

1.10 FEDERAL LOGBOOK DATA

1.10.1 Number of Federal Permit Holders

In American Samoa, the following Federal permits are required for fishing in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) under the Hawaii FEP. Regulations governing fisheries under the Hawaii FEP are in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 50, Part 665.

1.10.1.1 Special Coral Reef Ecosystem Permit

Regulations require the special coral reef ecosystem fishing permit for anyone fishing for coral reef ecosystem management unit species 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 American Samoa 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.

1.10.1.2 Western Pacific Precious Coral

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

1.10.1.3 Western Pacific Crustacean Permit

Regulations require a permit for the owner of a U.S. fishing vessel used to fish for lobster (now ECS) or deepwater shrimp in the EEZ around American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Pacific Remote Islands Areas, and in the EEZ seaward of three 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 American Samoa since 2007. NMFS has issued few crustacean fishery permits as shown in Table 1. Table 1 provides the number of permits issued to American Samoa FEP fisheries between 2010 and 2020.

Table 1. Number of federal permit holders in American Samoa crustacean fisheries

| Crustacean Fishery ¹ | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Lobster | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shrimp | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

¹ Source: PIRO Sustainable Fisheries unpublished data

1.10.2 Summary of Catch and Effort for FEP Fisheries

The American Samoa FEP requires fishermen to obtain a federal permit to fish for certain MUS in federal waters and to report all catch and discards. While NMFS annually issues permits for various FEP fisheries, there is currently limited available data on the level of catch or effort made by federal non-longline permit holders. Determining the level of fishing activity through the required federal logbook reporting for each fishery helps establish the level of non-longline fishing occurring in federal waters to assess whether there is a continued need for active conservation and management measures (e.g., annual catch limits) for these fisheries. For each FEP fishery, the number of federal permits issued since implementation of the federal permit and logbook reporting requirement became effective as well as available catch and effort data are presented.

Federal permits are not required to fish for bottomfish in American Samoa; NMFS has never issued a federal permit for precious coral or coral reef fishing in federal waters around American Samoa. Therefore, catch and effort data is not presented for these fisheries.

1.10.2.1 Spiny and Slipper Lobster

Table 2. Summary of available federal logbook data for lobster fisheries in American Samoa

| Year | No. of Federal Lobster Permits Issued ¹ | No. of Federal Lobster Permits Reporting Catch | No. of Trips in AS EEZ | Total Reported Logbook Catch (lb) | | Total Reported Logbook Release/Discard (#) | |
|------|--|--|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | | <i>Spiny lobster ECS²</i> | <i>Slipper lobster ECS²</i> | <i>Spiny lobster ECS²</i> | <i>Slipper lobster ECS²</i> |
| 2004 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2005 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2006 | 2 | 0 | | | | | |
| 2007 | 2 | 0 | | | | | |
| 2008 | 7 | 0 | | | | | |
| 2009 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2010 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2011 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2012 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2013 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2014 | 1 | 0 | | | | | |
| 2015 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2016 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2017 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2018 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2019 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 2020 | 0 | | | | | | |

¹ Source: PIRO Sustainable Fisheries unpublished data

² On February 8, 2019, NMFS published a final rule (84 FR 2767) to reclassify all crustacean MUS in American Samoa as ecosystem component species (ECS).

1.10.2.2 Deepwater Shrimp

Table 3. Summary of available federal logbook data for deepwater shrimp fisheries in American Samoa

| Year | No. of Federal Shrimp Permits Issued ¹ | No. of Federal Shrimp Permits Reporting Catch | No. of Trips in AS EEZ | Total Reported Logbook Shrimp ECS ² Catch (lbs.) | Total Reported Logbook Shrimp ECS ² Release/Discard (lbs.) |
|------|---|---|------------------------|---|---|
| 2009 | 0 | | | | |
| 2010 | 0 | | | | |
| 2011 | 0 | | | | |
| 2012 | 0 | | | | |
| 2013 | 0 | | | | |
| 2014 | 1 | 0 | | | |
| 2015 | 0 | | | | |
| 2016 | 0 | | | | |
| 2017 | 0 | | | | |
| 2018 | 0 | | | | |
| 2019 | 0 | | | | |
| 2020 | 0 | | | | |

¹ Source: PIRO Sustainable Fisheries unpublished data

² On February 8, 2019, NMFS published a final rule (84 FR 2767) to reclassify all crustacean MUS in American Samoa as ecosystem component species (ECS).

Note: Federal permit and reporting requirements for deepwater shrimp fisheries became effective on June 29, 2009 (74 FR 25650, May 29, 2009).