

## 1.12 ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIONS

This summary describes management actions NMFS implemented for insular fisheries in the Hawaiian Archipelago during calendar year 2020.

May 5, 2020. Final Rule: **2019–2021 Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures.**

This final rule establishes annual catch limits (ACLs) and accountability measures (AMs) in the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) for deepwater shrimp, precious corals, and gray jobfish (uku) in 2019–2021, and for Kona crab in 2019. The fishing year for each fishery begins on January 1 and ends on December 31, except for precious coral fisheries, which begin July 1 and end on June 30 of the next year. This rule supports the long-term sustainability of Pacific Island fisheries. The final rule is applicable in fishing years 2019, 2020, and 2021 for deepwater shrimp, precious corals, and gray jobfish, and fishing year 2019 for Kona crab. The final rule is effective June 4, 2020.

February 12, 2020. Annual harvest guideline: **2020 Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Lobster Harvest Guideline.** NMFS established the annual harvest guideline for the commercial lobster fishery in the NWHI for calendar year 2020 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 2020 at zero lobsters. Harvest of NWHI lobster resources was not allowed.

October 15, 2020. Notice of Agency Decision: **Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) for Pacific Insular Areas Other Than American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands; Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund.** NMFS announces approval of a Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) for Pacific Insular Areas other than American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Section 204(e) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) authorizes the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), and in consultation with the Council, to negotiate and enter into a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement (PIAFA). Before entering into a PIAFA for the PRIA, the Council must develop and submit to the Secretary a 3-year MCP that details the uses for funds collected by the Secretary under the PIAFA. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires payments received under a PIAFA, and any funds or contributions received in support of conservation and management objectives for the MCP, to be deposited into the Western Pacific Sustainable Fisheries Fund (Fund) for use by the Council. Section 204(e)(7)(C) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act also authorizes the Council to use the Fund to meet conservation and management objectives in the State of Hawaii, if funds remain available. An MCP must be consistent with the Council's fishery ecosystem plans (FEPs). The MCP contains the following five conservation and management objectives that are consistent with the FEP for the PRIA and the FEP for Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific. In addition, the MCP contains seven conservation and management objectives that are consistent with the FEP for the Hawaiian Archipelago. This notice announces that NMFS has reviewed the MCP and determined that it satisfies the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Accordingly, NMFS has approved the MCP for the 3-year period from August 4, 2020, through August 3, 2023.

December 11, 2020. Final rule: **2020–2023 Annual Catch Limit (ACL) and Accountability Measures (AMs) for Hawaii Kona Crab**. In this final rule, NMFS implements an ACL of 30,802 lb (13,972 kg), and an annual catch target (ACT) of 25,491 lb (11,563 kg), of Hawaii Kona crab for fishing years 2020–2023. The fishing year is the same as the calendar year, and catch from State and Federal waters counts toward the ACL and ACT. This rule also implements as AMs, an in-season closure of the fishery if catch is projected to reach the ACT, and a post-season adjustment if catch exceeds the ACL. This action support the long-term sustainability of the Hawaii Kona crab fishery. The final rule is applicable in fishing years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The final rule is effective January 11, 2021

DRAFT

