

1.1.10 Number of Federal Permit Holders

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50, Part 665 requires the following Federal permits for fishing in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under the Mariana FEP:

1.1.10.1 Northern Mariana Island Bottomfish Permit

Regulations require this permit for any vessel commercially fishing for, landing, or transshipping bottomfish management unit species (MUS) or bottomfish ecosystem component species (ECS) in the EEZ around the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). Commercial fishing is prohibited within the boundaries of the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

1.1.10.2 Special Coral Reef Ecosystem Permit

Regulations require the coral reef ecosystem special permit for anyone fishing for coral reef ECS in a low-use marine protected area (MPA), fishing for species on the list of Potentially Harvested Coral Reef Taxa or using fishing gear not specifically allowed in the regulations. NMFS will make an exception to this permit requirement for any person issued a permit to fish under any fishery ecosystem plan who incidentally catches CNMI coral reef ECS while fishing for bottomfish MUS, crustacean MUS or ECS, western Pacific pelagic MUS, precious coral, or seamount groundfish. Regulations require a transshipment permit for any receiving vessel used to land or transship potentially harvested coral reef taxa, or any coral reef ECS caught in a low-use MPA.

1.1.10.3 Western Pacific Precious Corals Permit

Regulations require this permit for anyone harvesting or landing black, bamboo, pink, red, or gold corals in the EEZ in the western Pacific.

1.1.10.4 Western Pacific Crustaceans Permit (Lobster or Deepwater Shrimp)

Regulations require a permit by the owner of a U.S. fishing vessel used to fish for lobster or deepwater shrimp in the EEZ around American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Pacific Remote Islands Areas, and in the EEZ seaward of 3 nautical miles of the shoreline of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There is no record of special coral reef or precious coral fishery permits issued for the EEZ around Northern Mariana Islands since 2007. Table 12 provides the number of permits issued for CNMI fisheries between 2010 and 2019. Historical data are from the PIFSC, and 2018–2019 data are from the PIRO Sustainable Fisheries Division permits program.

Table 1. Number of federal permits holders for the CNMI crustacean and bottomfish fisheries from 2009–2019

CNMI Fisheries	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lobster	0	0	0	0	0	0	1**	0	1**	0
Shrimp	2*	1*	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bottomfish	13	10	13	5	6	7	17	20	13	11

* Permits apply to multiple areas and may include American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, and PRIA.

**Area 5 CNMI and Guam.