

# Western Pacific Fishery Management Council

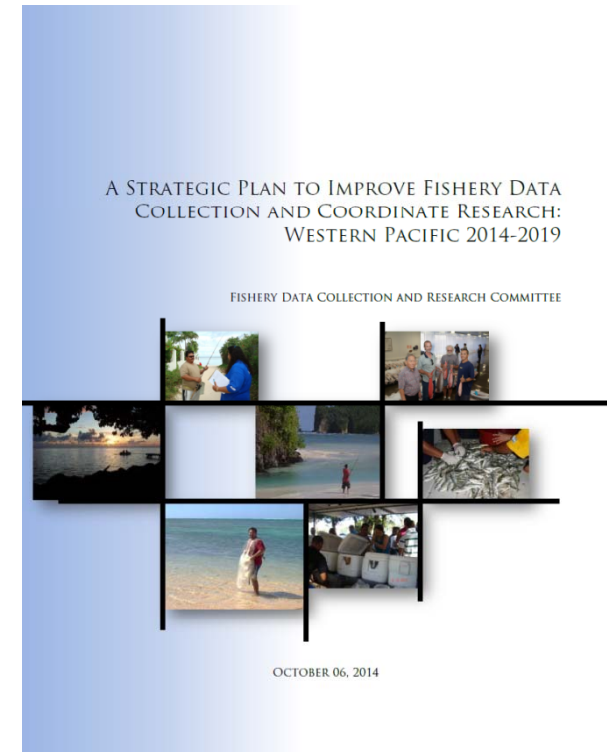
## Top 3 Priorities

- Funding to address data limited stocks
- Pelagics/International Fisheries Management
- Comprehensive EISs for Fishery Ecosystem Plans



# Data-limited stocks

- WP Council formed the **Fishery Data Collection and Research Committee**
- Goal: improve data limited situation and coordinate regional research
  - FDCRC Regional Strategic Plan
- 2015 RFPs (i.e. FIS/FIN, SK) provided a jumpstart to the process
- NEED: stable source of funding (Congressional line item or Council base funds)
- Similar to the FIN line item from NMFS (but not through WPacFIN!)



# Pelagic/International Fisheries Management

## 1. US tuna fisheries are losing in the Pacific

- Lower bigeye quotas for Hawaii longline fishery, while PS bigeye catches rise
- Removal of important Kiribati waters for US distant water purse seine fleet
- Expansion of Pacific Remote Island Marine National Monument
- US vessels are being outcompeted by less monitored, subsidized foreign fleets

## 2. NMFS is failing to lead in the WCPFC

- repeated requests from Council for NMFS to introduce spatial management measures to address bigeye overfishing
- Council is holding workshops to address major Intl management issues

## 3. Divergent reference points for stocks, e.g. FEP reference points versus RFMOs reference points, which takes precedence?



# Evaluating Hawaii Longline Catch Shares

- The Hawaii longline is subject to internationally established quotas in the WCPO and EPO
- More longline vessels have entered the Hawaii fishery in recent years, and vessels are deploying more gear (Race to the fish?)
- The Council will be working with the Hawaii longline industry and others to consider fishery rationalization options.
  - This initiative will require funding and NMFS support



# WP Council 5-Yr Program Priorities

- 1) Conduct reviews of Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs)
- 2) Integrate ecosystem information into the FEPs
- 3) Support monitoring, data collection and research
- 4) Support capacity building and fishery development
- 5) Support US fisheries on the international level related to highly migratory species (HMS) management, trade and compliance



# FEP REVIEW SCHEDULE

FEP Review Task	Sept 2014	Oct 2014	Nov 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015
Contract – FEP Technical Review							
Contract – External Review – Interest Parties							
Council Family Review and Recommendations							
Mariana Archipelago							
American Samoa Archipelago							
Hawaii Archipelago							
118 <sup>th</sup> SSC Meeting							
Review and approve Draft Plan outcomes - 162 <sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting							

## Next Steps:

- Prepare FEP and regulatory amendments as appropriate
- Prepare comprehensive EISs for to support FEP changes
- **REQUIRE: Additional NEPA funds to support comprehensive EISs**