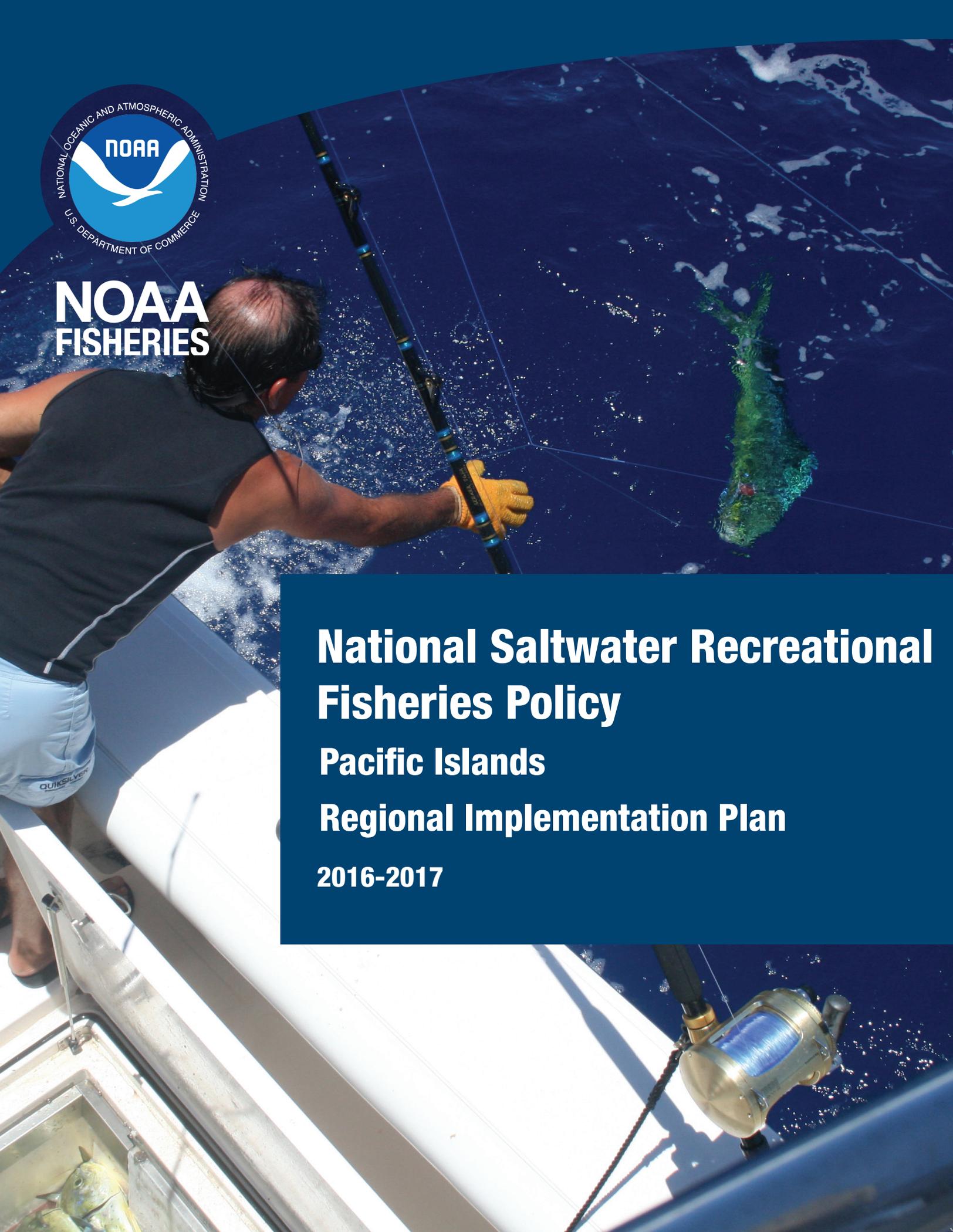




**NOAA
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A high-angle photograph of a fisherman on a white boat. The fisherman is wearing a black sleeveless shirt, white shorts with "QUIKSILVER" written on the back, and yellow gloves. He is leaning over the side of the boat, holding a black fishing rod. A fishing net is being cast into the dark blue ocean. The net is partially submerged, and a large green fish is visible inside it. In the bottom left corner, a white cooler is visible, containing several yellow fish. In the bottom right corner, a fishing reel with a blue spool is visible. The background is a vast expanse of deep blue water under a clear sky.

**National Saltwater Recreational
Fisheries Policy
Pacific Islands
Regional Implementation Plan
2016-2017**

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National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy

Pacific Islands

Regional Implementation Plan

2016-2017

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service**



**NOAA
FISHERIES**



Foreward

We are pleased to share with you the Pacific Islands Regional Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Implementation Plan for 2016-2017. The Plan is a collaborative and ongoing effort between NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC), recreational and non-commercial fishing advisory bodies, and key stakeholders from our recreational and non-commercial Pacific Islands fishing communities to apply the guiding principles of the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy.

In August 2012, government and private sector representatives with diverse fishery backgrounds from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, and Hawai'i participated in a summit held in Honolulu to discuss regional recreational and non-commercial saltwater fishery issues. The 2012 summit was followed by additional regional advisory body meetings, workshops, public forums and summits held in 2013 and 2014, each focused on maintaining saltwater recreational and non-commercial fishing as a cultural cornerstone and an important economic driver of Pacific Islands fishing communities. The information gathered and outcomes produced by these efforts are incorporated in the 2016-2017 Implementation Plan.

The enclosed Pacific Islands Regional Implementation Plan encompasses recreational and other non-commercial fisheries in American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and Hawai'i. The 2016-2017 Plan carries over some projects in the previous Agenda, and includes updates on the status of partially and fully implemented projects.

We hope you find the Plan useful and that it continues to foster a stronger partnership between NMFS and the recreational non-commercial fishing communities.

We look forward, once again, to working with you to fulfill the objectives and fully implement the commitments highlighted in the Plan.

Michael Tosatto	Michael Seki
Pacific Islands Regional	Pacific Islands Fisheries
Administrator	Science Center Director

PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The Pacific Islands Region encompasses the largest geographical management area in the federal fishery management system, including all or part of three Pacific archipelagos (Hawai'i, Mariana Islands, and Samoa) and seven widely spaced remote islands and atolls. All are home to diverse ecosystems and cultures where fishing forms an integral part of everyday life.

The Pacific Islands Regional Office and the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center are based in Honolulu, Hawai'i. The Regional Office engages in the management and conservation of marine resources through input from the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and its membership from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, Hawai'i, the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission, and the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. Fishery management plans are developed by the Council for 46 fish stocks, or stock complexes, with some of these stock complexes (i.e., coral reef fish) potentially containing hundreds of species. The Regional Office maintains field offices and support staff in American Samoa, the CNMI, and Guam.

The Science Center is responsible for research and monitoring in the region with laboratories in Honolulu and data collection staff in each of the territories. The Center conducts a wide range of activities, including research on coral reef systems, fisheries oceanography, fisheries biology, stock assessment, protected species, fisheries monitoring, and socioeconomics.

Recreational and non-commercial fishing in the Pacific Islands region encompasses a wide range of motivations that include subsistence and traditional fisheries where marine resources are harvested for non-profit distribution within fishing communities (customary exchange), or to defray expenses to allow the continuation of fishing activities. The region also has well-established and developing for-hire fishing opportunities (e.g., deep-sea charter boats, guided reef fishing, and eco-tourism).

The following is a brief description of the Pacific Islands Region:

- **Habitat** – Marine habitats include coastal mangrove and fringing reefs, coral atolls, seamounts, isolated reefs, and coastal and deep-slope habitats. The region is generally comprised of high volcanic islands and shallow atolls with no continental shelf. Fringing reefs drop off to abyssal depths close to shore, providing fishing access to a variety of pelagic species.
- **Species and fisheries** – Troll, handline, and pole fisheries target tuna, billfish, mahimahi, and wahoo, or concentrate on coastal pelagic species like big-eyed and mackerel scads, or on the shallow-water snapper/grouper/emperor complexes, particularly in the tropical Pacific areas. Non-commercial and subsistence harvest of a wide variety of coral reef fish and crustaceans employs a variety of gear types and methods. Spearfishing, reef gleaning, and deepwater bottomfishing for a variety of snapper species are also important activities.

- **Data collection** – Non-commercial fishery data collection is accomplished through sub-regional efforts with infrastructure and personnel support provided by the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, CNMI Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources, and Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources, with support from the Science Center and the NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, specifically through the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and the Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network (WPacFIN). Data collection in American Samoa, CNMI, and Guam is a combination of boat- and shore-based roving and access point surveys of commercial and non-commercial fishermen. The Hawai'i Marine Recreational Fishing Survey, administered by MRIP, targets non-commercial fishermen. Episodic socioeconomic surveys of the non-commercial fishing community allow for a better understanding of the economic significance and social and cultural values associated with non-commercial fishing in the Pacific Islands Region.



SETTING THE STAGE

Recreational and non-commercial fishery interests in the Pacific Islands Region are represented through working groups organized by the Regional Office and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council. The initial Saltwater Recreational Fishing Action Agenda (2011) was developed by the Regional Office and the Science Center with input from the recreational and non-commercial fishing communities. Two important objectives listed in the Action Agenda were accomplished early on: completion of a regional recreational fishing summit meeting, and the hiring a full-time recreational fisheries specialist for the region.

The Pacific Islands Recreational (Non-Commercial) Fishing Summit was held in August 2012 in Honolulu. This meeting gathered 28 participants with diverse fishery backgrounds from American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, and the main islands of Hawai'i to deliberate on recreational fisheries issues. A list of project proposals and suggestions for improving recreational and non-commercial fisheries was developed for NOAA Fisheries for further consideration.

The Recreational and Non-Commercial Fisheries Roundtable meeting held in early 2013 focused on issues of concern in the region and provided recommendations and priorities that were merged with the issues and recommendations reported by the Region's Recreational Fishing Working Group (RFWG) in 2014 to inform the development of the 2016-2017 Saltwater Recreational Fishing Implementation Plan. Stakeholders shared many of the same issues across the region despite the diversity of cultures and fisheries represented. They included:

- **Loss of fishing access** – Fishing opportunities have been lost due to the establishment or expansion of federal sanctuaries, marine national monuments, and marine protected areas (MPAs), as well as reduced shoreline access due to private ownership, coastal development, and military use.
- **Protected species issues** – Fishermen expressed interest over depredation of catch by marine mammals and sharks and potential restrictive management to curtail protected species interactions despite low observation rates.
- **Infrastructure** – Inadequate, damaged, or poorly maintained harbors, boat ramps, restrooms, parking, etc. were noted as a concern to fishery development and human safety in all areas.
- **Conflicts with newly arrived or immigrant fishing communities** – All four island areas noted increasing conflicts between local or long-established fishing communities and non-indigenous fishermen who may not be familiar with local fishing traditions, culture, or regulations.

- **Data collection and involvement in scientific studies** – Fishermen support improving quality and timeliness of studies and want to provide their practical experience and knowledge in designing future studies.
- **Angler registry** – Although the difficulty in obtaining non-commercial catch, effort, and economic data due to the lack of recreational fishing licenses is recognized, general support for such a system is lacking. Better methods to obtain this information are needed.
- **Communication and outreach** – Fishermen seek additional transparency and open dialogue with NOAA Fisheries. Increased face-to-face interaction was recommended from all areas of the region.

Departure of the PIRO recreational fisheries specialist in late 2014 slowed progress on the 2014-2015 PIRO Action Agenda. PIRO anticipates bringing a new recreational fisheries specialist on board in 2016. Nevertheless, several important recreational and non-commercial outreach events were completed, and related Science Center projects were either initiated or already well underway. These activities were a part of NOAA's commitment to foster, support, and enhance a broadly accessible and diverse array of sustainable saltwater recreational and non-commercial fisheries for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation.

Significant recent milestones include publication of the results of the national *2013 Marine Recreational Bait and Tackle Economic Survey*, which helped NOAA better understand the economic contributions of this industry to the local and national economy; completion of the *Hawai'i Non-Commercial Fishing Attitudes and Preferences Survey* (in final review within the PIFSC) which was modeled on the National Recreational Saltwater Angler Attitudes and Preferences Survey and fielded during the summer of 2015; completion of *A Survey of Hawai'i's Registered Boaters* in July 2015 to help improve collection of non-commercial fishing; and presentation to the American Fisheries Society Meeting (2015) of preliminary results of pilot surveys testing new approaches to collecting fishing effort and catch from shoreline fishing in Oahu.

Mirroring the NOAA Fisheries National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Implementation Plan for 2015-2018, the Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) will implement the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy through focused actions using its six guiding principles as an organizational framework. The policy goals are supported by the guiding principles, and the specific actions identified in the 2016-2017 Pacific Islands Region Recreational and Non-Commercial Implementation Plan support and link to one or more of the principles. In short, this document also focuses on tangible actions to advance the six guiding principles. This format facilitates tracking and evaluating implementation progress. Successfully implementing the actions identified in this plan will move the agency incrementally and strategically closer to the policy's overall vision and goals. The six guiding principles are:

1. Support ecosystem conservation and enhancement.
2. Promote public access to quality recreational fishing opportunities.
3. Coordinate with state and federal management entities.
4. Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, and environmental challenges.

5. Provide scientifically sound and trusted social, cultural, economic, and ecological information.
6. Communicate and engage with the recreational fishing public.

Guided by input from fishermen, the general public, management partners, Regional Office and Science Center staff, the region's Recreational and Non-Commercial fishing Working Group, and the policy development process, this document identifies agency commitments over the next 2 years.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Support ecosystem conservation and enhancement

The Regional Office and the Science Center will promote healthy stocks through collaborative efforts with other NOAA offices, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state and territory agencies through engagement in NOAA's Habitat Blueprint to foster productive fish habitat capable of producing greater quantities of sustainable marine resources for recreational and non-commercial fisheries. NOAA Fisheries will also liaise with local fishing communities to develop cooperative research strategies to minimize interactions with, and depredation from, sharks, sea turtles, marine mammals, and other non-target species. Stakeholder cooperation will also serve to better document interactions and promote further development of best practices and delivery of related outreach efforts.

Ongoing Responsibilities:

- Employ a wide range of approaches to restore, maintain, and build diverse healthy marine ecosystems that are foundational to high-quality recreational and non-commercial fisheries.

Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- Reduce impact of depredation on recreational and non-commercial fisheries by non-target species and minimize impacts to protected species.
- Enhance local abundance of recreational and non-commercial stocks through improvement of rearing and spawning habitats, and minimizing direct impact of fishing gear to coral reef habitat.

Objectives/Strategy	Projects/Deliverables
Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity	
<p><i>Employ a wide range of approaches to restore, maintain, and build diverse healthy marine ecosystems that are foundational to high-quality recreational and non-commercial fisheries.</i></p>	<p>Foster communications between fishermen and other federal, state, and territorial fisheries agencies to assist in the development of research and management priorities and solutions.</p>
Areas of Enhanced Effort	
<p><i>Reduce impact of depredation on recreational and non-commercial fisheries by non-target species and minimize impacts to protected species.</i></p>	<p>Liaise with local fishing communities to develop best practices and cooperative research priorities to reduce interactions with, and/or depredation from, sharks, sea turtles, marine mammals, and other non-target species.</p> <p>Publish best practice fact sheets in first languages on how to reduce interactions and/or depredation with non-target and protected species.</p>
<p><i>Foster local abundance of recreational and non-commercial stocks through improvement of rearing and spawning habitats, and minimizing direct impact of fishing gear to coral reef habitat.</i></p>	<p>The Regional Office and the Science Center will promote healthy stocks through collaborative efforts with other NOAA offices, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and state and territory agencies through engagement in NOAA's Habitat Blueprint to foster productive fish habitat capable of producing greater quantities of sustainable marine resources for recreational and non-commercial fisheries.</p>



Promote public access to quality recreational non-commercial fishing opportunities

Inadequate, damaged, or poorly maintained harbors, boat ramps, restrooms, and parking, and concern for human safety are common issues across the Pacific Islands Region. The Regional Office will collaborate with state and territory agencies to coordinate information collection and compile a report on the status of infrastructure (harbors, boat ramps, aids to navigation, restrooms, parking, lighting, security, etc.), as a first step toward improving public access to quality recreational and non-commercial fishing opportunities. Improvement of fish aggregation device (FAD) efficiency, longevity, and cost-savings of regional FAD programs will also promote broad public access to healthy and sustainable fisheries resources.

Ongoing Responsibilities:

- Continue support of projects promoting the fundamental importance of broad public access to healthy and sustainable fisheries resources by recreational and non-commercial fishermen.

Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- Identify the condition, status, and needs of recreational and non-commercial fishing infrastructure and shoreline access in American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and Hawai'i, with an emphasis on safety.
- Improve fish aggregation device (FAD) programs by promoting FAD efficiency, longevity, and cost savings.

Objectivs/Strategy	Projects/Deliverables
Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity	
<i>Continue support of projects promoting the fundamental importance of broad public access to healthy and sustainable fisheries resources by recreational and non-commercial fishermen.</i>	The Regional Office will collaborate with state and territory agencies to coordinate information collection and compile a report on the status of fishing access infrastructure such as harbors, boat ramps, aids to navigation, restrooms, parking, lighting, security, etc.
Areas of Enhanced Effort	
<i>Identify the condition, status, and needs of recreational and non-commercial fishing infrastructure and shoreline access in American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and Hawai'i with an emphasis on safety.</i>	Coordinate with existing GIS database sources in state and territorial offices, and within NOAA, to document issues of public safety, habitat condition, and changes in access over time. Produce summary, map, or web-based resource material of recreational and non-commercial fishing infrastructure and shoreline access that describes their current conditions in each of the island areas.

Objectivs/Strategy	Projects/Deliverables
<i>Improve fish aggregation device (FAD) programs by promoting FAD efficiency, longevity, and cost savings.</i>	<p>Continue collaboration with the Council, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and territory fishery offices to share information and convene regional FAD workshops on an annual or biennial schedule to review progress and new technologies.</p> <p>Produce a document or web-based resource that describes current FAD conditions in each of the island areas.</p>

Coordinate with state and federal management entities

Fishing access by communities in American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and Hawai'i is impacted by the combined results of federal, state, and territory designation of sanctuaries, marine national monuments, MPAs, and restricted access through military and private lands. NOAA Fisheries recognizes the social and economic impacts of these closures on fishing communities and will develop and support strategies to work with our federal, state, and territory partners to mitigate impacts when planning future actions. Also of concern are the poorly documented conflicts between the indigenous or long-established fishing communities of American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and Hawai'i, and non-indigenous or "newcomer" groups. NOAA Fisheries will coordinate with federal and local management entities to promote equitable fishery participation and minimize friction between non-commercial fishing groups and communities of the Pacific Islands region.

Ongoing Responsibilities:

- Continue to improve fisheries management practices through collaboration and partnership with federal, state, and territory resource management entities.

Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- Improve understanding of community concerns, attitudes, and socio-economic impacts regarding the loss of fishing access and opportunities.
- Reduce conflict and enhance communication among recreational and non-commercial fishing groups.

Objectives/Strategy	Projects/Deliverables
Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity	
<i>Continue to improve fisheries management practices through collaboration and partnership with federal, state, and territory resource management entities.</i>	Provide research support and enhance communication and collaboration efforts between Council, government agencies, NGOs, and recreational and non-commercial fishing groups.
Areas of Enhanced Effort	
<i>Improve understanding of community concerns, attitudes, and socio-economic impacts regarding the loss of fishing access and opportunities.</i>	PIRO/PIFSC will support and collaborate with the Council to document the impact of the loss of fishing opportunities on fishing communities of the Pacific Islands region.

Objectives/Strategy	Projects/Deliverables
<i>Reduce conflict and enhance communication among recreational and non-commercial fishing communities and groups.</i>	<p>Interview local boating cultures and affected fishing communities to better understand traditions and customs.</p> <p>Develop guidelines that highlight local regulations and disseminate outreach materials in appropriate languages to increase awareness and open lines of communication to mitigate conflicts between fishing groups.</p> <p>PIFSC has submitted Preserve America Proposal to document traditions and culture for the Hawai'i bottomfish fishery</p>

Advance innovative solutions to evolving science, management, and environmental challenges

Recreational and non-commercial fishing in the Pacific Islands region encompasses a wide range of motivations involving numerous unique fishing communities, habitat, and fishing practices, spread over a vast area. Promoting best practice techniques for tagging and handling of non-commercial catch to maximize post-release survival, obtaining critical life history data, increasing the spawning stock and number of fish available in the future, and improving catch and effort data collection will contribute to the effective and long-term stewardship of the region's marine resources.

Ongoing Responsibilities:

- Continue to lead and facilitate development of innovative approaches and solutions to evolving stewardship challenges in rapidly changing fishery environments.

Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- Coordinate and promote recreational and non-commercial tagging programs.
- Assist billfish tag and release efforts.
- Promote methods to reduce barotrauma impacts to released bottomfish.
- Encourage anglers to use barbless circle hooks to minimize hooking injury and ease release of unwanted or tagged fish and protected marine species (sea turtles, Hawai'ian monk seals, seabirds, etc.).

Objectives/Strategy	Projects/Deliverables
Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity	
<i>Continue to lead and facilitate development of innovative approaches and solutions to evolving stewardship challenges in rapidly changing fisheries environments.</i>	Promote best practice techniques for tagging and/or handling of non-commercial catch to maximize post-release survival, obtain critical life history data, and increase the spawning stock and number of fish available in the future.

Objectives/Strategy	Projects/Deliverables
Areas of Enhanced Effort	
<i>Coordinate and promote recreational and non-commercial tagging programs.</i>	Several sport fish tagging programs currently exist in the region (i.e., for bonefish, jacks, Pacific threadfin, barracuda), which can confuse fishermen due to variation in reporting procedures, rewards, etc. NOAA Fisheries will assist in a coordinated outreach program to promote best practices in the capture, handling, tagging, data processing, and analyses of recreationally released fish to improve survival, reporting rates, data quality, contribution to science, and information dissemination.
<i>Assist billfish tag and release efforts.</i>	NOAA Fisheries will compile and distribute best available science and best practices on billfish capture, tagging, recovery, and release that emphasizes condition factor to those engaged in volunteer billfish tagging efforts. Coordinate with billfish taggers in the region, facilitate supply of tagging equipment, and provide training, information, and feedback to promote high-quality condition releases.
<i>Promote methods to reduce barotrauma impacts to released bottomfish.</i>	NOAA Fisheries will promote survival of released bottomfish with the use of descending devices and other techniques to minimize barotrauma and injury of released bottomfish species through education and outreach via presentations and the distribution of appropriate material.
<i>Encourage anglers to use barbless circle hooks to minimize hooking injury and ease release of unwanted or tagged fish and protected marine species (sea turtles, Hawai’ian monk seals, seabirds, etc.).</i>	Continue Science Center program to provide barbless circle hooks and educational materials at fishing tournaments, fishing festivals, fishing clubs, and associations in Hawai’i.

Provide scientifically sound and trusted social, cultural, economic, and ecological information

Fishermen support improving the quality and timeliness of studies and want to provide their practical experience and knowledge in designing future studies. The difficulties in obtaining non-commercial catch, effort, and economic data due to the lack of recreational fishing licenses is widely recognized, but general support for such a licensing system is lacking. Better methods to obtain this information are needed. Augmenting and strengthening primary and secondary research projects to update and provide a broader information base on fisheries with strong cultural and non-commercial motivations will also provide a better understanding of the Pacific Islands fishing community attitudes and preferences.

Ongoing Responsibilities:

- Continue Regional Office and Science Center roles in providing best-available science to facilitate informed decision-making and effective stewardship of the Pacific Region’s marine resources.

Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- Design/modify methodology for Hawai'i Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (HMRFS).
- Support Council effort to develop and adopt an MRIP Regional Implementation Plan consistent with, and in fulfillment of, the overarching National Strategic Plan. Identify the universe of recreational and non-commercial boat-based effort in Hawai'i.
- Incorporate local ecological knowledge of recreational/non-commercial fishermen into the management process.
- Obtain current information on the non-commercial fisheries of the Pacific Islands Region.

Objectives/Strategy	Projects/Deliverables
Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity	
<p><i>Continue Regional Office and Science Center roles in providing best-available science to facilitate informed decision-making and effective stewardship of the Pacific Region's marine resources.</i></p>	<p>Improve catch and effort data from Hawai'i recreational and non-commercial fisheries.</p> <p>Obtain current information on the non-commercial fisheries of the Pacific Islands Region.</p> <p>Improve understanding of community concerns, attitudes, and socio-economic impacts regarding the loss of fishing access and opportunities.</p>
Areas of Enhanced Effort	
<p><i>Design/modify methodology for Hawai'i Marine Recreational Fishing Survey.</i></p>	<p>The Science Center will work with MRIP statistical consultants, NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology, Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources, and the Regional Office to develop a data collection design for estimating shore-based effort that is consistent with recommendations resulting from an MRIP review process of the Hawai'i Marine Recreational Fishing Survey.</p>
<p><i>Support Council effort to develop and adopt an MRIP Regional Implementation Plan consistent with, and in fulfillment of, the overarching National Strategic Plan.</i></p>	<p>PIRO, PIFSC, and state and territory partners will collaborate with recreational and non-commercial fisheries stakeholders, and participate in a proposed Council workshop to continue development of an MRIP Regional Implementation Plan.</p>
<p><i>Identify the universe of recreational and non-commercial boat-based effort in Hawai'i.</i></p>	<p>NOAA Fisheries will work with the State of Hawai'i to develop modifications to the state Vessel Registration System (paper and web-based) to identify vessels used for recreational and non-commercial fishing activities. This project will facilitate an annually updated framework for fielding boat-based fishing surveys and outreach.</p>
<p><i>Incorporate local ecological knowledge of recreational and non-commercial fishermen into the management process.</i></p>	<p>The Science Center will incorporate the knowledge and experience of fishermen into the management process and refinement of annual catch limits for data-poor species (particularly for coral reef species complexes where some catch history exists but stock assessments are lacking) through discussions with stock assessment scientists and traditional fishermen.</p>

Objectives/Strategy	Projects/Deliverables
<p><i>Obtain current information on the non-commercial fisheries of the Pacific Islands Region.</i></p>	<p>Continue PIFSC episodic updates of community profiles.</p> <p>Complete update of fishing community profiles for CNMI and Guam. The Science Center will augment and strengthen understanding of the fishing communities of all island areas using primary and secondary research methods to update and provide a broader information base on fisheries with strong cultural and non-commercial motivations.</p>

Communicate and engage with the recreational fishing public

Fishermen across the Pacific Islands Region seek additional transparency and open dialogue with NOAA Fisheries. The agency can demonstrate its commitment to improve the condition, stewardship, and management of recreational and non-commercial fisheries of the Pacific Islands Region with increased face-to-face interactions at public fishery-related events, and regular contributions through various social media. The agency should also promote recognition of outstanding commitment to improving recreational and non-commercial fishing in the Pacific Islands Region to encourage more public participation in the fishery management process.

Ongoing Responsibilities:

- Communicate NOAA's commitment to improve the condition, stewardship, and management of the recreational and non-commercial fisheries of the Pacific Islands Region, and engage the region's fishing communities as an integral part of the regional strategy.

Areas of Enhanced Effort:

- Develop a recreational and non-commercial regional communications plan.
- Foster two-way dialogue and contact between the recreational and non-commercial fishing communities and NOAA Fisheries.
- Demonstrate agency commitment to improve the condition, stewardship, and management of recreational and non-commercial fisheries of the Pacific Islands Region and enhance program planning.
- Recognize outstanding commitment to improving recreational and non-commercial fishing in the Pacific Islands Region.

Objectives/Strategy	Projects/Deliverables
Ongoing Responsibilities/Activity	
<p><i>Communicate NOAA's commitment to improve the condition, stewardship, and management of the recreational and non-commercial fisheries of the Pacific Islands Region, and engage the region's fishing communities as an integral part of the regional strategy.</i></p>	<p>Provide various links and opportunities for dialogue and communication between NOAA Fisheries and the recreational and non-commercial fishing communities of the Pacific Islands Region.</p>
Areas of Enhanced Effort	
<p><i>Develop a recreational and non-commercial regional communications plan.</i></p>	<p>Continue development and implementation of a multimedia plan, including in-person appearances at fishing tournaments/clubs, presentations, website development, conference calls, maintenance of a listserv, video clips, TV fishing shows, publication in fishing magazines, social media, and collaboration with government and NGO outreach programs.</p> <p>Maintain a calendar of recreational and non-commercial related events, and schedule contact with all island areas to maintain a two-way dialogue.</p>
<p><i>Foster two-way dialogue and contact between the recreational and non-commercial fishing communities and NOAA Fisheries.</i></p>	<p>The Regional Office will hold monthly and opportunistic meetings open to the public to discuss topical issues; territories and outer islands can participate via conference line.</p>
<p><i>Demonstrate agency commitment to improve the condition, stewardship, and management of recreational and non-commercial fisheries of the Pacific Islands Region and enhance program planning.</i></p>	<p>The Regional Office will coordinate a roundtable meeting with representation from American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and all islands of Hawai'i on an annual basis to review progress and plan additional activities in support of the Recreational Fisheries Engagement Initiative.</p>
<p><i>Recognize outstanding commitment to improving recreational and non-commercial fishing in the Pacific Islands Region.</i></p>	<p>Develop an award program for contributions that improve recreational and non-commercial fishing in the region.</p>



SUMMARY

The 2016-2017 Pacific Islands Region Saltwater Recreational Fishing Implementation Plan incorporates the information and input provided by the above accomplishments and serves as the framework for NOAA Fisheries to continue its work with the culturally diverse and geographically widespread recreational and non-commercial fishing communities of the region to improve their recreational and non-commercial fisheries. The plan should be considered a living document to be followed, amended, and revised over time with critical input from government partners, non-governmental groups, and the broader Pacific Islands recreational and non-commercial fishing communities.





U.S. Secretary of Commerce
Penny Pritzker

**Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and
Atmosphere**
NOAA Administrator
Kathryn Sullivan, Ph.D.

Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries
Eileen Sobeck

April 2016

www.fisheries.noaa.gov

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910