

1.12 ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIONS

This summary describes management actions NMFS implemented for insular fisheries in the Hawaiian Archipelago during calendar year 2019.

February 8, 2019. Final rule: **Reclassifying Management Unit Species to Ecosystem Component Species**. This final rule reclassified certain management unit species in the Pacific Islands as ecosystem component species. The rule also updated the scientific and local names of certain species. The intent of this final rule was to prioritize conservation and management efforts and to improve efficiency of fishery management in the region. This rule was effective March 11, 2019.

February 21, 2019. Annual harvest guideline: **2019 Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Lobster Harvest Guideline**. NMFS established the annual harvest guideline for the commercial lobster fishery in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands for calendar year 2019 at zero lobsters. Regulations at 50 CFR 665.252(b) require NMFS to publish an annual harvest guideline for lobster Permit Area 1, comprised of Federal waters around the NWHI. Regulations governing the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the NWHI prohibit the unpermitted removal of monument resources (50 CFR 404.7), and establish a zero annual harvest guideline for lobsters (50 CFR 404.10(a)). Accordingly, NMFS established the harvest guideline for the NWHI commercial lobster fishery for calendar year 2018 at zero lobsters. Harvest of NWHI lobster resources was not allowed.

June 24, 2019. Final rule: **Annual Catch Limit and Accountability Measures; Main Hawaiian Islands Deep 7 Bottomfish**. This final rule established an annual catch limit (ACL) of 492,000 lb for Deep 7 bottomfish in the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) for each of the three fishing years 2018–19, 2019–20, and 2020–21. If NMFS projects that the fishery will reach the ACL in any given fishing year, NMFS would close the commercial and non-commercial fisheries for MHI Deep 7 bottomfish in Federal waters for the remainder of that fishing year as an accountability measure (AM). This rule also made housekeeping changes to the Federal bottomfish fishing regulations. This rule supports the long-term sustainability of Deep 7 bottomfish.