

NOAA FISHERIES

Fisheries Information System Program

What is FIS?

The Fisheries Information System program is a state-regional-federal partnership that supports sound, science-based fisheries management. We do so by fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration and funding innovative projects to improve the quality of fisheries-dependent data.

A Program Management Team, composed of members from each region, guides the work of FIS. The Pacific Islands representative is:

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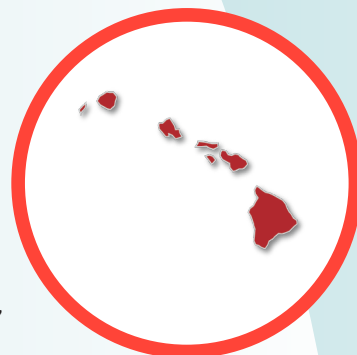
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fisheries.noaa.gov/national/commercial-fishing/fisheries-information-system-program

FIS in the Pacific Islands

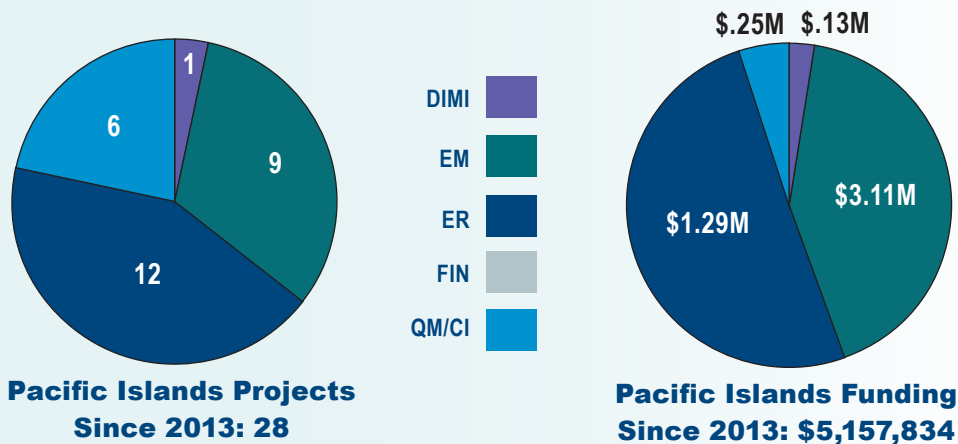
A Regionally Driven Collaboration

While fisheries-dependent data collection, reporting, analysis, and management are inherently regional functions, there are numerous benefits to collaborating nationally and among regions. The Fisheries Information System program (FIS) brings together representatives from regional offices, science centers, fishery information networks, commissions, and state agencies to spark innovation, promote information-sharing, reduce redundancy, and help coordinate priority-setting.



Along with convening cross-disciplinary communities of practice, a key FIS initiative is an annual competitive request for proposal process, funded in collaboration with the National Observer Program's Electronic Technologies program and the National Catch Share Program, to support fishery-dependent data projects. In the Pacific Islands, this funding has supported projects conducted by the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, the Pacific Islands Regional Office, the Western Pacific Fisheries Information Network, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Since 2013, FIS has funded more than 260 projects in the areas of data improvements, modernization, and integration (DIMI); electronic monitoring pre-implementation and implementation (EM); electronic reporting pre-implementation and implementation (ER); fishery information network development (FIN); and quality management and continuous improvement (QM/CI). Here is the breakdown for projects in the Pacific Islands:



Making an Impact

FIS support is making a significant impact in the region. Several projects have focused on integrating electronic monitoring in the Pacific Islands to improve the timeliness, quality, integration, cost-effectiveness, and accessibility of fishery-dependent data. One FIS-funded study by the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center on the Hawaii shallow-set and deep-set longline fisheries showed that trained EM reviewers could correctly identify 99 percent of retained fish species and capture interactions with marine mammals and sea turtles at a playback speed of eight times faster than real time.

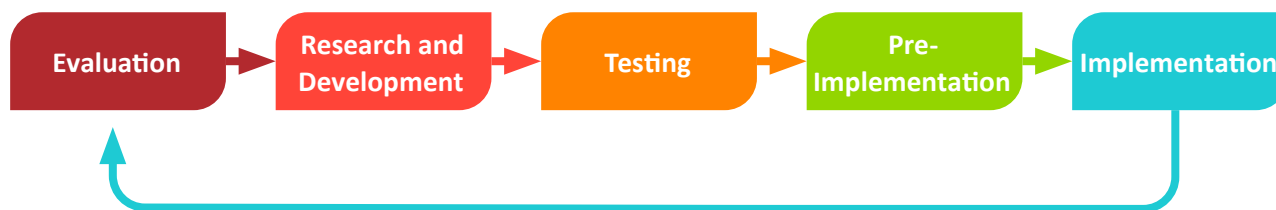
PIFSC scientists have also worked closely with industry partners on the voluntary development and

testing of EM equipment, including cameras connected to sensors on a vessel's hydraulic and reel systems. These sensors allow recording to start when hauling begins, rather than during inactive times, such as transit to and from fishing grounds—which can take up to half of a typical 18-to-24 day trip. Overall, EM technology

provides an additional data stream that can supplement the at-sea observer program. An EM program in the Hawaii longline fisheries has the potential to enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of fisheries monitoring.

Supporting the Project Life Cycle

Through RFP funding, supplemented by engagement from communities of practice called Professional Specialty Groups, FIS provides targeted support that yields effective, innovative solutions to high-priority challenges across the project life cycle.



Recent RFP-funded projects in the Pacific Islands, by project life cycle stage:

2022

- Advancements in Pacific Islands Region Electronic Monitoring (EM): Assessing Protected Species Interactions with Improvement in Data and Image Collections While Developing the Regulatory Framework for EM Implementation (*Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center*)
- Electronic Reporting in the U.S. Pacific Islands Fisheries: Including American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Year 2) (*PIFSC*)
- Pacific Islands Regional Office Observer Program eReporting: Continue Development of an eReporting Application and Platform (Phase 2) (*Pacific Islands Regional Office*)
- Pacific Islands Territories Database and Application Modernization (*PIFSC*)

2021

- The Efficacy and Implementation of Electronic Monitoring to Quantify Mortality and Serious Injury of Marine Mammals and Post-Interaction Mortality of Sea Turtles in Pacific Islands Region Longline Fisheries (*PIFSC*)
- Electronic Reporting in the U.S. Pacific Islands Bottomfish Fisheries: Including American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (*PIFSC*)

For a complete list of FIS-supported projects since 2013, please visit fisheries.noaa.gov/data-tools/fis-supported-projects.