

action must be taken to control fishing mortality.

For the crustacean fisheries in the Western Pacific, the Council defined overfishing of crustacean stocks of slipper and spiny lobster as the point where the spawning potential ratio (SPR) of each stock equals 0.2 or below. The SPR is a measure of the relative reproductive potential of the stock and is calculated as the ratio of the spawning stock biomass per recruit (SSBR) of a fished population to the SSBR of the unfished population. Thus, spiny lobster or slipper lobster would be overfished if the respective SPR were equal to or less than 0.2. The analysis in Amendment 6 demonstrates that the size limits and other measures governing the fishery were selected to ensure that the SPR will remain well above the 0.2 threshold level.

The FMP includes a requirement for an annual report that summarizes the best scientific information available on the biological condition of crustacean resources. The report will contain an overview of the status of crustacean stocks relative to the overfishing threshold and any significant trends in the fishery that may increase the risk of overfishing. It is the Council's intent to manage the fishery to prevent reaching overfished condition.

No comments on the amendment were received.

The definition of overfishing, and the measures to implement the definition, have been determined to meet the approvability criteria of the national standard guidelines.

Classification

The Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, determined that Amendment 6 is necessary for the conservation and management of the precious corals fishery and is consistent with the Magnuson Act and other applicable law.

The Council included an environmental assessment (EA) in Amendment 6. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, concluded that there will be no significant impact on the human environment resulting from this amendment.

Because this amendment requires no implementing regulations, 5 U.S.C. section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act, E.O. 12291, and the Regulatory Flexibility Act do not apply to this notice of approval. There will be no impact on marine mammals or endangered species.

This amendment does not contain collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

The Council has determined that the proposed amendment is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the coastal zone programs of the governments of Hawaii, American Samoa, and Guam and has asked for concurrence with this determination. The governments did not respond; therefore, concurrence is inferred.

Amendment 6 does not contain policies with federalism implications sufficient to warrant preparation of a federalism assessment under Executive Order 12612.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: January 22, 1991.

Michael F. Tillman,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 91-1869 Filed 1-25-91; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

Western Pacific Precious Corals Fisheries

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of approval of amendment 2 to the fishery management plan for precious corals.

SUMMARY: NOAA issues this notice that amendment 2 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Precious Corals Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region (FMP) has been approved. Amendment 2, which defines overfishing in compliance with national standards 1 and 2 of the Magnuson Act, was submitted by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) for Secretarial review on October 16, 1990. No rulemaking is involved in this action.

DATES: January 22, 1991.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Svein Fougner, NMFS, Southwest Region, (213) 514-6660, or Alvin Katekaru, NMFS, Pacific Area Office, Honolulu, Hawaii, (808) 955-8831.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A notice of availability of Amendment 2 was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2, 1990 (55 FR 46236), and comments were invited until December 20, 1990.

The guidelines to the national standards attendant to the Magnuson Act (50 CFR part 602) were revised in 1989 (54 FR 30711 *et seq.*) to require the Councils to amend all fishery management plans to include definitions of overfishing for their respective fisheries.

With regard to precious corals in the western Pacific, the Council defined overfishing of an established coral bed

as the point where the total spawning biomass (all species combined) has been reduced to 20 percent of its unfished condition, illustrated by the use of a spawning potential ratio (SPR), which is the ratio of the spawning stock biomass of a fished resource to the spawning stock biomass of an unfished resource.

The amendment also implements the requirement of an annual report that summarizes the best scientific information available on the biological condition of established precious coral beds. The report will contain an overview of the status of precious coral stocks and any significant trends in the fishery.

Three comments on the amendment were received. One individual suggested that the category "size of crew" be included in the annual report so that fishery employment in the fishery can be adequately represented. That suggestion has been adopted.

One individual asked for a clarification of Table 1 in the amendment, and another asked for an explanation of why SPR, which in the past has referred to spawning stock biomass per recruit, is used to refer to spawning stock biomass in the case of coral management. These comments have been referred to the Council for its attention.

Classification

The Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, determined that the Amendment, as approved, is necessary for the conservation and management of the precious corals fishery and is consistent with the Magnuson Act and other applicable law.

The Council included an environmental assessment (EA) in Amendment 2, and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, concluded that there will be no significant impact on the human environment resulting from this amendment.

Because the amendment requires no implementing regulations, 5 U.S.C. 533 of the Administrative Procedure Act, E.O. 12291, and the Regulatory Flexibility Act do not apply to this notice of approval. There will be no impact on marine mammals or endangers species.

This amendment does not contain collection-of-information requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act.

The Council has determined that the proposed amendment is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the coastal zone programs of the governments of Hawaii, American Samoa, and Guam and has asked for concurrence with this determination.