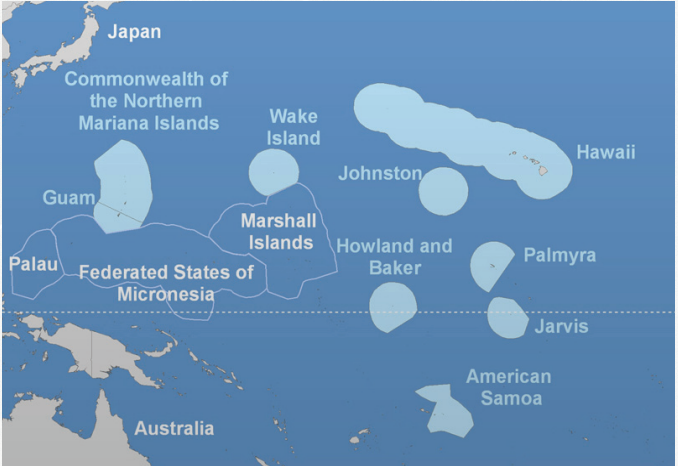
Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO)
The PIRO headquarters is located at 1601 Kapiolani Boulevard in downtown Honolulu.

NOAA Fisheries Honolulu Service Center
Located dockside at the Fishing Village at Pier 38



NOAA Pacific Region Center on Ford Island
A NOAA campus on Ford Island is underconstruction. Expected occupancy is early 2014.

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.



Key Actions

- Implement the Fishery Ecosystem Plans in all island areas and manage fisheries to maintain healthy fish stocks
- Minimize sea turtle, marine mammal and seabird interactions in fisheries
- Lead Hawaiian monk seal recovery and response activities
- Provide leadership in regional fisheries management organizations for the international management of fisheries
- Co-manage the Papahānaumokuākea, Rose Atoll, Marianas Trench and Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monuments with Department of Interior and State and Territory governments
- Ensure the sustainability of aquaculture and seafood safety in the region
- Protect coastal and marine areas and habitats at risk

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

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 is responsible for regulating fishing to achieve the conservation and management goals of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The program strives to maintain healthy fish stocks for commercial and non-commercial (recreational and subsistence) fisheries by preventing overfishing and rebuilding overfished stocks. Healthy fish stocks and enhanced seafood marketing support long-term economic and social benefits to the nation.

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, supports conservation and research projects, 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 (IFD) provides policy advice on technical matters, as well as administrative support for international fisheries agreements and related issues in different areas of the Pacific Ocean. IFD in concert with a variety of governmental agencies such as the U.S. Department of State's and the U.S. Coast Guard along with nongovernmental partners and the private sector develop conservation and management advice for the sustainable management and optimal yield of living marine resources in the Pacific Ocean. IFD also 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. IFD also provides fisheries policy advice and support to the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization. The division is currently supporting agency efforts for the development of a similar regional fisheries management organization in the North Pacific which will focus on non-tuna species.



Fisheries Observer Program (OBS)

- **100% Coverage – Swordfish Longline Fishery**
- **20% of Tuna Longline Fishery**
- **20% American Samoa Longline Fishery**
- **Regional / International Leadership and Training**

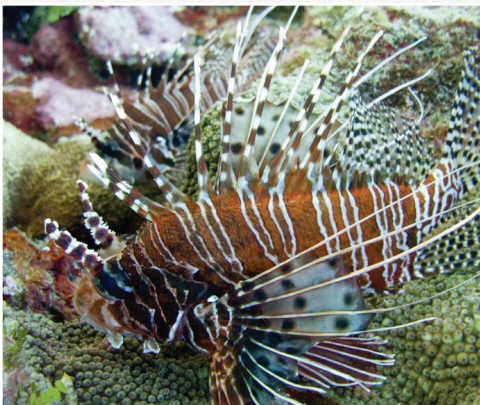
The Fisheries Observer Program is responsible for debriefing longline observers to document interactions of all protected species, identify and enumerate fish catches and bycatch, and collect various requested life history information. Observer data is used to calculate catch and bycatch rates and produce 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. The goal is twenty percent observer coverage for the longline fisheries targeting tunas in Hawaii and 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 encompass approximately 332,000 square miles or 15% of the U.S. EEZ in the Pacific Islands.

The Monuments are home to many rare and endangered species and unique geologic features. These near-pristine locations also provide opportunities to conduct climate change research, habitat studies and ocean exploration. 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.



The waters surrounding Wake Island in the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument are home to a diversity of marine species

Hawaiian monk seals find refuge on the beaches in the Main Hawaiian Islands



PIRO staff conduct outreach and education at public events

Longline circle hooks help reduce the incidental catch of endangered sea turtles





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Visit our website for more information.
<http://www.fpir.noaa.gov>