



Hawaii Lobster Fisheries

- ! The Hawaiian Islands have two different lobster fisheries, each requiring a different management regime.

- ! The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands lobster fishery is a million-plus dollar industry in which large commercial fishing vessels target red spiny and slipper lobsters. The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council manages the fishery using a host of regulations and management measurements:
 - January-June seasonal closure (harvesting is often completed in a few weeks)
 - a Retain-all strategy, since more than 60 percent of lobsters that are released from the vessels would die from predation or their exposure on deck
 - 15 limited entry permits (typically about half participate)
 - limited number of traps with vents for the escape of small lobsters
 - fleet-wide quota by bank/area calculated annually (286,000 total lobster quota for 1998, of which only 78 percent were harvested)
 - mandatory logbooks, data collectors/observers, vessel monitoring system to facilitate enforcement, bank-specific tagged bags and flexible provisions to rapidly adjust to stock changes, if needed

- ! The main Hawaiian Islands lobster fishery is a shallow nearshore fishery in which divers catch mainly green spiny lobsters by hand or entanglement net. The fishery is managed by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources using the following regulations and management measures:
 - May-August seasonal closure
 - a ban on taking egg-bearing lobsters
 - 3 3-inch minimum carapace length for spiny lobster and a 2: -inch minimum tail width for slipper lobster

- no quotas (commercial fishers reported 9,500 pounds of lobster taken during 304 trips in 1998)
- no catch reporting requirements for recreational and subsistence fishers