

New Outreach Resources

The Council's *Western Pacific Region Status of the Fisheries 2022* report is now available. The publication highlights some of the changes in the U.S. Pacific Island fisheries from 2020 to 2022. Fishery statistics can be affected by numerous variables, including environmental changes and socioeconomic variables. In recent years, the impacts and subsequent recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic also affected fisheries in multiple ways. Some of these effects are described, in addition to recent stock statuses and management measures.

Find the *Status of the Fisheries* and full reports at www.wpcouncil.org/annual-reports. To access the data used to generate the reports, go to www.wpcouncildata.org.



Science and Management 101 – Management Unit Species vs Ecosystem Component Species

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council manages thousands of species from culturally important coral reef fish to deep water corals and from economically significant bottom and pelagic fish to various crustaceans. These diverse species are managed through the Council's five place-based Fishery Ecosystem Plans, with the understanding that ecosystems are important to the sustainability of fisheries.

Management Unit Species (MUS) - Typically include species caught in federal waters in quantities sufficient to warrant federal conservation and management. For each one, the Council is required to specify maximum sustainable yield, optimum yield, annual catch limits (ACLs) and essential fish habitat. These stocks are managed collaboratively by the Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Ecosystem Component Species (ECS) - Stocks included in a Fishery Ecosystem Plan that are monitored to achieve ecosystem management objectives, but do **not** require stock assessments, ACLs or essential fish habitat designations. In early 2019, NMFS issued a rule that reclassified many nearshore MUS as ECS. In the future, these species may be managed as part of local fishery management plans.

MUS and ECS lists for the Pacific Islands Region:
<https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2023-02/20230210-MUS-ECS-consolidated-lists-for-all-FEPs.pdf>.



Top: Kona crab is an example of a Hawai'i MUS with an ACL of 30,802 pounds. Photo: NMFS. Atulai (bigeye scad) is a commonly caught ECS in the Mariana Archipelago. Photo: JE Randall/iNaturalist.