



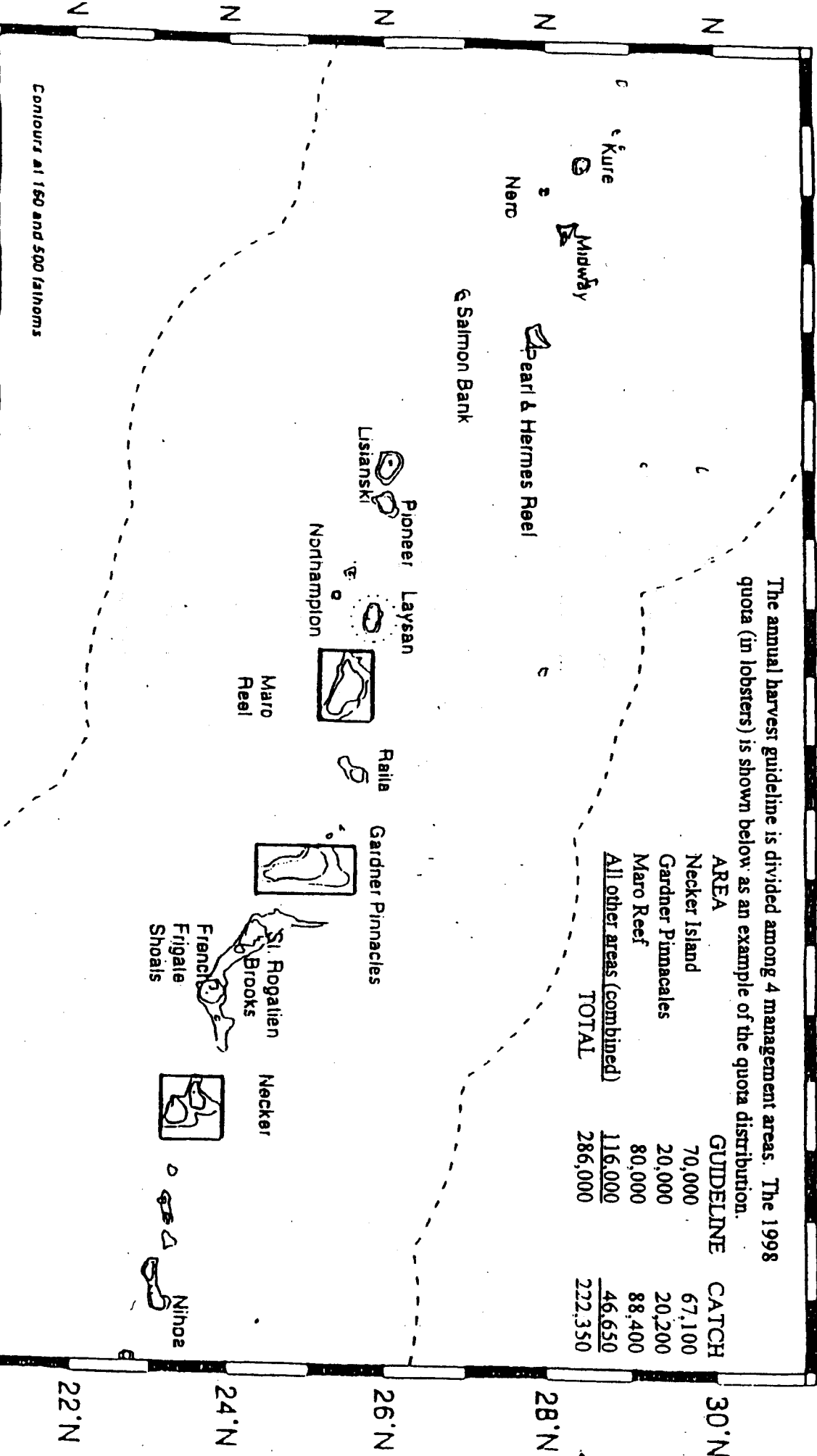
Hawaii Lobster Fisheries

- 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 and data collectors/observers, a voluntary 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
 - 3¼-inch minimum carapace length for spiny lobster and a 2¾-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

Maps of NWHI Lobster Fishing Grounds

The annual harvest guideline is divided among 4 management areas. The 1998 quota (in lobsters) is shown below as an example of the quota distribution.

AREA	GUIDELINE	CATCH
Necker Island	70,000	67,100
Gardner Pinnacles	20,000	20,200
Maro Reef	80,000	88,400
All other areas (combined)	116,000	46,650
TOTAL	286,000	222,350



Contours at 150 and 500 fathoms

180° 178°W 176°W 174°W 172°W 170°W 168°W 166°W 164°W 162°W

22°N 24°N 26°N 28°N 30°N