Western Pacific Region

Status of the Fisheries 2020-21

Within the first two weeks of pandemic-related restrictions starting in March 2020, 100 of Hawai'i's 145 active longliners were tied up at the pier and dockside values declined 80% (photo at right). Consumer demand was slashed when restaurants and hotels shuttered and the Hawai'i's tourism industry came to a halt. A year later, an explosion in visitors coupled with a shortage of 'ahi greatly increased the market price of Hawai'i's famed 'ahi poke. Photos: Sylvia Spalding and Dean Sensui.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council promotes sustainable fisheries and provides sound stewardship of marine resources 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). The Council's management authority over commercial and non-commercial fisheries is authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

To monitor and evaluate fishery performance, the Council publishes annual reports for each of its five fishery ecosystem-based management plans. This publication highlights some of the notable changes in the U.S. Pacific Island fisheries from 2019 to 2021. For the full reports, go to **www.wpcouncil.org/annual-reports.**

Fishery statistics can be affected by numerous variables, including environmental factors and socioeconomic considerations. The COVID-19 pandemic also had notable impacts. Some of these effects are highlighted below, in addition to recent stock statuses and management measures.

Internationally Managed Pelagic Species: Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) stock assessments indicate that Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) bigeye and yellowfin tuna, and North and South Pacific albacore are sustainably harvested. However, WCPFC determined the South Pacific albacore biomass has declined over the last several decades, with a steeper rate in recent years. If recent catch or effort levels are maintained for the fishery, WCPFC indicated the stock has a greater than 20% risk of becoming overfished. North Pacific striped marlin in the WCPO are overfished and experiencing overfishing, but a rebuilding plan is in place and a new stock assessment is expected in 2022. Another stock assessment determined that Pacific blue marlin are also sustainably harvested.

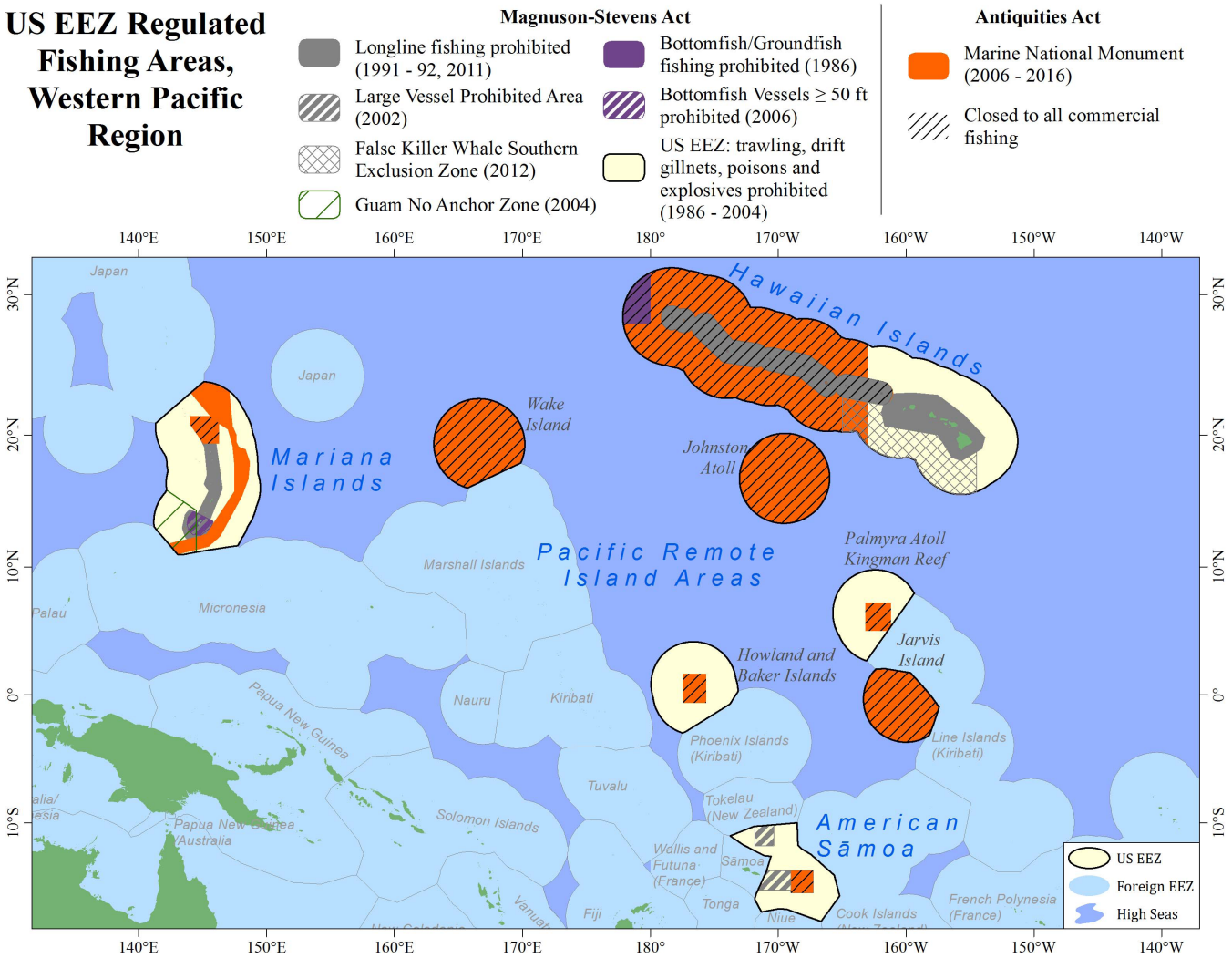
Domestic Pelagic Management: In 2021, the Council supported a gear change to prohibit wire leaders in the Hawai'i deep-set longline fishery to improve the post-hooking survivorship of oceanic whitetip sharks. The sharks are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and are subject to overfishing and overfished in the WCPO, primarily because of foreign fishing. The U.S. longline fleet contributes at most ~5% of annual catch of oceanic whitetip sharks in this region. Similarly, the gear modification will also reduce the United States' 1-2% contribution to the catch of silky sharks, which are experiencing overfishing.

COVID-19-Related Fishery Impacts: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, both the Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) began operating under mandatory telework in March 2020. NMFS canceled the majority of field surveys planned in 2020 and many in 2021, including scheduled surveys for both the Mariana and American Samoa Archipelagos. However, the NMFS independent bottomfish survey in Hawai'i continued through a cooperative research agreement with local fishers. Pandemic-related restrictions and logistical issues resulted in reduced observer coverage in the region's longline fisheries relative to previous years. The Council's launch of its mobile application (**Catchit Logit, www.wpcouncil.org/catchit-logit**) to allow fishers to self-report their catch was challenged by the lack or delayed-implementation of mandatory license and reporting regulations in the territories. The pandemic also impacted operations of local fisheries, economies, livelihoods and human well-being due to associated restrictions on local citizens' movement, activities and gathering, and commerce.

Ecosystem Observations: The Western Pacific Region continued to experience increased sea surface temperatures except around the PRIA, where La Niña conditions contributed to cooler temperatures. However, the above average sea surface temperatures did not result in any documented coral heat stress events.

Summary of the 2020-21 Fishery Performance for Hawai'i, American Samoa, the CNMI and Guam

Trends compare 2020 and 2021 performance against 2019. Data differences between the 2019 and this report could be explained by the way the data is extrapolated. Green text indicates the value increased 25% or more between years and red text indicates the value decreased 25% or more. Some data cannot be reported because of confidentiality concerns and is noted as "n.d." for not disclosed.



Hawai'i

Fishery performance in 2020 declined across Hawai'i fisheries. COVID-19-related restrictions on tourism, which generates a large portion of the demand for the State's seafood products, created significant economic hardship for the local fishing and seafood industry. Fish prices at the United Fishing Agency's Honolulu auction crashed in mid-March 2020. The Hawaii Longline Association imposed vessel and landing limits to stabilize fish prices in the face of a large reduction in demand. Market instability continued throughout most of the year, causing the industry to lose ~$33 million. However, Hawai'i longline fleets rebounded in 2021 as restrictions were alleviated, and ex-vessel revenue increased by more than 65% from 2020 to 2021, surpassing total revenue for 2019.

A monster 340-pound bigeye tuna for sale at the Honolulu Fish Auction. The Port of Honolulu consistently ranks nationally in the top 10 in terms of annual value of seafood landed. Photo: Michael Goto.

Hawai‘i *(continued)*

Bottomfish fishers reported important Deep 7 bottomfish species were more difficult to harvest in 2020 due to atypical ocean currents that were running abnormally strong and in the wrong direction. These environmental conditions persisted into 2021 and may have led to the lower landings of some species in 2021 relative to 2019. Despite decreased bottomfish catch, a 2021 NMFS stock assessment update indicated the Hawai‘i Deep 7 bottomfish stock complex has been harvested at a sustainable level according to data through 2018.

The United States failed to negotiate an increase in its bigeye tuna quota in 2020 or 2021 at the annual meeting of the WCPFC. The United States has the smallest catch quota of the member nations, yet it contributes the highest observer coverage and compliance record.

The Council recommended setting a bigeye tuna annual catch limit (ACL) of 2,000 metric tons (4.4 million pounds) for each of the U.S. Participating Territories of American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI. A limit of 1,500 metric tons (3.3 million pounds) per territory, up to 3,000 metric tons total, may be transferred to U.S. longline vessels as permitted through specified fishing agreements. Monies from these agreements, approved by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, go into the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund and are used to implement projects in each territory's marine conservation plan.

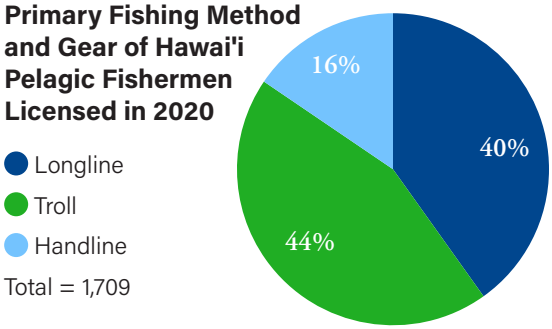
The Council also recommended a regulatory change to replace blue-dyed fish bait and strategic offal discharge with tori lines in the Hawai‘i deep-set longline fishery's suite of seabird conservation measures. The change was based on a fishing-industry-led collaborative project between the Council, industry and NMFS to conduct field experiments from 2019 to 2021 to compare seabird interaction rates with baited hooks.

Seafood dealers in Hawai‘i such as Fresh Island Fish Co. were among the fishery-related groups eligible to receive funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021. Some vendors adapted to pandemic conditions by selling directly to customers in their car. Photo: Fresh Island Fish Co.

Pelagic (commercial)	2019	2020		2021	
• Licenses	1,929	1,709	*11% ↓*	1,898	*11% ↑*
• Deep-Set Longline Vessels	149	146	*2% ↓*	146	*0%*
• Shallow-Set Longline Vessels	14	14	*0%*	17	*11% ↑*
• Deep-Set Trips	1,727	1,644	*5% ↓*	1,690	*3% ↑*
• Shallow-Set Trips	25	36	*44% ↑*	57	*58% ↑*
• Total Landings (millions of pounds)	36.5	30.4	*17% ↓*	31	*2% ↑*
• Total Ex-Vessel Revenue (millions of dollars)	107.2	83.4	*22% ↓*	124.4	*49% ↑*

Pelagic (non-commercial)	2019	2020		2021*
**2021 data unavailable for comparison*				
• Fishing Trips	532,088	760,174	*20% ↑*	-
• Total Landings (millions of pounds)	12.8	14.5	*14% ↑*	-
• % of total pelagic catch	26	47.8	*84% ↑*	-

Primary Fishing Method and Gear of Hawai'i Pelagic Fishermen Licensed in 2020



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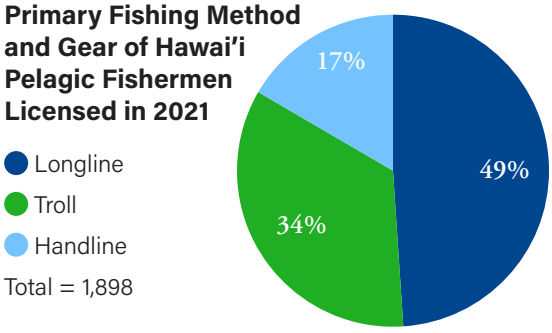
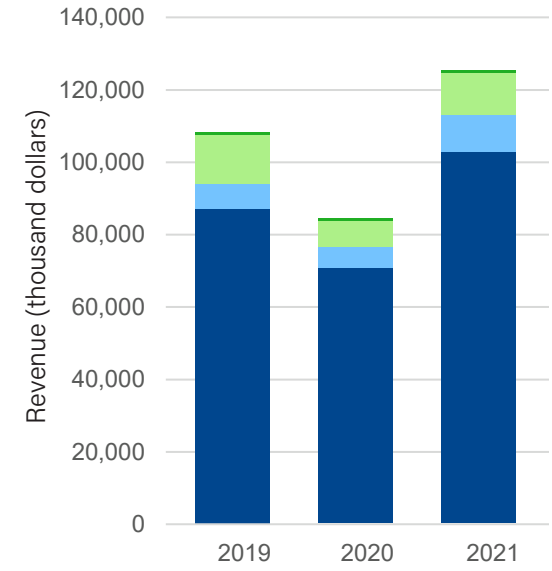


Hawai‘i *(continued)*

The Hawai‘i swordfish fishery, managed under the Council's Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plan, landed its first catch in nine months on Jan. 17, 2020. This healthy fishery produces ~55% of America's domestic swordfish and supplies 14% of the total U.S. swordfish market. It seasonally targets swordfish during the winter months and comprises <20 vessels out of the 145-vessel Hawai‘i longline fleet. Photo: Calvin Huynh.

Pelagic Revenue by Species



	2019	2020	2021
Other Pelagics	5	5	8
Other PMUS*	6,916	5,695	10,380
Billfish	13,485	7,098	11,367
Tuna	86,801	70,615	102,645

**Pelagic management unit species*

Crustacean (commercial)	2019	2020		2021	
• Licenses	26	14	*46% ↓*	20	*43% ↑*
• Fishing Trips	282	168	*40% ↓*	117	*30% ↓*
• Crustaceans Caught (# of individuals)	23,079	4,810	*79% ↓*	4,418	*8% ↓*
• Total Landings (pounds)	18,429	13,256	*28% ↓*	8,720	*34% ↓*
• Total Adjusted Revenue	36,878	27,813	*25% ↓*	25,881	*7% ↓*

Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) (commercial) **top 3 ECS caught are ranked according to 2021 values*	2019	2020		2021	
• Total Pounds Caught for Top 10 Harvested	492,254	560,221	*14% ↑*	494,849	*12% ↓*
◦ Top Caught ECS - akule (bigeye scad, *Selar crumenophthalmus*) (pounds)	245,746	267,551	*9% ↑*	231,16	*14% ↓*
◦ Second Most Caught ECS - ‘ōpelu (mackerel scad, *Decapterus macarellus*) (pounds)	45,814	70,774	*54% ↑*	83,055	*17% ↓*
◦ Third Most Caught ECS - menpachi (pounds)	121,984	60,518	*50% ↓*	47,706	*21% ↓*
• Total Pounds Sold for Top 10 Harvested ECS	487,279	505,044	*4% ↑*	458,972	*9% ↓*
• Total Revenue for Top 10 Harvested ECS (dollars)	1,710,396	1,809,225	*6% ↑*	1,684,115	*7% ↓*

In spite of its financial losses, the fishing industry attempted to alleviate challenges in matching supply and demand by donating ~2,000 pounds of fresh fish to the Hawaii Foodbank in April 2020 to support the local community. The City and County of Honolulu established a "Fish to Dish" program with the Hawaii Longline Association, United

Fishing Agency, Hawaii Seafood Council and local seafood distribution companies. The program supplied approximately 350,000 servings of fresh fish to local communities in need during the five-month partnership. Photos: HLA and John Kaneko.

Hawai‘i *(continued)*

Deep 7 Bottomfish

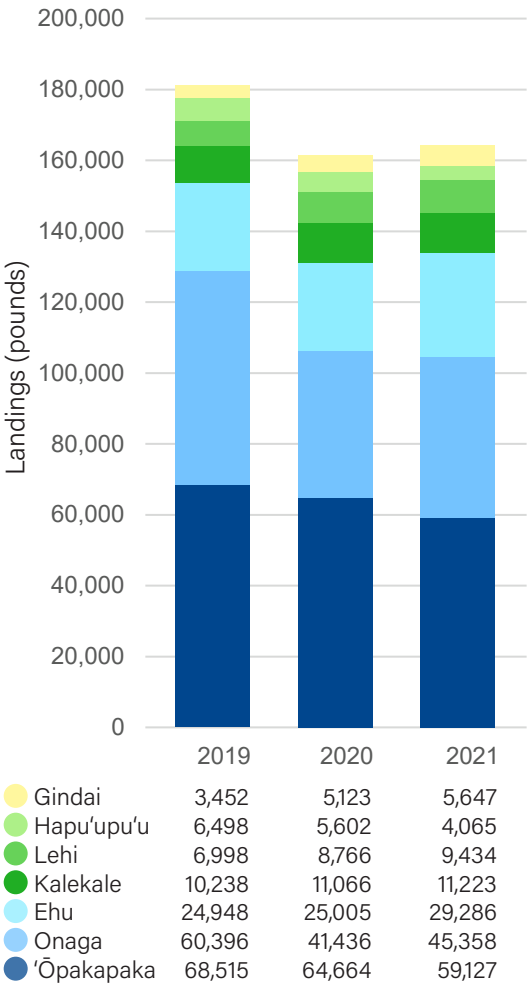
(commercial)	2019	2020		2021	
• Licenses	318	334	*5% ↑*	320	*4% ↓*
• Fishing Trips	2,023	1,843	*9% ↓*	2,092	*14% ↑*
• Fish Caught (# of individuals)	47,879	45,903	*4% ↓*	52,050	*13% ↑*
• Total Landings (pounds)	181,125	161,713	*11% ↓*	164,171	*2% ↑*
• Deep-Sea Handline Landings (pounds)	178,439	159,132	*11% ↓*	159,212	*0%*
• Total Adjusted Revenue (dollars)	1,410,563	1,070,006	*24% ↓*	1,137,655	*6% ↑*

At its September 2020 meeting, the Council selected a preliminary annual catch target of 295,419 pounds for the main Hawaiian Islands uku (grey snapper) for fishing years 2022 to 2025. Photo: Ed Watamura.

Uku (commercial)

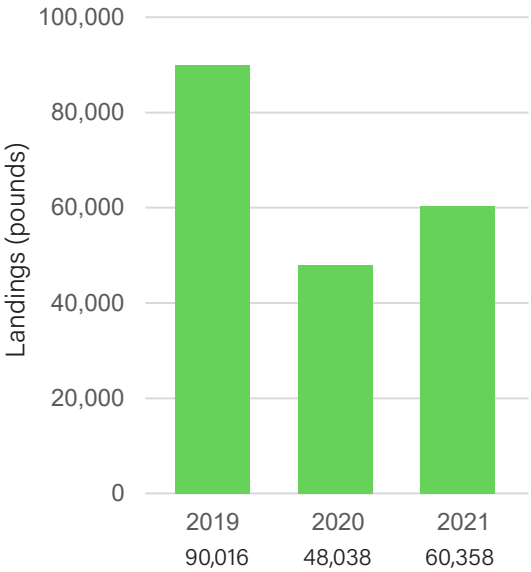
	2019	2020		2021	
• Licenses	286	253	*12% ↓*	233	*8% ↓*
• Fishing Trips	1,295	1,031	*20% ↓*	1,005	*3% ↓*
• Fish Caught (# of individuals)	11,106	5,952	*46% ↓*	7,439	*25% ↑*
• Deep-Sea Handline Landings (pounds)	48,327	26,381	*45% ↓*	37,942	*44% ↑*
• Total Adjusted Revenue (dollars)	440,512	187,843	*57% ↓*	311,521	*66% ↑*

Deep 7 Catch by Species



	2019	2020	2021
Gindai	3,452	5,123	5,647
Hapu‘upu‘u	6,498	5,602	4,065
Lehi	6,998	8,766	9,434
Kalekale	10,238	11,066	11,223
Ehu	24,948	25,005	29,286
Onaga	60,396	41,436	45,358
‘Ōpakapaka	68,515	64,664	59,127

Uku Catch



American Samoa

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, American Samoa did not allow commercial flights to enter the territory for the majority of 2020. Travel restrictions prevented international workers from returning to American Samoa, and the longline fleet had issues with recruiting fishing crews, though some vessels adapted by sharing crew members and hiring locally. In spite of these issues and other difficulties associated with increased air freight costs, StarKist Samoa, the territory's largest employer, continued to operate throughout 2020.

Bottomfish landings decreased, declining 31% from 2019 to 2020 and ~73% from 2020 to 2021. Catch and effort levels were close to all-time lows, perhaps due to pandemic-related restrictions or associated with underreporting. In 2021, commercial bottomfish data were confidential due to a relative lack of reporting from local vendors. Depressed fish market prices and low commercial sales may indicate fishermen chose to sell their catch through alternative markets or give it away to their families and community. The American Samoa 11-species bottomfish complex is both overfished and experiencing overfishing according to a 2019 NMFS assessment, likely due to data limitations. In 2021, the Council recommended a 5,000-pound ACL to end overfishing and rebuild the fishery within 10 years, as required by the MSA.

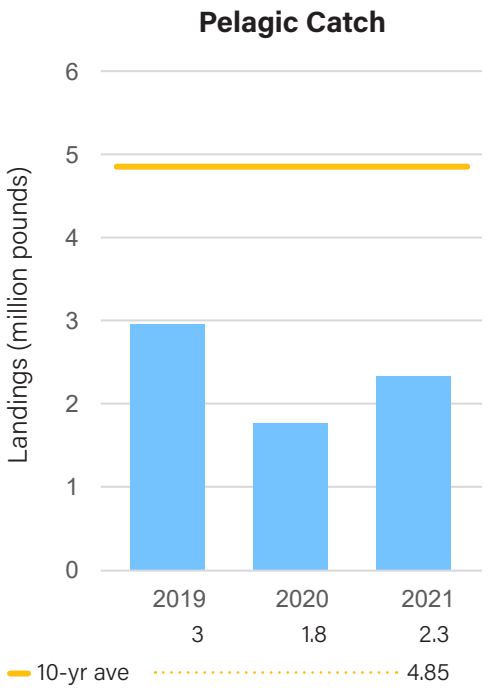
While bottomfish fishery catch continued declining in recent years, pelagic fishery landings increased more than 31% from 2020 to 2021, after experiencing a more than 40% decline from 2019 to 2020.

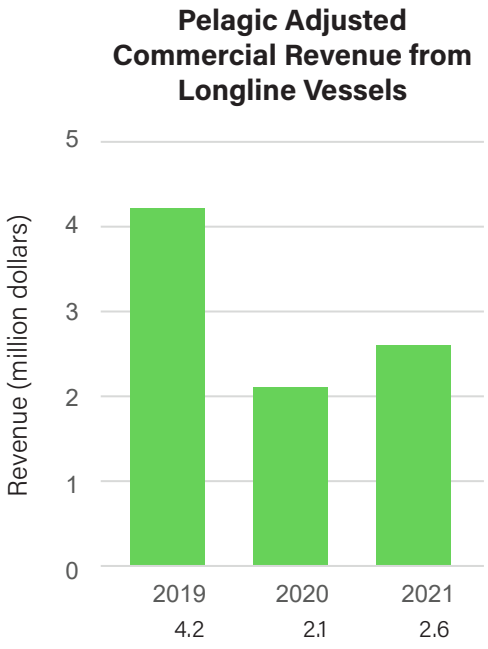
Pelagic (commercial)	2019	2020		2021	
• Active Longline Vessels	18	11	*39% ↓*	11	*0%*
• Longline Trips	114	90	*21% ↓*	40	*56% ↓*
• Active Trolling Vessels	5	8	*60% ↑*	5	*38% ↓*
• Longline Sets	1,882	1,322	*30% ↓*	1,484	*12% ↑*
• Trolling Trips	169	131	*22% ↓*	134	*2% ↑*
• Total Adjusted Commercial Revenue from Trolling (dollars)	41,879	9,000	*75% ↓*	n.d.	

Pelagic (non-commercial)	2019	2020		2021*
**2021 data unavailable for comparison*				
• Fishing Trips	102	6	*94% ↓*	-
• Total Landings (pounds)	97,801	32	*100% ↓*	-
• % of total pelagic catch	3%	0.2%	*94% ↓*	-

Seafood vendors in American Samoa were affected by the COVID-19 emergency declaration provisions including reduced business hours. Photo: Nate Ilaoa.

Pacific albacore tuna. Photo: Flickr.





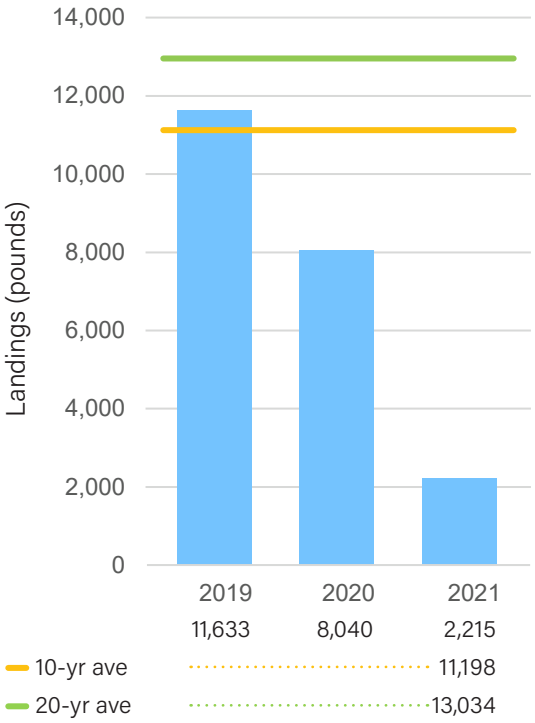
American Samoa *(continued)*

Bottomfish

(commercial and non-commercial)	2019	2020		2021	
• Commercial Landings (pounds)	1,749	336	*81% ↓*	n.d.	
• Vessels	6	6	*0%*	3	*50% ↓*
• Total Adjusted Revenue (dollars)	7,423	1,067	*86% ↓*	n.d.	

The American Samoa bottomfish fishery is a small-boat fishery that targets both shallow and deep waters, mostly nearshore. For decades, American Samoa bottomfish fishermen, including most alia fishermen, have used traditional wooden hand-cranked reels since modern fiberglass rods and electric reels are expensive and not readily available. Photos: Sofima's Mini Mart and Amy Vandehey.

Estimated Bottomfish Catch from Shore and Boats



StarKist Samoa experienced issues with absenteeism and delays in airfreight to American Samoa during the pandemic. Photo: Nate Ilaoa.

In January 2020, Cyclone Tino brought strong winds, heavy rain and rough seas to American Samoa. On January 19, stormy conditions and rough surf caused the M/V *Manu'atele*, docked at the Ofu Harbor on Manu'a, to collide with the cement dock. The vessel sustained an estimated $200,000 in damages along its starboard bow and the dock was cracked with a portion of the cement breaking away into the harbor water. Photo: Nate Ilaoa.

The Council's U.S. Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship Program supports university students through graduation. Students commit to bringing their expertise back to their home island fishery management agency. Here Alphina Liusamoa learns to extract otoliths (ear stones) from kole as part of her summer internship. Photo: Fuamai Tago.

Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) (commercial)

**top 3 ECS caught are ranked according to 2021 values*

	2019	2020		2021	
• Total Pounds Caught for Top 10 Harvested ECS	65,388	14,516	*78% ↓*	12,229	*16% ↓*
◦ Top Caught ECS - blue-banded surgeonfish (*Acanthurus lineatus*) (pounds)	19,974	4,822	*76% ↓*	4,372	*9% ↓*
◦ Second Most Caught ECS - unicornfishes (pounds)	5,961	1,624	*73% ↓*	2,159	*33% ↑*
◦ Third Most Caught ECS - parrotfishes (pounds)	8,248	1,792	*78% ↓*	2,000	*12% ↑*
• Total Estimated Revenue for Top 10 Harvested ECS (dollars)	198,048	45,666	*77% ↓*	n.d.	

CNMI

Pandemic restrictions delayed or canceled many fishing tournaments. A "sunset-to-sunrise" curfew and harbor closures shut down nighttime spearfishing and bottomfishing. A fishing ban outside the reef and closure of all but one boat ramp impacted the small-boat pelagic fishery and fresh fish market. Government office closures starting in mid-March to early May 2020 disrupted fishery data collection. Curfew and boat ramp access restrictions lessened in April and May 2020, which alleviated some effects on fishing, but the tourism-dependent fresh fish market was still impacted by low demand. By the end of 2020, fishing restrictions had eased and data collection efforts resumed, continuing through 2021, and fishing occurred at an increased rate. Fishery managers are wary that estimated catch data from 2020 may have been impacted by lack of sampling.

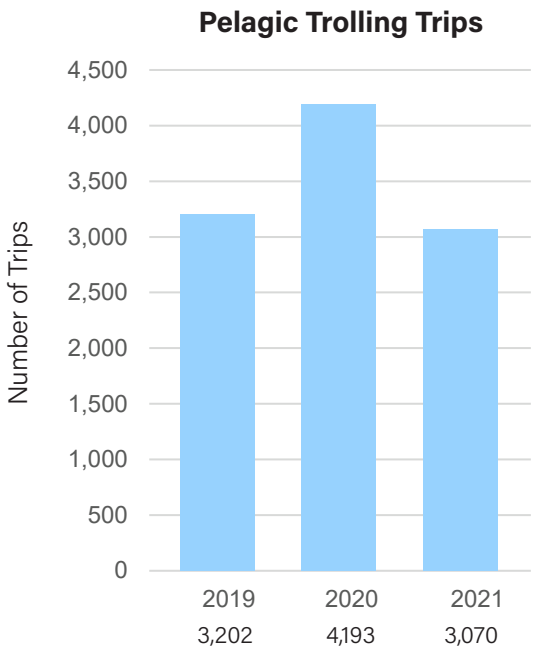
Catch and effort increased in 2020 for CNMI bottomfish fisheries, while pelagic fisheries effort increased and catch decreased. In 2021, landings and revenue increased notably over the preceding year in both the pelagic and bottomfish fisheries. Drivers may have been increased fish prices, residents with more time to fish and more fishers deciding to sell their catches in the midst of the pandemic. Some commercial sales may not have been captured through data collection programs due to fishers opting to sell their catch through non-traditional avenues outside of the fish market, such as roadside vendors.

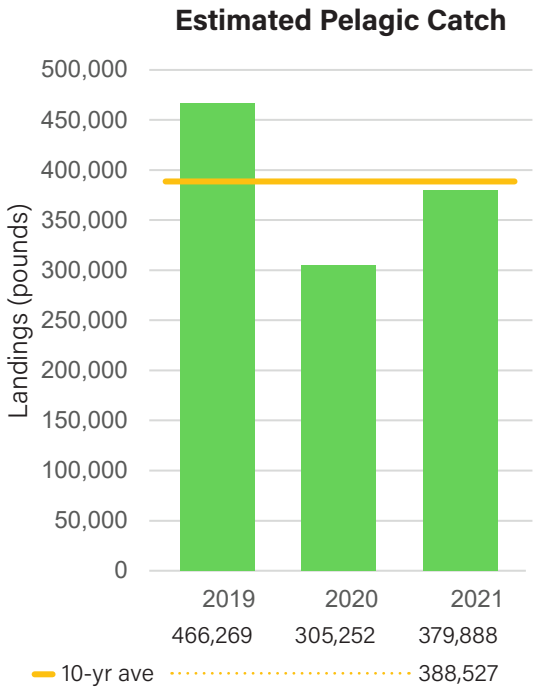
Pelagic (commercial and non-commercial)

	2019	2020		2021	
• Active Commercial Fishers	49	73	*49% ↑*	82	*12% ↑*
• Commercial Fishing Trips	2,457	1,325	*46% ↓*	1,983	*50% ↑*
• Trolling Hours	16,841	20,631	*23% ↑*	17,340	*16% ↓*
• Total Adjusted Commercial Revenue (dollars)	464,101	349,096	*25% ↓*	695,009	*99% ↑*

Council staff and contractors encouraged fishermen to use the Catchit Logit fishery data electronic reporting app at tournaments throughout 2021. Photo: Lino Tenorio.

Most charter fishing boats in the CNMI remained at dock in 2020 due to travel restrictions enforced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo: Floyd Masga.





CNMI *(continued)*

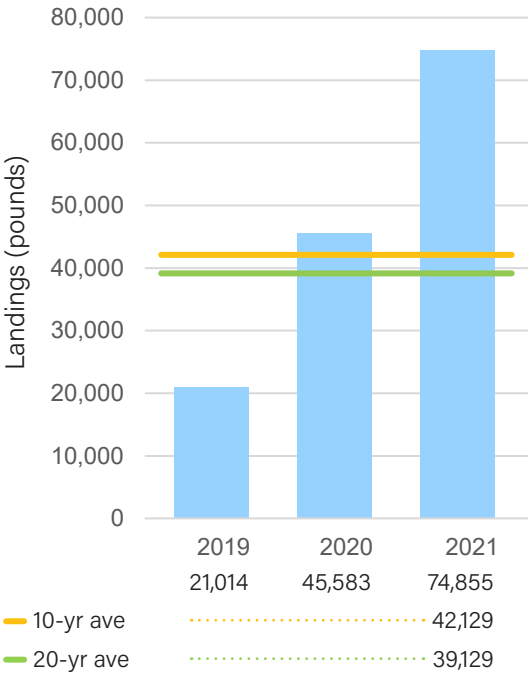
Bottomfish

(commercial and non-commercial)	2019	2020		2021	
• Commercial Landings (pounds)	15,697	20,071	*28% ↑*	36,301	*81% ↑*
• Vessels	8	27	*238% ↑*	58	*115% ↑*

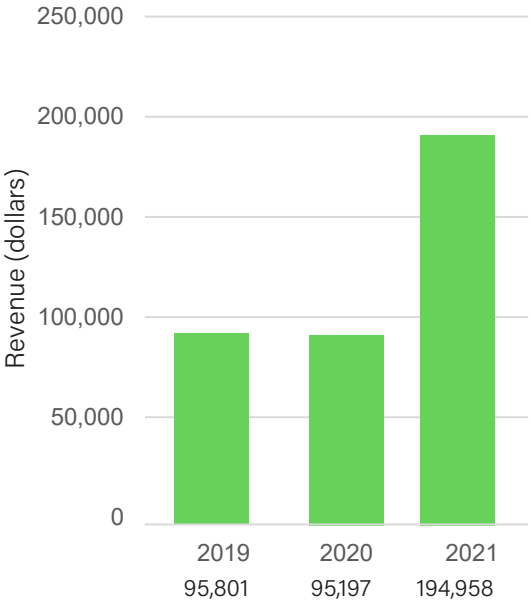
The CNMI Bottomfish Fishery Development program, funded through the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund since 2019, exposes community members to commercial bottomfish fishing operations and provides technical training on all aspects of pursuing bottomfishing as a professional trade. The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources hosted two workshops in 2020 and trained 43 fishers on specialized gear, commercial fishing methods and operations, vessel maintenance and operations, tackle, equipment and fish handling for commercial markets and seafood safety.
Photos: Floyd Masga.

Fishermen on Rota listen to a presentation on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act before receiving their application for relief funding.
Photo: Rota Mayor's Office.

Estimated Bottomfish Catch from Shore and Boats



Bottomfish Adjusted Revenue



Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) (commercial)

**top 3 ECS caught are ranked according to 2021 values*

	2019	2020		2021	
• Total Pounds Caught for Top 10 Harvested ECS	25,160	38,167	*52% ↑*	66,754	*75% ↑*
◦ Top Caught ECS - misc. parrotfishes (pounds)	4,463	5,599	*25% ↑*	14,046	*151% ↑*
◦ Second Most Caught ECS - assorted reef fishes (pounds)	9,499	11,000	*16% ↑*	13,421	*22% ↑*
◦ Third Most Caught ECS - misc. surgeonfishes (pounds)	2,849	7,750	*172% ↑*	10,007	*29% ↑*
• Total Revenue for Top 10 Harvested ECS (dollars)	89,314	114,539	*28% ↑*	223,949	*96% ↑*

Guam

Similar to the CNMI, pandemic restrictions created economic hardship for Guam's tourism industry, impacting restaurants, which remained shuttered for most of 2020. Government offices shut down and all data collection activities ceased between mid-March and June and from August to December. The number of in-person fisher interviews, or creel surveys, decreased by more than half. This may have impacted pelagic fisheries monitoring due to the seasonality of several important species (e.g., wahoo and yellowfin tuna). The Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) gauged fishing participation and activity, which persisted at a high level, by visiting the three active boat ramps. COVID-related restrictions extended through Jan. 18, 2021, but continued without interruption for the remainder of the year.

Bottomfish landings in Guam decreased ~42% from 2019 to 2020, which may be because of the pandemic or indicate an underestimated catch from lack of sampling. Catch values rebounded in 2021 with one of the highest annual catches over the past three decades, surpassing the threshold set by the federal ACL.

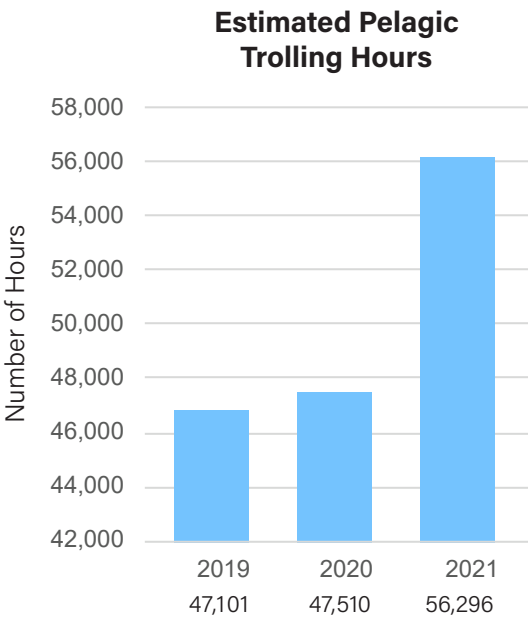
Guam bottomfish are overfished but not experiencing overfishing, according to a 2019 NMFS stock assessment, likely due to the data-poor nature of the fishery. The Council developed a rebuilding plan with a 31,000-pound ACL starting in fishing year 2022 to allow the bottomfish stock to replenish in six years.

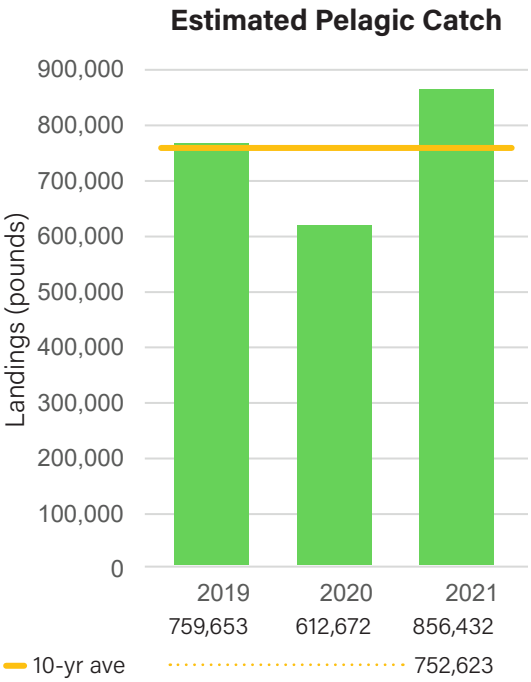
Pelagic fisheries landings in Guam had a similar trend as bottomfish, decreasing from 2019 to 2020 before increasing in 2021 to levels greater than 2019.

Pelagic

(commercial and non-commercial)	2019	2020		2021	
• Active Trolling Vessels	465	459	*1% ↓*	546	*19% ↑*
• Fishing Trips	9,249	9,218	*0%*	10,700	*16% ↑*

Fishing was allowed and considered an essential activity in Guam during pandemic-related restrictions as long as fishermen practiced social distancing. Some locations, such as Malesso Pier shown in the photo, were temporarily closed to help enforce this rule.
Photos: Audrey Toves, Tatiana Talavera and Felix Reyes.

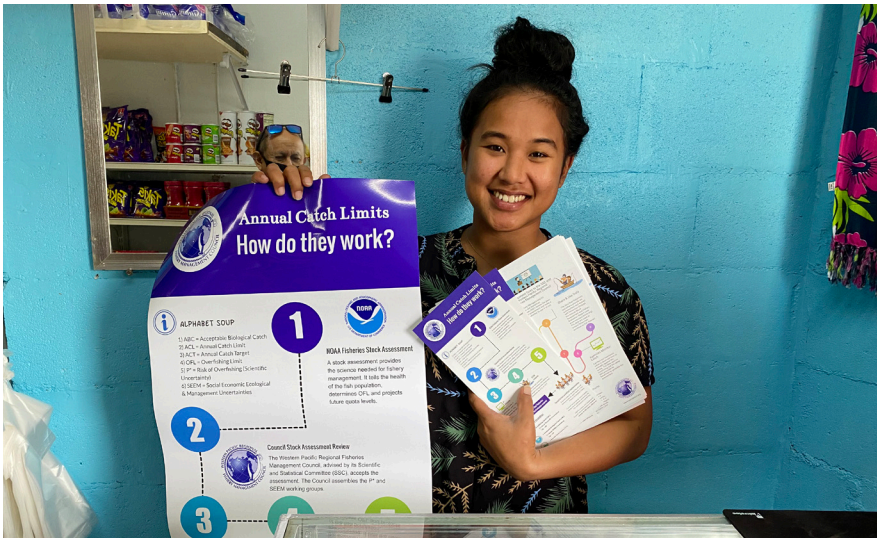




Guam *(continued)*

Bottomfish

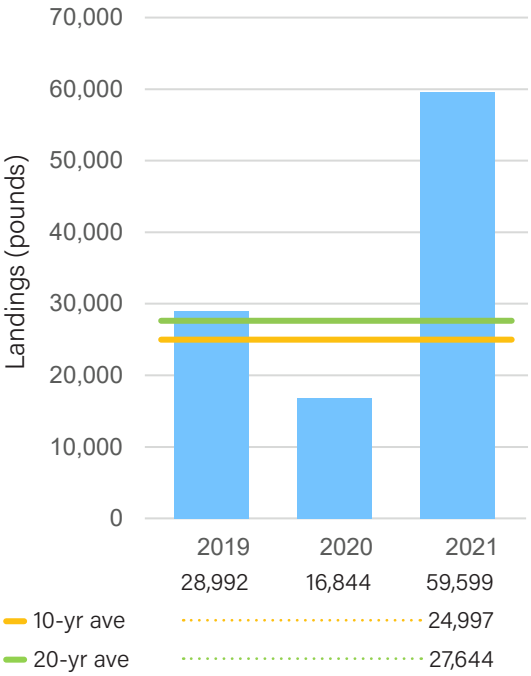
(commercial and non-commercial)	2019	2020		2021	
• Vessels	52	35	*33% ↓*	56	*60% ↑*



Kim Ignacio at CU2 Fish Mart shared information with her customers about the Catchit Logit electronic reporting app and the importance of annual catch limits. Quarantine restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic hampered the Council's efforts to hold large in-person Catchit Logit training sessions for Guam fishermen. Photo: Felix Reyes.

Fishers in Guam expressed their frustration with shark interactions to university and NOAA researchers in a 2019-2020 study. Observations suggest that sharks may be increasingly conditioned to fishing activity. Photo: Capt. James Borja.

Estimated Bottomfish Catch from Shore and Boats



In 2020, local restaurants turned to curbside sales combined with social media promotions while establishments were closed. Photo: Tatiana Talavera.

Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) (commercial)

**top 3 ECS caught are ranked according to 2021 values*

	2019	2020		2021
• Total Pounds Caught for Top 10 Harvested ECS	51,949	18,991	*63% ↓*	n.d.
◦ Top Caught ECS - assorted reef fishes (pounds)	20,011	7,982	*60% ↓*	n.d.
◦ Second Most Caught ECS - mafute (emperors) (pounds)	3,172	5,129	*62% ↑*	n.d.
◦ Third Most Caught ECS - grouper (pounds)	954	901	*6% ↓*	n.d.
• Total Revenue for Top 10 Harvested ECS (dollars)	162,234	62,843	*61% ↓*	n.d.

Council scholarship recipient Leilani Sablan conducts an independent creel survey to track changes in target reef fish. Photo: Leilani Sablan.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIONS

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

2020

Feb. 12 (85 FR 7892) **The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) established the annual harvest guideline for the commercial lobster fishery in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI)** for calendar year 2020 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 2020 at zero lobsters.

May 5 (85 FR 26622) **This final rule established annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) in the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) for deepwater shrimp, precious corals and gray jobfish (uku) in 2019-2021, and for Kona crab in 2019**. The fishing year for each fishery begins January 1 and ends on December 31, except for precious coral fisheries, which begin July 1 and end on June 30 of the next year. This rule supports the long-term sustainability of Pacific Island fisheries. The final rule is applicable in fishing years 2019, 2020 and 2021 for deep-water shrimp, precious corals and gray jobfish, and fishing year 2019 for Kona crab. The final rule is effective June 4, 2020.

May 19 (85 FR 29934) **NMFS announced approval of a Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)**. Section 204(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) authorizes the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), and in consultation with the Council, to negotiate and enter into a Pacific Insular Area Fishery Agreement (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 Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund (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 Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) for the applicable territory. NMFS approved the MCP for the three-year period from Aug. 4, 2020, through Aug. 3, 2023.

June 22 (85 FR 37376) **NMFS issued a final rule for the area of overlap between the convention areas of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)**. The rule revised the management regime for fishing vessels that target tunas and other highly migratory fish species so that all regulations implementing IATTC measures and a few regulations implementing WCPFC measures now apply in the area of overlapping jurisdiction.

Aug. 19 (85 FR 50961) **NMFS specified a 2020 catch limit of 2,000 metric tons (mt) of longline-caught bigeye tuna for each U.S. Pacific territory (American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI)**. NMFS allowed each territory to allocate up to 1,500 mt to U.S. longline fishing vessels in a valid specified fishing agreement, but the overall allocation limit among all territories could not exceed 3,000 mt. The final specifications were effective Aug. 17 through Dec. 31, 2020.

Sept. 9 (85 FR 55642) **NMFS announced approval of an MCP for Guam**. 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 Aug. 4, 2020, through Aug. 3, 2023.

Sept. 17 (85 FR 57988) **NMFS published a final rule that implements Amendment 10 to the FEP for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific. The rule reduced the annual Hawai'i shallow-set fishery fleet interaction limit (hard cap) for leatherback sea turtles from 26 to 16, and removed the hard cap for North Pacific loggerhead turtles (previously 17)**. This rule also established individual trip limits of two leatherback and five North Pacific loggerhead turtle interactions, with AMs for reaching a limit. This rule ensures compliance with the June 26, 2019, biological opinion and allows for a continued supply of fresh domestic swordfish to U.S. markets.

Oct. 7 (85 FR 63216) **NMFS announced a valid specified fishing agreement that allocated up to 1,000 mt of the 2020 bigeye tuna limit for the Territory of American Samoa to U.S. longline fishing vessels**. The agreement was effective on Sept. 6, 2020, and supports the long-term sustainability of fishery resources of the U.S. Pacific Islands, and fisheries development in American Samoa.

Oct. 15 (85 FR 65389) **NMFS announced approval of a MCP for Pacific Insular Areas other than American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands**. 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. Before entering into a PIAFA for the PRIA, the Council must develop and submit to the Secretary a three-year MCP that details the uses for funds collected by the Secretary under the PIAFA. The MSA requires payments received under a PIAFA, and any funds or contributions received in support of conservation and management objectives for the MCP, to be deposited into the WPSFF for use by the Council. Section 204(e)(7)(C) of the MSA also authorizes the Council to use the WPSFF to meet conservation and management objectives in the State of Hawai'i, if funds remain available. An MCP must be consistent with the Council's FEPs. The MCP contains five conservation and management objectives that are consistent with the FEP for the PRIA and the FEP for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific. In addition, the MCP contains seven conservation and management objectives that are consistent with

the FEP for the Hawaiian Archipelago. NMFS approved the MCP for the three-year period from Aug. 4, 2020, through Aug. 3, 2023.

Nov. 16 (85 FR 73003) **This temporary rule implemented an interim catch limit (ICL) of 13,000 pounds of American Samoa bottomfish for fishing years 2020 and 2021** during the effective period of the rule. NMFS will monitor catches, and if the fishery reaches the ICL within a fishing year, they will close the fishery in Federal waters through the end of the fishing year, or through the end of the effective period of this rule, whichever comes first. These interim management measures are necessary to reduce overfishing of American Samoa bottomfish while minimizing socioeconomic impacts to fishing communities. This temporary rule supports the long-term sustainability of American Samoa bottomfish. This rule is effective from Nov. 16, 2020, through May 17, 2021.

Nov. 23 (85 FR 74614) **NMFS announced a valid specified fishing agreement that allocated up to 1,000 mt of the 2020 bigeye tuna limit for the CNMI** to U.S. longline fishing vessels. The agreement, which was effective Nov. 15, 2020, followed the prior American Samoa agreement that was projected to reach its 1,000 mt limit on Nov. 22, 2020. These agreements support the long-term sustainability and development of fishery resources of the U.S. Pacific Islands.

Dec. 11 (85 FR 79928) **In this final rule, NMFS implemented an ACL of 30,802 pounds, and an annual catch target (ACT) of 25,491 pounds, of Hawai'i Kona crab for fishing years 2020-2023**. The fishing year is the same as the calendar year, and catch from State and Federal waters counts toward the ACL and ACT. This rule also implements as AMs, an in-season closure of the fishery if catch is projected to reach the ACT, and a post-season adjustment if catch exceeds the ACL. This action supports the long-term sustainability of the Hawai'i Kona crab fishery. The final rule is applicable in fishing years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The final rule is effective Jan. 11, 2021.

2021

Jan. 12 (86 FR 2297) **NMFS specified a 2021 catch limit of 2,000 mt of longline-caught bigeye tuna for each U.S. Pacific territory (American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI)**. NMFS allowed each territory to allocate up to 1,500 mt to U.S. longline fishing vessels in a valid specified fishing agreement, but the overall allocation limit among all territories could not exceed 3,000 mt. The final specifications were effective Jan. 12 through Dec. 31, 2021.

April 21 (86 FR 21082) **NMFS designated critical habitat for the Central America, Mexico and Western North Pacific distinct population segments of humpback whales**. Areas designated as critical habitat include specific marine areas located off the coasts of California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. NMFS did not designate critical habitat in the Mariana Archipelago or elsewhere in the Pacific Islands Region.

May 7 (86 FR 24511) **In this final rule, NMFS implemented Mariana Archipelago Bottomfish ACLs and AMs to correct or mitigate any overages for Guam and the CNMI**. For Guam, the final rule implemented an ACL of 27,000 pounds for fishing years 2020–2022. For the CNMI, the final rule implemented an ACL of 84,000 pounds and an ACT of 78,000 pounds for fishing years 2020–2023. The final rule is effective June 7, 2021.

June 11 (86 FR 31178) **NMFS issued an interim final rule to establish a framework to implement emergency decisions of the WCPFC**. NMFS issued temporary specifications to implement three short-notice WCPFC decisions on purse seine observer coverage, at-sea transshipment observers and purse seine transshipment at sea, which were in effect until Sept. 14, 2021.

June 21 (86 FR 32361) **This temporary rule extended the ICL of 13,000 pounds of American Samoa bottomfish for fishing year 2021**. As an AM, NMFS monitors catch, and will close the fishery in Federal waters through Nov. 18, 2021, if the fishery reaches the ICL within the fishing year. This temporary rule extended the interim measures implemented by NMFS (Nov. 16, 2020, 85 FR 56208), which expired May 17, 2021, and is necessary to reduce overfishing of American Samoa bottomfish while the Council develops a long-term plan to address overfishing and rebuild the fishery.

July 7 (86 FR 35653) **NMFS issued a final rule establishing requirements to safeguard fishery observers** and establishing pre-trip notification procedures for observer placement. This rule applies to fishing trips operating under the WCPFC Regional Observer Programme.

July 9 (86 FR 36239) **NMFS reinstated a regulatory exemption that allows certain U.S. longline vessels 50 feet and larger to fish in portions of the American Samoa Large Vessel Prohibited Area**, effective July 6, 2021. The intent of this action was to comply with a U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that reversed a district court ruling that had vacated and set aside the exemption, and to improve the viability of the American Samoa longline fishery and achieve optimum yield, while preventing overfishing.

Aug. 5 (86 FR 42744) **NMFS published a final rule requiring the use of electronic logbooks in the Hawai'i pelagic longline fisheries and on Class C and D vessels in the American Samoa pelagic longline fishery**. This rule was effective Sept. 7, 2021. NMFS provides logbook hardware, training and associated communications at no cost to vessels and vessel owners. The intent of this rule is to improve data accuracy, save time and provide more rigorous monitoring and forecasting of catch limits.

Aug. 5 (86 FR 42792) **NMFS announced the approval of a three-year MCP for American Samoa**. The MCP identifies priority conservation and management projects using funds from the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund. The MCP is valid from July 25, 2021, through July 24, 2024.

Aug. 26 (86 FR 47596) **NMFS announced a valid specified fishing agreement that allocated 1,500 mt of the 2021 bigeye tuna limit for the CNMI and American Samoa to U.S. longline fishing vessels** on July 15 and 16, 2021, respectively. NMFS forecasted that the fishery would reach the U.S. bigeye tuna limit of 3,554 mt by Sept. 6, 2021, and began attributing catch to the CNMI-Hawaii Longline Association agreement Aug. 30, 2021. The allocation under that agreement was sufficient for the remainder of 2021, so NMFS did not activate the American Samoa-Hawaii Longline Association agreement. These agreements support the long-term sustainability and development of fishery resources of the U.S. Pacific Islands.

Oct. 7 (86 FR 55743) **NMFS implemented Amendment 9 to the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific to modify the American Samoa longline fishery limited entry program**. The final rule consolidates vessel size classes into small (<50 feet) and large (≥50 feet) vessels, limits permit eligibility to U.S. citizens and nationals and reduces to 500 pounds the three-year minimum harvest requirement for small vessels. The intent of this rule is to reduce regulatory barriers that may be limiting small-vessel participation in the fishery and provide for sustained community and American Samoan participation in the fishery. The rule was effective Nov. 8, 2021.

Nov. 15 (86 FR 62982) **NMFS published a notice of availability for Amendment 6 to the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Mariana Archipelago that would establish a rebuilding plan for the Guam bottomfish stock complex**. This action was in response to NMFS determination on Feb. 10, 2020, that the Guam bottomfish stock complex is overfished and that, consistent with Section 304(e) of the MSA and implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.310(j), the Council and NMFS must take action within two years to rebuild the overfished stock, or by February 2022.

Nov. 26 (86 FR 67426) **NMFS published a proposed rule to implement Amendment 6 to the Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Mariana Archipelago and the Guam bottomfish stock complex rebuilding plan**. When approved, the final rule would consist of a 31,000-pound ACL and two AMs starting in 2022. As an in-season AM, if NMFS projects that the fishery will reach the ACL in any year, it would close the fishery in Federal waters for the remainder of that year. As an additional AM, if subsequent analyses indicate that the fishery exceeded the ACL during a year, NMFS would close the fishery in Federal waters until NMFS and the Territory of Guam implement a coordinated management approach and implement regulations to ensure that the catch in both Federal and territorial waters is maintained at levels that allow the stock to rebuild. The rebuilding plan would remain in place until NMFS determines that the stock complex is rebuilt, which is expected to take nine years.

2020 PUBLICATIONS

2021 Amerika Samoa Lunar Calendar. 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-71-7

2021 Eskaleran Pulan Chamorro/2021 Refaluwasch Pápáál Maram (Chamorro/ Refaluwasch Lunar Calendar). 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-70-0

2021 Fanha'aniyan Pulan CHamoru (Chamorro Lunar Calendar). 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-69-4

2021 Hawai'i Lunar Calendar. 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (fishermen version). ISBN 978-1-944827-68-7

2021 Kaulana Mahina (Hawai'i Lunar Calendar). 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (classroom version). ISBN 978-1-944827-67-0

Dalzell P. 2020. **University of Hawai'i Pelagic Fisheries Research Program. Pacific Islands Fishery Monographs. Vol. 11**. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.
ISBN 978-1-944827-57-1
ISBN 978-1-944827-83-0 [revised]

From an Idea to Implementation (handout). June 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-62-5

Get Involved in Our Council Process (handout). March 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-60-1

History of Protected Species Conservation in US Western Pacific Fisheries (handout). July 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-65-6

How Does the Council Work with Fishermen to Collect Good Fishery Data? (handout). May 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-56-4

Markrich M. 2020. **History of Billfish Management under the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Pacific Islands Fishery Monographs. Vol. 10**. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-55-7

Markrich M. 2020. **Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Lobster Fishery. Pacific Islands Fishery Monographs. Vol. 9**. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.
ISBN 978-1-944827-53-3
ISBN 978-1-944827-73-1 [revised e-file with new fig. 25]

Martell L and S Spalding. 2020. **Fishery Ecosystem Management in the Western Pacific Region. Pacific Islands Fishery Monographs. Vol. 12**. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-74-8

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)

Pardee C and J Wiley. 2020. **Implementing a Commercial Fisheries Bio-Sampling Program on Oahu and Maui: Hawaii's Biosampling Program**. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-79-3

Uku (handout). May 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-58-8

Walsh W. 2020. **Descriptive Catch Statistics, Catch-per-unit-effort Standardizations, and Size Analyses for Incidentally Caught Fishes in the Hawaiian Longline Fishery during 1995-2018**. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-54-0

Western Pacific Region Status of the Fisheries 2019. 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-72-4

What Does Our Council Do? (handout). March 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-59-5

What Happens at Council and Advisory Group Meetings? (handout). June 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-63-2

Who Are the Decision Makers? (handout). May 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-61-8

WPRFMC, 2020. **Annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report for the American Samoa Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2019**. T Remington, M Sabater, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-84-7

WPRFMC, 2020. **Annual SAFE Report for the Hawaii Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2019**. T Remington, M Sabater, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-85-4

WPRFMC, 2020. **Annual SAFE Report for the Mariana Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2019**. T Remington, M Sabater, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-86-1

WPRFMC, 2020. **Annual SAFE Report for the Pacific Pelagic Fisheries Ecosystem Plan 2019**. T Remington, M Fitchett, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-87-8

WPRFMC, 2020. **Annual SAFE Report for the Pacific Remote Island Areas Fishery Ecosystem Plan 2019**. T Remington, M Sabater, A Ishizaki (Eds.). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-88-5

Yellowfin tuna (handout). June 2020. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-64-9

2021 Publications

2022 Amerika Samoa Lunar Calendar. 2021. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-94-6

2022 Eskaleran Pulan Chamorro/2022 Refaluwasch Pápáál Maram (Chamorro/ Refaluwasch Lunar Calendar). 2021. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-93-9

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2022 Kaulana Mahina (Hawai'i Lunar Calendar). 2021. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (classroom version). ISBN 978-1-944827-90-8

2022 Kaulana Mahina (Hawai'i Lunar Calendar). 2021. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. (fishermen version). ISBN 978-1-944827-91-5

Fitchett M, R Hilborn, E Gilman, C Severance, M Chaloupka, M Kaiser, D Itano and K Schaefer. 2021. **Road Map to Effective Area-Based Management of Blue Water Fisheries Including Workshop Proceedings**. T Remington (Ed). Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-78-6

Gilman E, HA Naholowaa, A Ishizaki, M Chaloupka, C Brady, M Carnes, S Ellgen, J Wang and E Kingma. 2021. **Practicality and Efficacy of Tori Lines to Mitigate Albatross Interactions in the Hawaii Deep-set Longline Fishery**. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-77-9

Glass Floats: The history of longline fishing in Hawai'i (19-min video). 2021. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-89-2

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)

Sabater M. 2021. **Fishery Data Collection Systems: Evasive as an Elusive Fish. Pacific Islands Fishery Monographs. Vol. 13**. Honolulu: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. ISBN 978-1-944827-75-5

COUNCIL AND ADVISORY BODY MEETINGS

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (chair *Archie Taotasi Soliai*):
2020: 181st meeting, March 10-12, Honolulu; 182nd meeting, June 23-25, virtual; 183rd meeting, Sept. 15-17, virtual; 184th meeting, Dec. 16-17, virtual
2021: 185th meeting, March 23-25, virtual; 186th meeting, June 22-24, virtual; 187th meeting, Sept. 21-24, virtual; 188th meeting, Oct. 19, virtual; 189th meeting, Dec. 7-9, virtual

Scientific and Statistical Committee (chair *James Lynch*):
2020: 135th meeting, March 3-5, Honolulu; 136th meeting, June 9-11, virtual; 137th meeting, Sept. 9-10, virtual; 138th meeting, Nov. 30 – Dec. 1, virtual
2021: 139th meeting, March 16-18, virtual; 140th meeting, June 15-17, virtual; 141st meeting, Sept. 14-16, virtual; 142nd meeting, Nov. 30 – Dec. 2, virtual

Advisory Panel (chair *Clay Tam*)
- American Samoa (chair William Sword):
  - 2020: Feb. 26, May 30, Aug. 26, Nov. 18
  - 2021: March 10, June 8, Sept. 7, Nov. 16
- Hawai'i (chair *Gil Kuali'i*):
  - 2020: Feb. 21, May 29, Aug. 27, Nov. 20
  - 2021: March 12, June 11, Sept. 3, Nov. 19
- Marianas Joint (chairs *Richard Farrell and Kenneth Borja*):
  - 2020: Feb. 27, June 5, Sept. 4, Nov. 20, CNMI; Feb. 27, May 29, Aug. 29, Nov. 18, Guam
  - 2021: March 12, June 12, Sept. 10, Nov. 17, CNMI; March 10, June 10, Sept. 8, Nov. 17, Guam

Plan Teams:
Archipelagic (Chair Stefanie Dukes):
- 2020: Jan. 23, Honolulu; April 20-22, virtual
- 2021: April 20-22, virtual

Pelagic (Chair Keith Bigelow):
- 2020: May 6-8, virtual; Nov. 18, virtual
- 2021: March 3-4, virtual; May 11-13, virtual

Education Committee (Chair *Craig Severance*):
Education Committee Subgroup:
- 2020: Sept. 25, CNMI; Sept. 26, Guam; Oct. 21, American Samoa
- 2021: no meeting

Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee (no chair):
2020: June 22, virtual; 2021: Jan. 21, virtual; April 28-29, virtual; Sept. 20, virtual

Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee—Technical Committee (no chair):
2020: no meeting; 2021: April 28-29, virtual

Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee—Technical Committee: Data Collection Subpanel: 2020: April 23-24, virtual; 2021: no meeting

Fishing Industry Advisory Committee (no chair):
2020: Oct. 28, virtual; 2021: March 11, virtual; June 10, virtual; Nov. 16, virtual

Hawai'i Bottomfish Advisory Review Board (no chair):
2020: no meeting; 2021: no meeting

Non-Commercial Fisheries Advisory Committee (no chair):
2020: Oct. 29, virtual; 2021: March 10, virtual; June 9, virtual; Sept. 1, virtual

Regional Ecosystem Advisory Committee
- American Samoa (chair Archie Taotasi Soliai): 2020: Oct. 18, virtual; 2021: no meeting
- CNMI (Chair John Gourley): 2020: no meeting; 2021: no meeting
- Guam (Chair Michael Dueñas): 2020: no meeting; 2021: no meeting
- Hawai'i (Chair Ed Watamura): 2020: no meeting; 2021: no meeting

Social Science Planning Committee (Chair Craig Severance):
- 2020: March 5, teleconference; Aug. 2, teleconference
- 2021: April 8, virtual; Nov. 18, virtual

2020 WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Hawai'i Pelagic Small-boat Fisheries Public Scoping Meetings, Feb. 5-11, Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i Island

Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review (WPSAR) 2020 Benchmark Stock Assessments for Hawai'i Gray Jobfish (Uku) Meeting, Feb. 24-28, Honolulu

Fishers Forum—Hawai'i Pelagic Fisheries, March 10, Honolulu

WPSAR Steering Committee Meeting, April 30, virtual

Council Coordination Committee Meeting, May 27-28, virtual

Hawai'i Small-Boat Fisheries Management Virtual Scoping Meeting, Aug. 27, virtual

Council Coordination Committee Meeting, Sept. 23-24, virtual

WPSAR 2020 Stock Assessment Update for Seven Deep-Water Bottomfish Species in the Main Hawaiian Islands, Dec. 16-17, virtual

2021 WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

WPSAR Steering Committee Meeting, April 14, virtual

Council Coordination Committee Meeting, May 18-20, virtual

Development of New WCPFC Tropical Tuna Measure Workshop 2, Sept. 5-9, virtual

Council Coordination Committee Meeting, Oct. 19-21, Monterey, CA

2020-21 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Secretary of Commerce appointees from nominees selected by American Samoa, CNMI, Guam and Hawai'i governors: *Archie Taotasi Soliai*, StarKist (American Samoa) (chair); *Monique Amani*, business owner (Guam); Roger Dang, Fresh Island Fish Co. (Hawai'i August 2020-December 2021) (vice chair August-December 2021); *Manuel Dueñas II*, Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Guam) (vice chair August-December 2021); *Michael Dueñas*, Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Guam) (vice chair January 2020-August 2021); *Howard Dunham*, commercial fisherman (American Samoa) (vice chair); *Michael Goto*, United Fishing Agency (Hawai'i) (January-August 2020); *John Gourley*, Micronesian Environmental Services (CNMI) (vice chair); *Matthew Ramsey*, Conservational International (Hawai'i) (August-December 2021); *McGrew Rice*, charter boat captain (CNMI); *William Sword*, Pacific Energy South-West Pacific Ltd. (American Samoa) (August-December 2021); *Edwin Watamura*, fisherman (Hawai'i) (vice chair January 2020-August 2021)

Designated state officials: *Anthony Benavente*, CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources; *Suzanne Case*, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources; *Chelsa Muña-Brecht*, Guam Department of Agriculture; *Henry Sesepasara*, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) (2020); *Archie Taotasi Soliai*, American Samoa DMWR (2021)

Designated federal official (voting): *Michael Tosatto*, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office

Designated federal officials (non-voting): *Michael Brakke* (January 2020-March 2021), *David Hogan*, (March-August 2021), *Rebecca Wintering* (August 2021) *Charles Brinkman* (September-December 2021), U.S. Department of State; *Brian Peck*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; *RADM Kevin E. Lunday*, (January-August 2020), *RADM Matthew A. Sibley* (August 2020-December 2021), U.S. Coast Guard 14th District

2020-21 COUNCIL STAFF

Kitty Simonds, executive director; *Loren Bullard*, technical assistant; *Maria Carnevale*, National Environmental Policy Act coordinator (2021); *Joshua DeMello*, fisheries analyst, data coordinator, aquaculture specialist; *Mark Fitchett*, pelagic fisheries ecosystem scientist; *Elysia Granger*, administrative officer; *Bella Hirayama*, travel and administrative clerk; *Randy Holmen*, fiscal officer; *Nate Ilaoa*, American Samoa (AS) island coordinator; *Asuka Ishizaki*, protected species coordinator; *Diana Kitiona*, AS island coordinator (2021); *Floyd Masga*, CNMI island coordinator; *Mark Mitsuyasu*, insular program officer; *Felix Reyes*, Guam island coordinator; *Marlowe Sabater*, marine ecosystem scientist; *Sylvia Spalding*, communications officer; *Amy Vandehey*, education and outreach coordinator; and *Zach Yamada*, fisheries analyst.

US PACIFIC TERRITORIES FISHERY CAPACITY-BUILDING INTERNS

2020

Maria Angela Delacruz (CNMI)

2021

Alphina Liusamoa (American Samoa)
Jude Lizama (CNMI)
Fuamai Tago (American Samoa)

2020-2021 US PACIFIC TERRITORIES FISHERY CAPACITY-BUILDING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Maria Angela Delacruz (CNMI–attending University of Hawai'i at Hilo, graduated 2020); *Katelynn Delos Reyes* (CNMI–attending Hawai'i Pacific University); *Aveipepa Fua* (American Samoa–attending University of Hawai'i at Hilo); *Andrew Kang* (Guam–attending University of Guam graduate school); *Keena Leon Guerrero* (CNMI–attending University of Hawai'i at Mānoa graduate school); *Alphina Liusamoa* (American Samoa–attending University of Hawai'i at Hilo); *Jude Lizama* (CNMI–attending University of Guam); *Leilani Sablan* (Guam–attending University of Guam graduate school); *Fuamai Tago* (American Samoa–attending University of Hawai'i at Hilo).

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