

## Pacific Islands Region MRIP Fact Sheet



### NOAA FISHERIES

**NOAA Fisheries** is an agency within the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social and environmental needs. The NOAA Fisheries Service provides world class science and stewardship.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Program: Gordon Colvin**  
gordon.colvin@noaa.gov  
(240) 357-4524

**Outreach: Leah Sharpe**  
leah.sharpe@noaa.gov  
(301) 427-8205



[www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov](http://www.CountMyFish.noaa.gov)

### Marine Recreational Information Program

The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is the new way NOAA Fisheries is collecting, analyzing and reporting recreational fishing data. The program brings scientists, managers, fishermen, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders together to evaluate the way we've done things in the past and constantly work toward more reliable and trusted data.

A 2006 independent review of NOAA Fisheries data collection methods serves as the blueprint for improvements under MRIP and priorities for moving forward. These are evaluated on an ongoing basis and presented annually in MRIP Implementation Plan updates. Plan updates are available at [www.countmyfish.noaa.gov](http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov). Milestones to date have included:

- Creation of the National Saltwater Angler Registry and State/Territory Exemption Program (NSAR). Under NSAR, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands are designated as Exempted Territories, because the territories participate in a regional survey of recreational fishing catch. Additionally, anglers and for-hire fishing vessels that are licensed by an Exempted State or Territory are not required to register with NOAA. Hawaii is not an Exempted State, which means all recreational saltwater anglers who fish in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone off Hawaii must register with NSAR.
- Completion of a comprehensive, online, interactive register of all recreational fishing sites from Maine to Louisiana, as well as Hawaii and Puerto Rico. This is the first implementation step in our complete overhaul of angler catch surveys.

### Implementation in the Pacific Islands Region

MRIP is a series of regionally-based data collection programs, all adhering to a set of rigorous national standards. We are working alongside the Pacific Islands Science Center and Regional Office to implement improvements to the way data is collected and reported. Key MRIP projects and activities in the Pacific Islands include:

- Document and evaluate current survey methods in Hawaii, which has now been completed.
- Define data needs and make initial choices to improve survey designs in Hawaii based on the results of the completed MRIP projects, recommendations from a panel of expert consultants, and a 2012 regional workshop.
- Evaluate these choices through a series of pilot projects through 2014.
- Hold additional workshops with the regional partners (Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, State of Hawaii, NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office and Science Center) to decide on future survey implementation in Hawaii.

# MRIP-funded Projects in the Pacific Islands Region



## NOAA FISHERIES

The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is the new way NOAA Fisheries is counting recreational catch.

MRIP is about:

- Getting better numbers through better science and statistics.
- Building greater confidence by involving anglers and others in every step of the process.
- Providing in-depth public access so people can see for themselves what we're doing, why we're doing it, and help guide our course.

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### Ongoing Projects

- **Developing and implementing specialized surveys to document fishing methods and events not adequately addressed by the existing creel survey** will design and conduct a complementary survey to capture pulse/rare event fishery data and fishing methods that are rarely encountered in the current creel survey. Assessing if these methods and fisheries are adequately represented in current data collection designs is a first step in determining if estimates for certain species are accurate.
- **Pilot surveys of shoreline fishing effort for Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey** is designing and testing a modified creel survey and a mail survey to assess fishing effort on Oahu. The new methods will be conducted simultaneously with the current methods to assess accuracy and efficiency.
- **Pilot surveys at unsampled ports and shoreline to calibrate adjustment factors in the expansion of catch, effort and CPUE from the existing creel survey in Guam** aims to quantify effort and catch in areas and periods not currently covered by the existing creel survey. Quantifying these parameters can provide a more informed judgment on whether these areas are significant in terms of fishery landing and whether the current estimates are underestimated.
- **Hawaii Regional Survey Pilot Project: Testing a Mail Survey to Obtain Effort and Other Data from Boat-based Noncommercial Fishermen in Hawaii** is examining the efficiency of a mail survey of registered boat owners, in terms of response rates and the accuracy of the data it collects, to obtain a better estimate of fishing activity and compile basic information about private boat owners and users in Hawaii.



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### Completed Projects

- **Design and test effort surveys for shoreline fishing in Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (HMRFS)** designed and tested a survey approach that follows the recommendations from the 2012 Workshop.
- **Review of the Current Sampling and Estimation Methods of the Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey**, completed by a team of expert consultants, identifies opportunities and makes recommendations to improve the angler catch survey and the Coastal Household Telephone Survey in Hawaii.
- **Hawaii For-Hire Pilot Study to Incorporate Validation Procedures in the Commercial Marine License Reporting Program** documented the for-hire sector's level of compliance with the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources (HDAR) reporting system and identified a series of recommended changes to improve the system.
- **Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey** was reviewed by independent consultants and federal and state partners to identify gaps and areas of improvement in the current design.
- **Pilot Study to Improve the Shoreside Sampling Methods in Hawaii** recommended HMRFS sampling and data management procedures. The project team also suggested approaches to apply the improved catch estimation method to historic HMRFS catch estimates.

*For more information about these MRIP-funded projects and others, please visit [www.countmyfish.noaa.gov](http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov).*

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