AMENDMENT #4 AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FOR THE

FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR

LOBSTER PISHERIES

OF THE

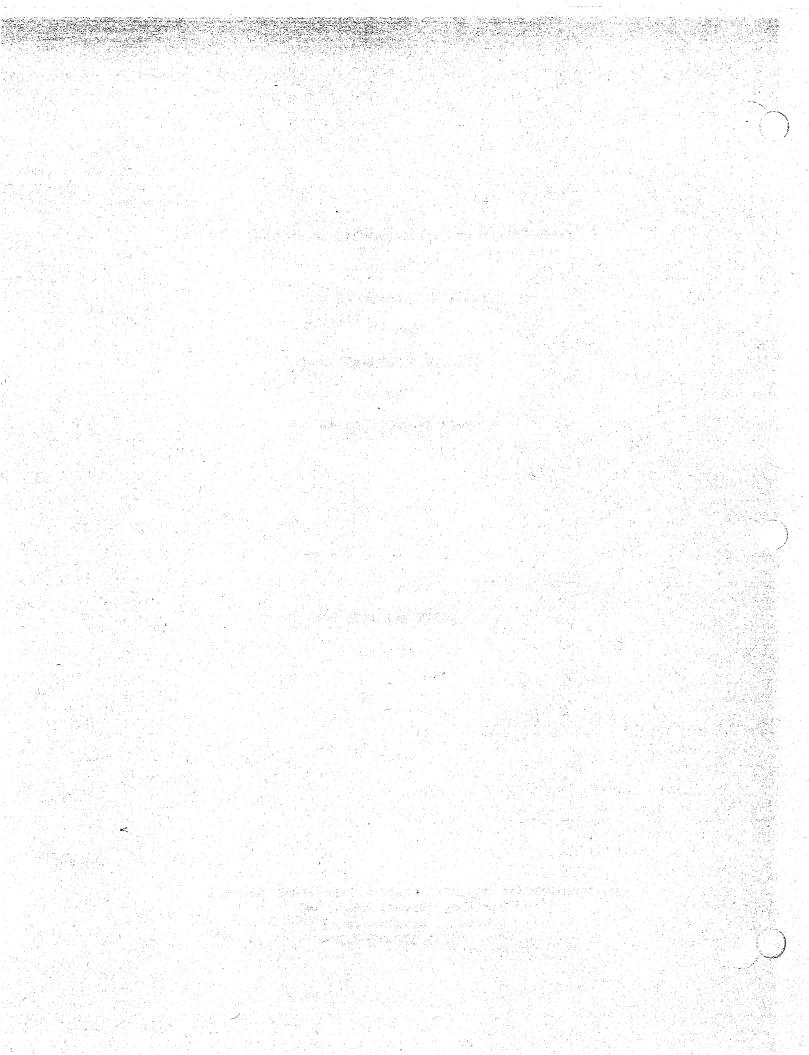
WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

OCTOBER 31, 1986

#175

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1405
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 523-1368

adve:



1.1 Proposed Action

The Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Spiny Lobster Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region became effective on March 9, 1983. Regulations implementing the FMP for the Spiny Lobster fisheries are in 50 Code of Federal Regulations Part 681. Two of these regulations prohibit fishing for spiny lobsters within 20 nautical miles of Laysan Island [Section 681.23(a)] and within the Fishery Conservation Zone (FCZ) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) landward of the 10 fathom curve [Section 681.23(b)]. The proposed rule would explicitly disallow fishing for all lobsters (spiny and slipper lobsters) in the areas where fishing for spiny lobsters is now disallowed. The intended effect of the proposed rule is to protect spiny lobster stocks in the refuge areas since taking of slipper lobsters invariably leads to mortality of spiny lobsters as well.

1.2 Responsible Agencies

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (the Council) was established under the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) to develop fishery management plans (FMPs) and amendments for fisheries in the U.S. Fishery Conservation Zone (FCZ) around Hawaii, the territories (American Samoa, Guam) and possessions of the United States in the Pacific Ocean. After a FMP or amendments to a FMP are approved by the Secretary of Commerce, they are implemented by Federal regulations and are enforced by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Coast Guard in cooperation with state and territorial agencies.

For further information, contact:

Kitty Simonds, Executive Director Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1405 or Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Telephone: (808) 523-1368

Doyle E. Gates, Administrator Western Pacific Program Office National Marine Fisheries Service P.O. Box 3830 Honolulu, Hawaii 96812 Telephone: (808) 955-8831

1.3 Public Review and Comment

The MFCMA requires the Regional Councils to involve fishermen and other interested parties in developing FMPS and amendments. This is to insure that those who can be affected will have an opportunity to give the Councils their views about a proposed action and alternatives and to provide information to the Councils. The rule change proposed by this Amendment was a topic of discussion (among many other topics) at a public meeting on April 29, 1986. All skippers and owners of fishing vessels holding lobster fishing permits were sent a letter informing them of the meeting. The meeting was also advertised in the local

newsmedia, and a meeting notice was listed in the <u>Federal Register</u> on April 4, 1986 (51 FR 11603). Over 60 people attended the meeting, about half of which were lobster fishermen, processors, marketing agents, and lobster fishing gear manufacturers/distributors. Everyone at the meeting consented with the need for developing a program for managing slipper lobster and no one objected to the Council's proposal for applying the established refuge areas for spiny lobsters to include slipper lobsters as well.

In August 1986, the Council requested the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate an emergency interim rule prohibiting all fishing for spiny and slipper lobsters in the refuge areas. The interim rule became effective on September 26, 1986 and all lobster permit holders were informed of this action by letter. It is the Council's intent to institutionalize this interim measure as a permanent rule through this amendment to the Spiny Lobster FMP.

This document is being distributed to all fishermen who are engaged in the commercial fisheries of the NWHI, to all relevant government agencies, and other interested parties. All individuals and organizations are invited to comment on this proposal. The Council will address all comments received and make changes as necessary.

1.4 Relationship to Other Laws and Policies

The Spiny Lobster FMP for which this amendment is being prepared complies with the information and procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, Executive Order 12291 and other laws and directives. The original draft and final FMPs served as draft and final environmental impact statements (EISs). Similarly, this amendment is intended to serve as the Environmental Assessment. The amendment also assesses the administrative/enforcement impacts of the proposed regulatory changes and will satisfy the requirement for a Regulatory Impact Analysis. This document contains all the information necessary under the several statutes and directives applicable to the planning process. A copy of the original FMP and its companion Source Document (containing scientific reports and appendixes) and previous amendments to the FMP may be obtained from the Council.

1.5 List of Preparers

This FMP amendment was prepared by Council's staff and the staff of the Southwest Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service with prior input from the Council's Lobster Plan Development Team.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section		Page			
1.0	PREFACE				
	1.1 Proposed Action 1.2 Responsible Agencies 1.3 Public Review and Comment 1.4 Relationship to Other Laws and Policies 1.5 List of Preparers	1 1 1 2 2			
2.0	BACKGROUND				
3.0	NEED FOR AMENDMENT #4	5			
4.0	STOCK ASSESSMENT	6			
5.0	IMPACTS OF REJECTED ALTERNATIVES	7			
	5.1 No Action 5.2 Postpone Action	7 7			
6.0	IMPACTS OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	8			
7.0	CHOICE OF ALTERNATIVES BASED ON ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FMP				
	 7.1 Management Objectives 7.2 Protect Stock Productivity and Prevent Overfishing .3 Maintain or enhance Economic Contribution 7.4 Collect Information 7.5 Prevent unfavorable Impacts on Endangered and Threatened Species 	9 9 9 10			
8.0	DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	11			
. •	8.1 Endangered and Threatened Species 8.2 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Determination	11 11			
9.0	DETERMINATION OF IMPACTS UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12291 AND THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT	13			
10.0	APPLICABILITY OF THE PAPER WORK REDUCTION ACT	14			
11.0	COASTAL ZONE CONSISTENCY	15			
12.0	NATIVE HAWAIIAN FISHING RIGHTS	16			
13.0	PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS	17			
14.0	REFERENCES	18			

2.0 BACKGROUND

The FMP summarizes much of the information presently available on the abundance, distribution, and population dynamics of spiny lobster stocks in the NWHI. During the years when the FMP was being developed, slipper lobsters were a miniscule component of lobster catches. During 1983, the year that the FMP was implemented, slipper lobsters accounted for 10 percent of the total lobster catch in the NWHI. In 1984, the proportion of slipper lobsters in the total legal lobster catch rose to 30 percent. In 1985, slipper lobsters made up more than 45% of total lobster catches, and through September of 1986, the catch of slipper lobsters has exceeded the catch of legal-sized spiny lobsters by a sizeable margin -- 63% slipper lobster, 37% spiny lobsters. The trap fishery for lobsters in the NWHI has been rapidly transformed from essentially a fishery for a single species of spiny lobster (Panulirus marginatus) to a multi-species trap fishery for spiny and slipper lobsters.

The Council has endorsed the need for timely implementation of a management program for slipper lobsters parallel to that of spiny lobsters and a program is now being developed by the Council's Lobster Plan Development Team. This amendment, while intended primarily to protect spiny lobsters in the refuge areas, will also protect slipper lobsters from overfishing as well.

3.0 NEED FOR AMENDMENT #4

The FMP is principally directed at the conservation of NWHI spiny lobster stocks. The FMP controls the spiny lobster fishery in Federal waters of the NWHI through a set of regulations which include: (a) prohibition against fishing for spiny lobsters within 20 miles of Laysan Island and within all FCZ waters shallower than 10 fathoms; (b) spiny lobsters smaller than 5.0 cm in tail width cannot be retained; (c) commercial fishing is restricted to use of traps of specified dimensions, and (d) egg-bearing ("berried") lobsters cannot be retained. The FMP requires a lobster fishing permit for Federal waters and lobster catch reports from fishermen. Under existing regulations, catches of slipper lobster must be reported along with spiny lobster catches, but no other regulations pertaining to slipper lobsters are yet in force.

The areas closed to fishing for spiny lobsters as defined in Federal regulations are intended to accomplish three objectives:

- (1) the refuge areas are to serve as a control for assessing the impacts on spiny lobster stocks where commercial fishing is allowed;
- (2) the refuge areas will aid recruitment by protecting spawners from fishing morality; and
- (3) the refuge areas provide buffer zones to protect the endangered Hawaiian monk seals from potential, fishery-induced hazards.

To ensure that the Council's intents for establishing the refuge areas are not violated, fishing for slipper lobster must also be prohibited in these areas. The direct effect of this amendment is to preclude the possibility of fishermen exploiting a regulatory loophole.

4.0 STOCK ASSESSMENT

The Honolulu Laboratory of the NMFS has carried out research trapping for lobsters at Necker Island, Maro Reef and Laysan Island to appraise the condition of the lobster stocks at those locations. Necker Island and Maro Reef were chosen for sampling because they are major fishing grounds. Being close to Honolulu, Necker Island has been most intensively fished since the beginning of the fishery in 1976. Maro Reef was chosen for sampling because it appears typical of most islands and banks in the NWHI. Lobster grounds near Laysan Island were chosen for re-sampling because they are in a refuge area which is closed to fishing for spiny lobsters. The catch rates for lobsters in the refuge areas can be compared to catch rates in areas where lobster fishing is allowed. A research control area is needed to determine the impacts of commercial fishing on lobster stocks.

The catch rate of spiny lobsters in the entire fishery in 1985 was down by 50% from 1984, and the declining trends in the catch rate for spiny lobster were similar at Necker Island, Gardner Pinnacles and Maro Reef. The catch rate for legal spiny lobster declined from 2.05 lobsters per trap night in 1983 to 1.17 in 1984 and 0.88 in 1985. While the catch rate for spiny lobster was declining, the catch rate of slipper lobster was increasing. The catch rate for all slipper lobsters increased from 0.33 per trap-night in 1983 to 0.75 in 1984 to 1.09 in 1985. The catch rate for legal spiny lobster through September 1986 was 0.60 lobsters per trap night which is less than the 1985 catch rate figure of 0.88. The catch rate for slipper lobsters through September 1986 was 1.02 animals compared to 1.31 animals last year.

The results of NMFS' stock assessment research cruises indicate that the standing stock of spiny lobsters at Necker Island is reduced below the level required to produce the maximum sustainable yield, while the standing stock of lobsters at Maro Reef is at or near its maximum level of production. Fishing mortality at Necker Island is about three times greater than at Maro Reef. At both Necker Island and Maro Reef, fishing has lowered the average size of spiny lobsters at sexual maturity.

Adoption of Amendment #4 would safeguard the use of refuge areas for controlled experimental fishing in order to guage the impacts of commercial fishing on lobster stocks where fishing is allowed. The Amendment would preclude fishing for all lobsters (spiny or slipper) in the refuge areas and aid recruitment for spiny and slipper lobsters alike.

-<;

5.0 IMPACTS OF REJECTED ALTERNATIVES

5.1 No Action

The regulations of the FMP specifically prohibit fishing for spiny lobsters within 20 miles of Laysan Island and in waters shallower than 10 fathoms. When the existing regulations were implemented, only fishing for spiny lobsters was prohibited in refuge areas because the only directed lobster fishery was for spiny lobsters. Allowing fishing for slipper lobsters in the refuges would be detrimental because some spiny lobsters would invariably get caught and suffer mortality. Controlled, experimental fishing in the refuge would be compromised if commercial fishing for slipper lobsters were allowed in the rufuge areas. Under the no action alternative, recruitment of lobsters could be impaired, the risk of adverse impacts on the endangered Hawaiian monk seal would be increased because traps could be set closer to shore, and regulatory costs would increase due to the need for at-sea enforcement.

5.2 Postpone Action

Action could be postponed on this amendment until a more comprehensive program for managing slipper lobsters is developed. Prohibiting fishing for slipper lobsters within 20 nautical miles of Laysan Island and in waters shallower than 10 fathoms would be part of a larger program, including establishment of a minimum size for slipper lobsters, non-retention of gravid ("berried") slipper lobsters, and adoption of escape vents on traps.

The principal difficulties with this alternative is that the interim emergency rule which now disallows fishing for slipper lobster in the refuge areas will automatically expire. Even allowing for a 90-day extension, the interim emergency rules will expire on March 25, 1987. Acting on the Council's FMP Amendment #4 will ensure that there will be no time lapse between the emergency rules and the rules promulgated by this amendment. Acting now will allow the implementation of the regulations on the 140-day review schedule which applies to FMP amendments. The effects of this alternative are essentially the same as the no action alternative.

6.0 IMPACTS OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

This amendment proposes to "institutionalize" the changes of the FMP made by the emergency regulations which became effective on September 26, 1986 and which will expire on March 25, 1987. When the FMP was being developed and implemented, it was the intent of the Council to provide refuge areas closed to all lobster fishing, not only for spiny lobsters. At that time only spiny lobsters were harvested and slipper lobster were caught incidentally. Now both groups of lobsters are taken together in roughly equal proportions.

Since the regulations of the FMP which establish the areas closed to lobster fishing only mention spiny lobsters and not slipper lobsters, the Council voted at its August 1986 meeting that the refuge areas should apply to all lobsters. That was the original intent of the Council when the FMP was being developed. There is no way to harvest slipper lobsters in the refuge areas without also harvesting some spiny lobsters as well. One of the principal purposes in establishing the areas closed to fishing for spiny lobsters is to aid recruitment. Evidence suggests that high mortality results from returning lobsters to the sea after they are removed from the traps. This mortality results from injuries from handling, exposure, and predation. Mortality of spiny lobsters would occur if fishing for slipper lobsters in the refuge areas were permitted, even if no spiny lobsters were landed from the closed areas.

The principal effect of the proposed action would be to aid recruitment of spiny and slipper lobster stocks in the NWHI. Heavy fishing pressure for lobsters in the NWHI exist and the refuge areas are designed as added protection against overfishing.

Endangered Hawaiian monk seals feed on lobsters. Reducing the fishing mortality on lobsters could help maintain the food supply of the monk seal, although monk seals are opportunistic feeders. Prohibiting fishing for all lobsters in the refuge areas would be beneficial to the monk seal since the seal's critical habitat overlaps the refugia boundaries.

Ongoing stock assessment research will not be jeopardized if the amendment is adopted on a timely basis. Test fishing in the controlled areas is needed for determining the effects of commercial fishing on NWHI lobster stocks. There will be no effect on the human environment from the proposed action and no effect on air and water quality.

«",

7.0 CHOICE OF ALTERNATIVES BASED ON ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PMP

The Preferred Alternative was selected out of the two other alternatives considered on how well it would contribute to the achievement of the four objectives of the FMP.

7.1 Management Objectives

The objectives enumerated in the FMP continue to be valid for management of the NWHI spiny lobster fishery:

- 1. To assure the long-term productivity of spiny lobster stocks and to prevent biological overfishing:
- 2. To promote an efficient and continuous contribution of the NWHI spiny lobster resources to the United States economy;
- 3. To collect and analyze biological and economic information about NWHI lobster fisheries in an attempt to improve the basis for management and conservation into the future; and
- 4. To prevent unfavorable impacts of the fishery on the Hawaiian monk seal and other threatened and endangered species.

7.2 Protect Stock Productivity and Prevent Overfishing

The No Action alternative (5.1) would not help meet this objective. Spiny lobsters would suffer mortality if fishing for slipper lobsters were allowed in the refuge areas. The objective of Amendment #4 is to prevent possible detrimental effects from harvesting lobsters in closed areas. Although it is unknown how effective refugia are in aiding recruitment, heavy fishing for lobsters in the NWHI exists and the refugia were designed to provide added protection against overfishing.

The Postone Action alternative (5.2) would work toward providing protection, but delaying action is not acceptable. The interim emergency rule prohibiting fishing for slipper lobsters within 30 nautical miles of Laysan Island and in waters shallower than 10 fathoms would expire on March 25, 1986, and there would be time gap before an amendment covering slipper lobsters could be adopted. Enforcing a ban on harvest of spiny lobsters in areas open to slipper lobster fishing would be expensive and difficult.

7.3 Maintain or Enhance Economic Contribution

Taking no action (Alternative 5.1) would enhance short-term economic gains from the fishery since the opportunity for harvesting slipper lobsters in

the refuge areas would again exist once the interim emergency regulations expire on March 25, 1987. Long-term economic gains from the spiny lobster fishery, however, could decline because spiny lobsters would suffer mortality from fishing in the refuge areas.

Delaying the amendment (Alternative 5.2) would bring about a gap between the time that the interim emergency rule expires and the time that an amendment package covering the slipper lobster fishery finally is adopted. Previous experience with rapidly changing management measures in the fishery confused fishermen and it hindered effective enforcement.

7.4 Collect Information

If the Preferred Alternative failed to be adopted, and fishing for slipper lobsters were allowed in the refuge areas, the value of the Honolulu Laboratory's stock assessment research cruises would be diminished. Refuge areas are needed for control purposes for determining the impacts on lobster stocks from commercial fishing. Virgin lobster populations provide a baseline for guaging the effects of intensive fishing for lobsters in the NWHI in areas where lobster fishing is allowed. Harvesting within refuge areas would violate research stock assessment designs as well and hurt the accuracy of research results.

7.5 Prevent Unfavorable Impacts on Endangered and Threatened Species

The threatened green sea turtle and the endangered Hawaiian monk seal live in the refuge areas where commercial fishing for spiny lobsters is prohibited. Adopting the Preferred Alternative would help to meet this objective because lobster grounds shallower than 10 fathoms have been designated as Critical Habitat for monk seals. Providing buffer strips to separate the commercial fisheries for lobsters from threatened and endangered species will help minimize negative interactions between endangered animals and man. The No Action and Postpone Action alternatives (5.1 and 5.2) do not help meet this objective. By allowing fishing for slipper lobsters in the refuge areas, spiny lobsters also would suffer morality. Diminished lobster stocks in the refuge areas would reduce an item in the food supply of the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and possibly reduce the population, provided that lobsters are an essential item in the diet of monk seals and not simply a preference.

When the four objectives of the FMP are considered together, the Preferred Alternative satisfies the objectives of the FMP better than the two other alternatives considered.

8.0 DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 Endangered and Threatened Species

During the development of the FMP, the Council requested formal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. A National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinion dated February 18, 1981, considered the potential impacts of the lobster fishery in the NWHI on the Hawaiian monk seal. an endangered marine mammal. Many of the regulatory measures in the FMP are intended to protect monk seals. These measures, in addition to the trap opening requirement; are: (1) tangle nets are prohibited in taking lobster; lobsters may only be taken by traps or by hand; (2) observers may be required at the request of the NMFS Regional director; (3) commercial fishing for lobsters in lagoons and in nearshore waters less than 10 fathoms is prohibited, as well as fishing for lobster within 20 miles off Laysan Island, a major breeding area for monk seals; (4) emergency protective measures may be implemented if the Regional director receives a report of a monk seal death that appears to be related to the fishery; (5) fishermen are subject to specific record keeping and reporting requirements; and (6) vessel logbooks must contain information on the sighting of monk seals in the fishing area, and in the vicinity of fishing gear, and monk seal interference with fishing operations must be documented.

The biological opinion considered the possibility that monk seals searching for food might be caught in the entryways of lobster traps and drown. The opinion stated that the specified dimension restriction of the inner openings of lobster traps might prevent adult monk seals from becoming entrapped. The opinion concluded that the FMP contained safeguards to reduce adverse impacts on monk seals from the lobster fishery and recommended that the FMP be implemented with provisions for emergency closures in the event that fishery-related mortality of monk seals occurs. Prohibiting fishing of spiny and slipper lobsters, in the refuge areas will help prevent negative interactions between lobster fishing gear and threatened and endangered species.

The green sea turtle, a threatened species, breeds in the NWHI where the spiny lobster fishery occurs. Green sea turtles are herbivorous and are not likely to interact with spiny lobster, so no environmental effects on the NWHI green sea turtle populations will occur with or without this amendment.

The FMP contains a list of other endangered and threatened species observed in the NWHI. None of these species will be adversely affected by this amendment to the FMP.

8.2 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Determination

The proposed amendment is not a major action having a significant impact on the quality of the marine or human environment of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The proposed action is a technical amendment to the original regulations of the FMP to assure their enforceability. The proposed action should not result in impacts different from those described in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published with the initial regulations implementing the approved

FMP. The preparation of a formal EIS is not required for this amendment by section 102(2)(c)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act or its implementating regulations.

- o <u>Mitigating Measures Related to Proposed Action</u>
 Mitigating measures are unnecessary.
- o <u>Unavoidable Adverse Effects</u>
 None are expected.
- o Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of the Resources and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

The catch of legal-sized spiny lobsters would be maintained in the long-run subject to oscillations common in most fisheries. Recruitment would be aided since fishing mortality on spiny and slipper lobsters would be prevented in the refuge areas.

9.0 DETERMINATION OF IMPACTS UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12291 AND THE REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT

The action proposed in this amendment is essentially a correction or fine-tuning of existing regulations. The number of participating vessels in the fishery on an annual basis has ranged from 3 to 19. The economic impact of the proposed amendment would be substantially less than \$100 million since the gross revenue generated by the lobster fishery in the NWHI is only about \$5.0 million per year. For these reasons, the proposed action is not deemed to be "major" under the definition of Executive Order 12291, and it will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small business entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act. There are now only about 12 vessels active in the fishery, although nearly 40 vessels have secured permits for the fishery. Lobster fishing vessels will not be adversely affected by this amendment to the Lobster FMP.

10.0 APPLICABILITY OF THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

The data collection and reporting burdens of the approved FMP would be unchanged by the proposed action, as there are no new collection of information requirements. The provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act are not germane to the proposed action.

11.0 COASTAL ZONE CONSISTENCY

Section 307(c)(1) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) requires that all Federal activities which directly affect the coastal zone be consistent with approved State coastal zone management programs to the maximum extent practicable. On June 6, 1983, the State of Hawaii put into effect amended regulations governing lobster fishing in territorial waters around the NWHI, making its regulations consistent with the regulations of the FMP. On December 20, 1983, the Federal Government implemented lobster fishing regulations for the FCZ around the main Hawaiian Islands which are the equivalent of existing State regulations. On January 9, 1984, Federal regulations which changed the specifications of entryway openings of lobster traps that are used in the fishery for spiny lobsters in the NWHI became effective. The State of Hawaii in turn amended its regulations on lobster trap entryway openings for the territorial sea surrounding each of the NWHI. These regulations became effective on June 25, 1984.

The changes in the Federal regulations regarding closed areas to commercial fishing for lobsters in the NWHI proposed here will require parallel changes in existing State of Hawaii regulations covering the taking of spiny lobsters in the 3-mile territorial sea of the NWHI. The State of Hawaii previously adopted the FMP's regulations for the territorial sea to be consistent with Federal regulations governing lobster fishing in the FCZ. While different from current State regulations applicable to State waters, the proposed action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Federally-approved coastal zone management program of the State of Hawaii. These changes, if approved will necessitate changes in present State of Hawaii regulations covering lobster fishing in the refuge areas surrounding each of the NWHI to make them fully consistent once again with Federal regulations.

While it is the goal of the Council and the State to have complementary management measures, Federal and State administrative procedures vary and amendments are unlikely to be fully instituted at the same time.

Based upon the assessment of this amendment's impacts in previous sections, the Council has concluded that Amendment #4 is a refinement to the Federal management measures for spiny lobster fisheries in the NWHI and is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with Hawaii's approved Coastal Zone Management Program. This amendment will not change the Federal regulations which apply to lobster fisheries in the FCZ around the main Hawaiian islands, American Samoa, and Guam. Therefore, previous coastal zone consistency determinations for Guam and American Samoa continue to apply for the regulations which implement the FMP in these areas.

12.0 NATIVE HAWAIIAN FISHING RIGHTS

Unlike the native americans in the continental United States, where treaties and agreements have provided formal legal ground for allocation of fishing rights to native Americans, no such treaties were formed in hawaii. Traditional Hawaiian society was significantly affected in the quarter century prior to annexation of Hawaii by the United States in 1900. Formal agreements between the two governments concerning fishing rights were not incorporated into the Organic Acts relevant to Hawaii's political integration into the United States. However, there is a growing concern about the manner in which Hawaii was annexed and Hawaiian land ceded to the United States government. The relationship between ancient Hawaiian land and water rights and the developing commercial fisheries is presently not known. It appears that this amendment to the lobster FMP will not affect any native Hawaiian, Samoan, or Chamorran cultural or religious practices so far as can be determined at this time.

13.0 PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

PART 681 - WESTERN PACIFIC SPINY LOBSTER FISHERIES

- 1. The authority citation for part 681 continues to read as follows:

 Authority: 16 VSC 1801 et. seq.
- 2. In Section 681.7 paragraph (b)(1) is suspended, and a new paragraph (b)(7) is added to read as follows:

Section 681.7 Prohibitions

- (b) ***
- (7) Fish for, take, or retain lobsters:
- (i) By methods other than lobster trap or by hand for spiny lobsters, as specified in Section 681.24, or
- (ii) From closed areas, as specified in Section 681.23
- 3. In Section 681.23 paragraphs (a) and (b) are suspended. New paragraphs are added to read as follows:

Section 681.23 Closed areas (refugia)

- (a) All lobster fishing is prohibited within 20 nautical miles of Laysan Island.
- (b) All lobster fishing is prohibited within the FCZ landward of the 10 fathom curves as depicted on National Ocean Survey Charts, Numbers 19022, 19019, and 19016.

en en la Caracteria de la companya La companya de la co

14.0 REFERENCES

- Polovina, J.J. 1985. "Status of Stockes of Spiny Lobsters at Necker Island and Maro Reef, 1985". Southwest Fisheries Center, Honolulu Laboratory, Admin. Report H-85-12.
- Skillman, R.A. 1986. <u>et. al.</u> "Annual Report of the 1985 Western Pacific Lobster Fishery". Southwest Fisheries Center, Honolulu Laboratory, Admin. Report H-86-6.
- NOAA. 1986. Emergency Interim Rule to Prohibit All Lobster Fishing Within 20 Nautical Miles of Laysan Island and Within the FCZ Landward of 10 Fathoms in the NWHI. <u>Federal Register</u> Vol. 51, No. 190, Oct. 1, 1986, pgs. 34991-34993.

하다는 경기 등에 가는 가능하는 것으로 되었다. 일하는 대회 등에 가는 가능하는 것으로 가능한다.			
가 하는 것들이 하고 있었다는 것이 되었다. 그것 같은 것이 말라고 있는데 그렇게 되었다.			
	조랑 되는 것 같은데.		
경험 경우 등 사람들이 십 대학교			
		현실 기계 등에 가르는 이 경험을 유명하는 지원 기계 등에 기계 등에 수가 되었다. 기계	
경기 위한 교통에 가는 이 등을 가게 하는 것을 받는다. 경기 교육 기계를 받았다고 하는 경기를 받는다.	슬리 작용되어 다녀는 다		
발표를 받는 경험을 통하고 있다.			
		생물을 하는 것이 하는 것들이 되었다. 하는 것이 하는 것이 되었다. 그 것은 것이 되었다.	
		이 가는 경기를 통해 하고 있다. 이 교육이 가는 사이들의 경우, 11회	
가는 이 보고 된 하는 시간을 보고 있습니다. 1980년 전 1980년 1일 1일 1일 1일 1일 1일			
흥행할 것이다. 그렇게 이동 말			
		역대로 보고 있다. 이 시설 프로그램이다. 생물에 대한 경기 보고 있는 기술을 보고	

