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 socioeconomic; 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.

We have a diverse and energetic staff from a broad range of scientific and technical specialties. We engage in research expeditions year-round 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.

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.

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.

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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 desert-dwelling, 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 barrier hooks by recreational fisheries 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 Marianas Islands in cooperation with these jurisdictions

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Full Time Equivalent (FTE)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JIMAR</td>
<td>92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>218</td>
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</table>

### Budget by NOAA Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Budget ($)</th>
<th>%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coral Research Program</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecosystem Observation Program</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protected Species Program</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$24.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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### 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 Samoas
- Collaborated with scientists at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to update stock assessment of byeye 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 management 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 Samoas
- 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
- Completed research report documenting traditional knowledge of marine use and resource management in American Samoas
- Completed final report on case studies of successful bycatch reduction strategies in the Hawaii-based longline fleet
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### 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

### Fisheries Monitoring and Stock Assessment Division (FBSAD)

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

### Fishery Biology and Stock Assessment Division (FBSAD)

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

### Ecosystems and Oceanography Division (EOD)

- Insular Ecosystems Program
- Pelagic Ecosystems and Oceanography Program

### Protected Species Division (PSD)

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

### Division Descriptions

- The Coral Reef Ecosystem Division conducts extensive research to support management and conservation of coral reef ecosystems in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands.
- The Fisheries Monitoring and Stock Assessment Division specializes in the collection, management, and analysis of data from U.S. fisheries in the Pacific Islands Region.
- 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.
- The Ecosystems and Oceanography Division conducts research to advance our understanding of the structure and dynamics of Pacific basin marine ecosystems.
- The Protected Species Division conducts research supporting the recovery and sustainability of marine mammals (including cetaceans) and sea turtles in the Pacific Islands Region.