

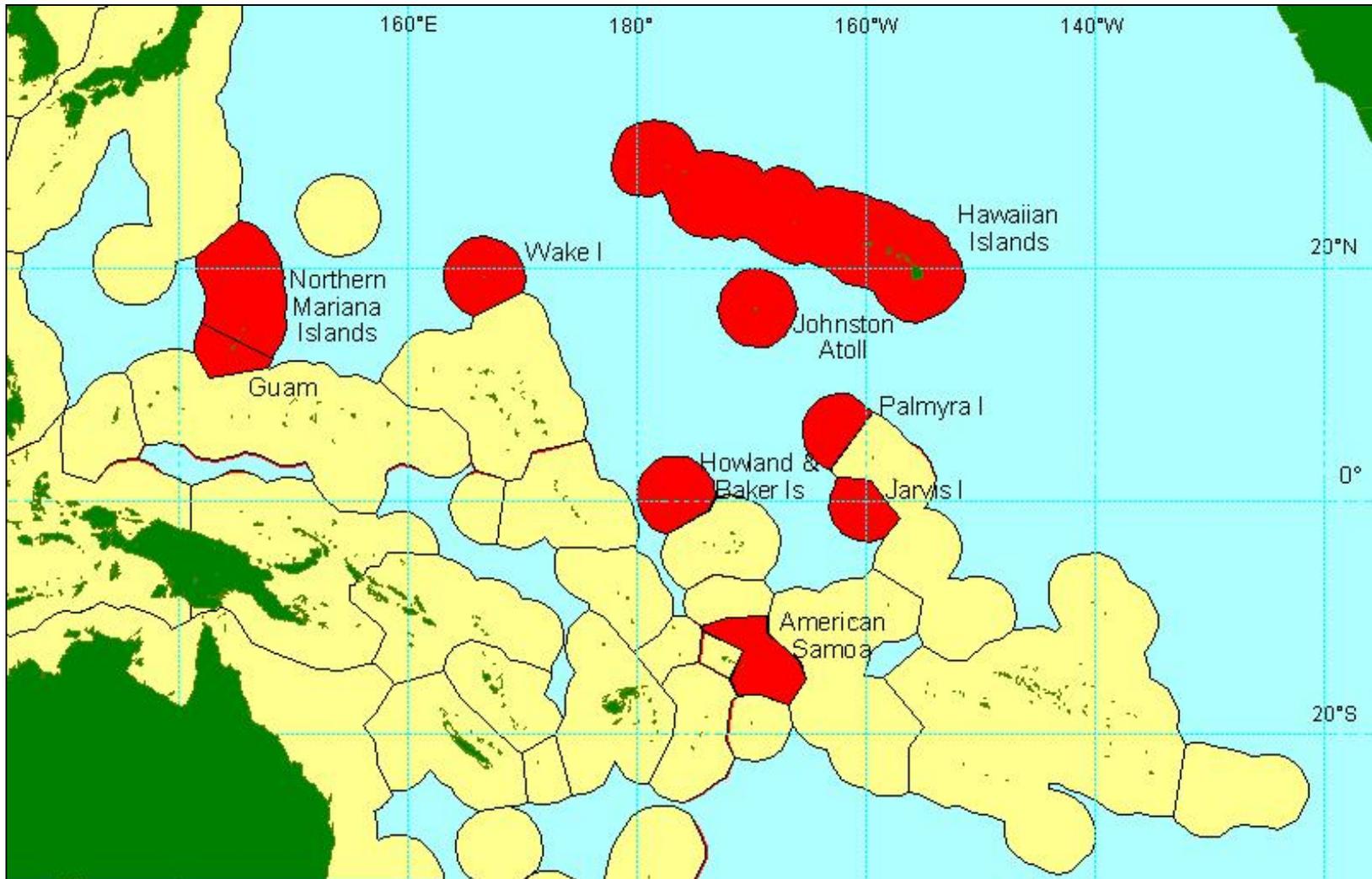
Western Pacific Regional Management Council

Top Three Priorities

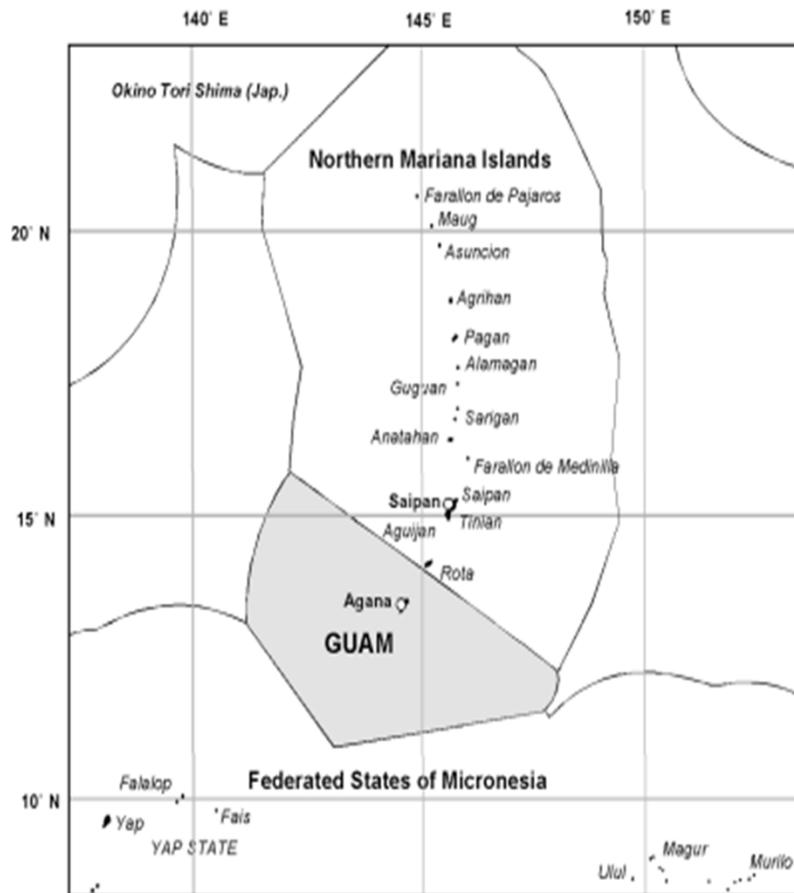
1. Fisheries Development
2. Stock Assessments
3. Comprehensive ACLs



Western Pacific Region



The Mariana Archipelago: greatly underutilized

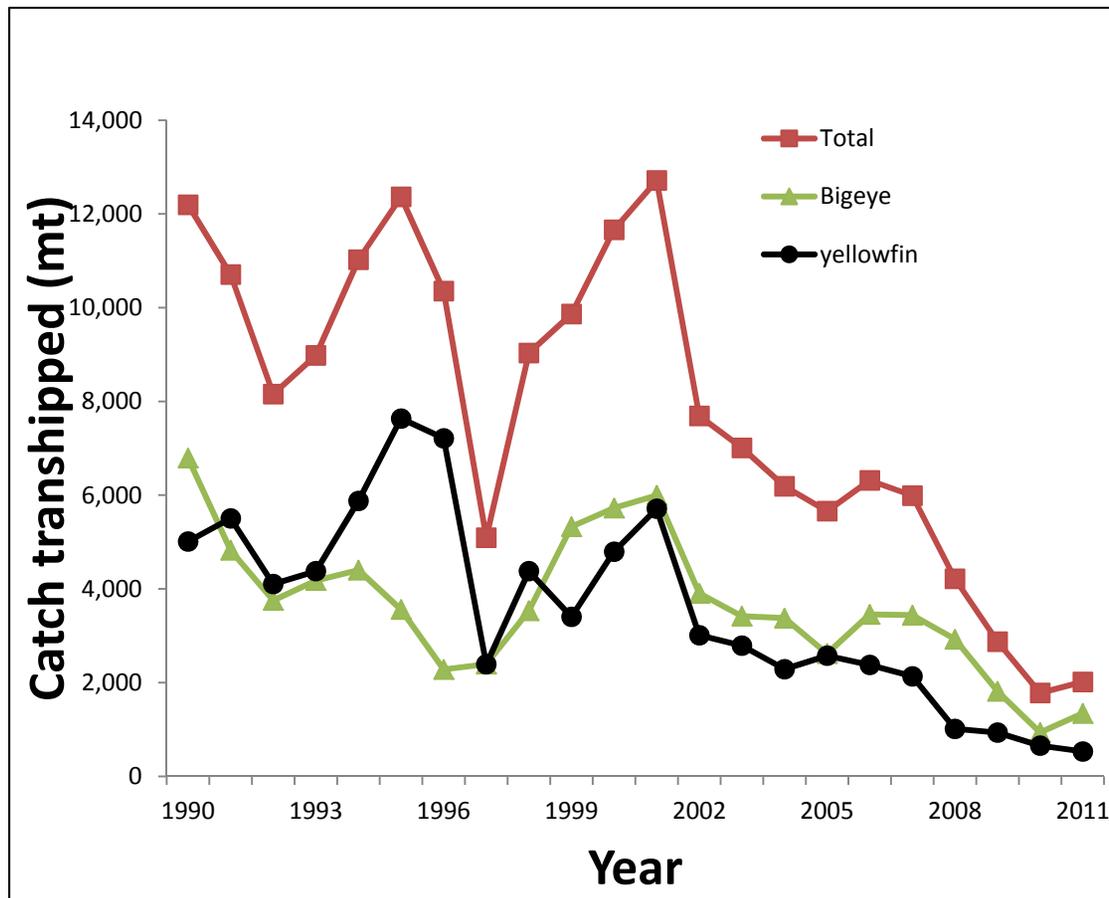


- 181,000 sq nm of ocean, 12% of WPR
- Total catch approx 425 mt (pelagic, bottomfish, reef)
- Potential skipjack 18,000 mt
- Potential bottomfish 680 mt
- De-facto shark sanctuary

CNMI longline industry

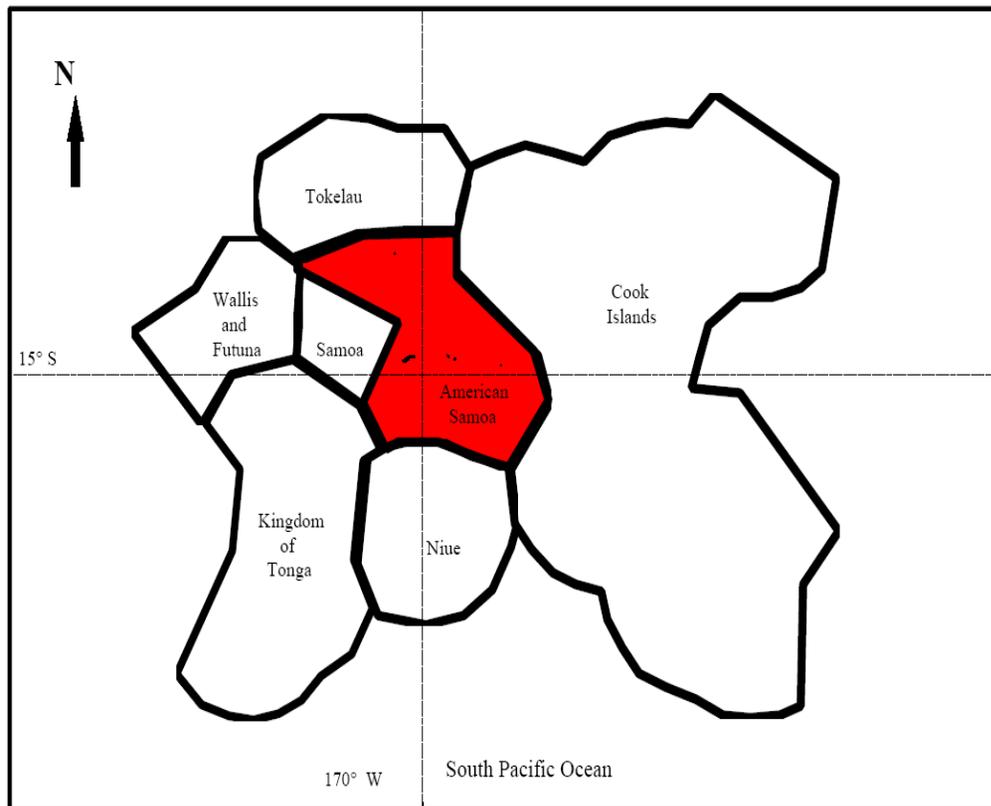
- 2 failed attempts to develop a domestic longline fishery
- Due to poor landing and post-harvest infrastructure
- Limited experience with longline fishing conditions in the waters around CNMI
- **Potential for albacore and swordfish resources in addition to tropical tunas (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye)**

Guam's longline transshipment



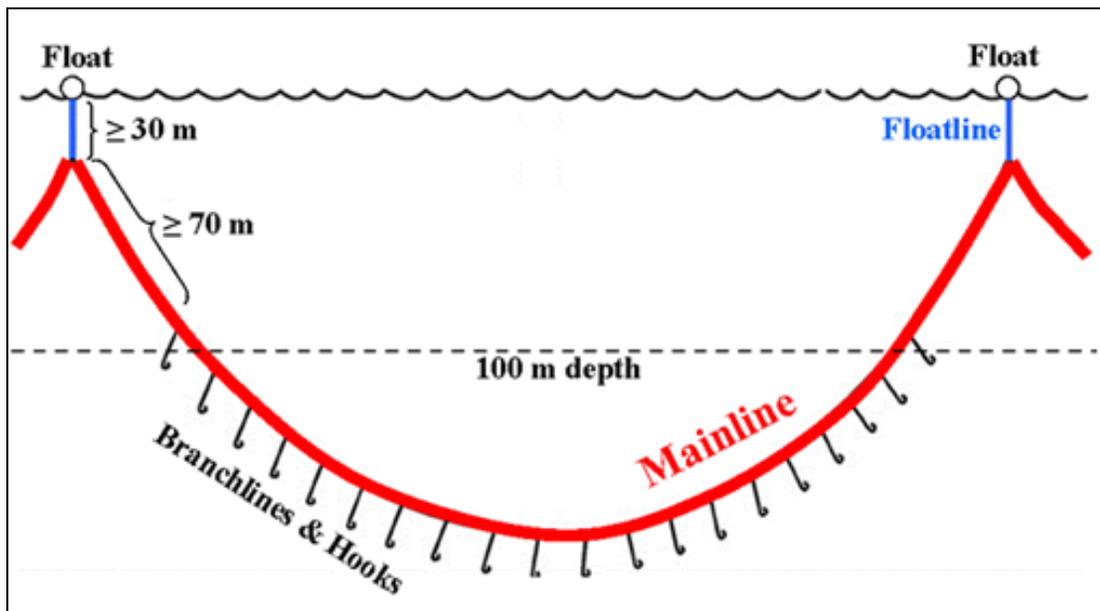
- Guam had a large transshipment industry.
- Japanese and Taiwanese vessels transshipped tunas and billfish to Japan
- Industry in decline, unlikely to survive
- **Potential for domestic longline fishery?**

American Samoa longline fishery



- Fishing mostly in limited US EEZ around American Samoa
- Fishery focused on albacore for canning in Pago Pago
- Neighboring countries developing longline fisheries
 - better access to overseas markets;
 - landing albacore into Pago
- **Am. Samoa longline fishery needs to diversify through improved:**
 - **access to overseas markets;**
 - **dock and processing infrastructure in Am. Samoa**

Am. Samoa longline diversification



- Am. Samoa longline fishery currently can only fish deep for cannery albacore
- Fishery vulnerable to fluctuations in albacore price
- **Fishery needs to diversify, especially shallow-setting for swordfish, which will require FEP amendment**

Come back, all is forgiven!



- Am. Samoa longline fishery started by artisanal pioneers
- This segment has virtually disappeared
- Management regime supports entry of American Samoans into small-scale fishery and transition into larger conventional longline vessels
- Council engaged in developing wharf facility to cater for alia fleet
- **Fishermen need credit and investment, NMFS Vessel Loan program and new initiatives such as micro-loans**

Stock Assessments

- Majority of Council ACLs are now based on aggregate catch histories for various fish families
- Reef fish biomass data is available that can be used with catch data to generate MSYs and ACLs using simple models
- SSC to evaluate simple models using catch, biomass, natural mortality, carrying capacity and maximum population growth.
- **Objective -- Get away ACLs based purely on catch, which may have no connection to fish abundance and productivity**
- **However, ad-hoc methods do not replace stock assessments**

Comprehensive ACLs

- ACLs estimated across the entire stock, but apply only to federal portion (3-200 nm) of stock range
- Exceeding ACLs is inconsequential when most of the resource is in State/Territory waters
- One example of successful Joint Federal/State ACL management -- MHI bottomfish
- **Much work needed to manage by ACLs:**
 - **Need stock assessments**
 - **Catch monitoring programs**
 - **State/Territories comfortable with joint management**