

The Directors Office

Aloha, we are pleased to welcome you to the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center. The Center's research covers a wide range of scientific issues and topics requiring expertise in many disciplines. Our principal areas of research include coral reef ecosystems; marine ecosystem analysis and oceanography; fisheries biology; bycatch mitigation; fisheries monitoring and socioeconomics; and protected species population monitoring and research. Support programs within the Center ensure success of our science endeavors by providing help in administration and infrastructure, information technology and communications, and scientific information.



Samuel G. Pooley, Ph. D.
Science Director



Michael P. Seki, Ph. D.
Deputy Science Director

We have a diverse and energetic staff from a broad range of scientific and technical specialties. We engage in research expeditions year-around throughout the central and western Pacific, including American Samoa, Hawaii, the Mariana Archipelago, and remote island areas in the mid-Pacific, and maintain extensive temporary field camps at remote islands and atolls in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. We are committed to the highest standards of scientific research and timely conservation and management advice.

We welcome your comments and thank you for your support.

Offices and Facilities

The Center is located at five sites in Honolulu:



Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC)

The main office complex is located on Dole Street, adjacent to the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus.



Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO)

Some PIFSC marine mammal and coral reef researchers are located in offices adjoining the PIRO headquarters on Kapiolani Blvd in downtown Honolulu.



Aiea Heights Research Facility

A research facility, with offices and a wet laboratory supporting fish biology work, is leased in Aiea near Pearl Harbor.



Kewalo Research Facility

A seawater research facility is located at Kewalo Basin on the Honolulu waterfront enabling research on live, large pelagic fishes, monk seals, and sea turtles.



Ford Island Facility

Plans for a NOAA campus on Ford Island are underway. Expected occupancy is 2013.



Oscar Elton Sette

This NOAA ship is home-ported at Ford Island in Honolulu. It is the primary research vessel supporting the Science Center's extensive field activities.

2009

NOAA Fisheries Service Honolulu, Hawaii



NOAA Fisheries Service
Pacific Islands Region
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
2570 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

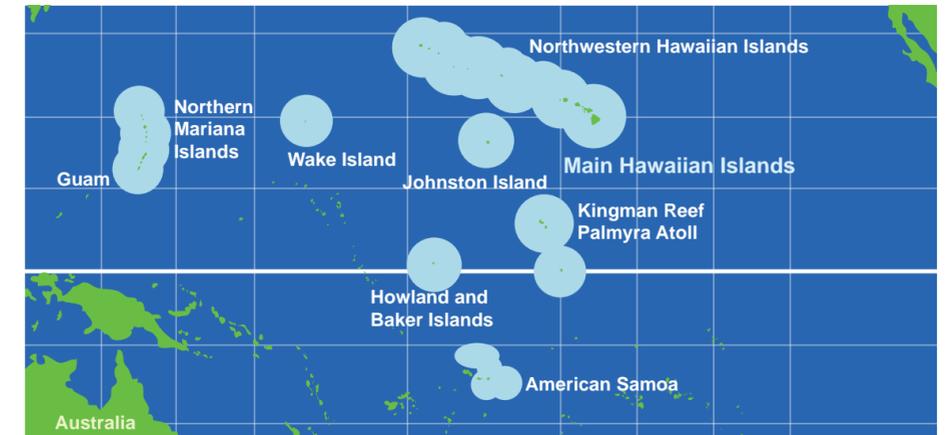
Visit our website for more information and to view copies of publications and our Annual Report 2008
www.pifsc.noaa.gov

History

The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) is one of six NOAA Fisheries Science Centers. It was established in 2003 with the creation of the Pacific Islands Region (PIR) within NOAA Fisheries, and is headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Known previously as the Honolulu Laboratory, PIFSC was established as an independent science center of the National Marine Fisheries Service in 2003. The Center was founded on 55 years of federal marine fisheries research dating back to the founding of the Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigations in 1948.

In almost 6 decades of scientific studies, Center staff and their predecessors have engaged in oceanographic research, fishery resource exploration, fisheries development, fisheries biology and ecology, and protected species recovery research and conservation throughout the Pacific and as far away as the Indian Ocean. More recently, the Center has established extensive programs in coral reef ecology through collaboration with NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program.



Geographic Area of Responsibility

Bounded by the Hawaiian Archipelago in the north, American Samoa and U. S. Pacific Remote Island Areas in the south, and the Mariana Archipelago in the west, the Pacific Islands region encompasses the largest geographical area within NOAA Fisheries' jurisdiction. The U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) within the Region includes more than 1.7 million square nautical miles of ocean, roughly equal to the total EEZ of the continental United States and Alaska. PIFSC is also responsible for research on living marine resources in the high-seas areas of the central and western Pacific.



Mission

The Center's mission is to conduct timely, high quality applied science—monitoring, reporting, and analysis—to support conservation and management of living marine resources in the central and western Pacific Ocean.

The Center is responsible for research on Federally managed marine fisheries, protected species such as the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, and ecosystems in the entire western and central Pacific Ocean, in both insular (near island) habitats and pelagic (open ocean) environments.

Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

PIFSC research currently focuses on several areas of high priority:

- Identifying and understanding the effects of ecosystem linkages and environmental processes on fish stocks, protected species, and other marine life and developing the scientific basis for ecosystem-oriented management
- Monitoring and reducing fishery interactions with protected species
- Monitoring the status of Hawaiian monk seals and finding ways to increase their survival and population sustainability
- Assessing the populations of deepwater snappers, groupers and jacks (bottomfish) in the main Hawaiian Islands
- Monitoring the status of marine turtle populations in the Pacific
- Assessing cetacean populations and the effects of human activity on them
- Mitigating fisheries bycatch, particularly in multinational pelagic longline fisheries
- Assessing the stocks of tunas, billfishes, sharks, and ecologically related pelagic species and providing scientific advice in support of international and domestic management of fisheries that catch these species
- Researching the use of barbless hooks by recreational fishers to reduce post-release fish mortality and risks of injury to protected species
- Expanding the understanding of socioeconomic and cultural aspects of living marine resource use and appreciation throughout the region
- Assessing the physical and biological structure, dynamics, and health of coral reef ecosystems
- Monitoring and removing derelict fishing gear and other marine debris from reefs and nearshore waters of the Hawaiian Archipelago
- Extending our fisheries and ecosystems monitoring and research to the waters of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands in cooperation with these jurisdictions



Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center FY 2008

Almost all of the Science Center's budget supports the NOAA ecosystems "mission," and its activities generally fall within the Ecosystems Observation Program and Corals Program.

In addition to federal employees, Center programs include a large number of scientists and seasonal technical staff employed by the University of Hawaii (UH) Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (JIMAR) and by private contractors.

Personnel		Budget by NOAA Program		\$M	%
Federal	92	Corals	6.2	25	
JIMAR	111	Ecosystem Observation	16.9	68	
Other	15	Protected Species	1.6	7	
Total	218	Total	\$24.7		

Directors Office

- Budget, Planning, and Program Coordination
- Outreach and Public Affairs

Operations, Management, and Information Programs (OMI)

- Administrative Services
- Information Technology Services
- Scientific Information Services

Notable Milestones

- Completed transfer of the InPort Metadata Catalog System to the NOAA Fisheries Service Office of Science and Technology.
- Completed upgrade of the Longline Observer Data System for Hawaii and American Samoa.
- Collaborated with scientists at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to update stock assessment of bigeye tuna in the western central Pacific Ocean.
- Convened working group meetings of the International Scientific Committee on Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the North Pacific Ocean to advance stock assessment of striped marlin and swordfish in the North Pacific.
- Developed a main Hawaii Islands bottomfish risk analysis model to estimate the probability of overfishing given a specified total allowable catch.
- Published research describing expansion low productivity regions in subtropical gyres linked to ocean warming.
- Published the Hawaii Archipelago Marine Ecosystem Research (HAMER) Plan, describing a multiagency research approach to ecosystem research in the Hawaiian Archipelago.
- Completed research report documenting traditional knowledge of marine use and resource management in American Samoa.
- Completed final report on case studies of successful bycatch reduction strategies in the Hawaii-based longline fleet.
- Completed report of multiyear trends in strandings of marine turtles in the Hawaiian Islands.
- Completed annual marine debris removal operations in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

PIFSC Divisions

Division Descriptions



Coral Reef Ecosystem Division (CRED)

- Benthic Habitat Mapping Program
- Data Management and Integration Program
- Ecosystem Monitoring and Analysis Research Program
- Marine Debris Program
- Oceanography and Water Quality Program

The Coral Reef Ecosystem Division conducts extensive research to support management and conservation of coral reef ecosystems in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands.



Fisheries Monitoring and Socioeconomics Division (FMSSD)

- Economics Program
- Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Program
- Human Dimensions Research Program
- Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network

The Fisheries Monitoring and Socioeconomics Division specializes in the collection, management, and analysis of data from U.S. fisheries in the Pacific Islands Region.



Fishery Biology and Stock Assessment Division (FBSAD)

- Fishery Biology and Bycatch Program
- Life History Program
- Stock Assessment Program

The Fishery Biology and Stock Assessment Division conducts fundamental biological and ecological research on fish, sea turtles, and crustaceans caught in federally managed fisheries to enable improved understanding of the mechanisms that influence their distribution and abundance.



Ecosystems and Oceanography Division (EOD)

- Insular Ecosystems Program
- Pelagic Ecosystems and Oceanography Program

The Ecosystems and Oceanography Division conducts research to advance our understanding of the structure and dynamics of Pacific basin marine ecosystems.



Protected Species Division (PSD)

- Cetacean Research Program
- Marine Turtle Assessment Program
- Marine Turtle Research Program
- Monk Seal Research Program

The Protected Species Division conducts research supporting the recovery and sustainability of marine mammals (including cetaceans) and sea turtles in the Pacific Islands Region.