

1.1.10 Federal Logbook Data

1.1.10.1 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:

1.1.10.1.1 Northern Mariana Island Bottomfish Permit

Regulations require this permit for any vessel commercially fishing for, landing, or transshipping BMUS or bottomfish ECS in the EEZ around CNMI. Commercial fishing is prohibited within the boundaries of the Islands Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

1.1.10.1.2 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.

1.1.10.1.3 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.

1.1.10.1.4 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 CNMI since 2007. Table 1 provides the number of permits issued for CNMI fisheries between 2010 and 2020. Data are from the Pacific Islands Regional Office Sustainable Fisheries Division permits program.

Table 1. Number of Federal permit holders for the CNMI crustacean and bottomfish fisheries

CNMI Fisheries	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Bottomfish	12	9	14	5	7	7	18	25	14	9	14
Lobster	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*	0	1*	0	0
Shrimp	2**	2**	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0

*Area 5 CNMI and Guam.

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

1.1.10.2 Summary of Catch and Effort for FEP Fisheries

The Marianas Archipelago 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.

NMFS has never issued a federal permit for precious coral or coral reef fishing in federal waters around CNMI. Therefore, catch and effort data is not presented for these fisheries.

1.1.10.2.1 Commercial Bottomfish Fishery

Table 2. Summary of available federal logbook data for the commercial bottomfish fishery in CNMI

Year	No. of Federal Bottomfish Permits Issued ¹	No. of Federal Bottomfish Permits Reporting Catch	No. of Trips in CNMI EEZ	Total Reported Logbook Catch (lbs.)			Total Reported Logbook MUS Release/Discard (#s)	
				Bottomfish MUS & ECS ²	Coral Reef ECS ²	Pelagic MUS	Bottomfish MUS & ECS ²	Coral Reef ECS ²
2009	3	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
2010	12	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
2011	9	3	16	1,985	1,420	1,115		13
2012	14	5	40	2,309	1,765	159	52	10
2013	5	4	9	3,103	632	300		
2014	7	0						
2015	7	0						
2016	18	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
2017	25	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
2018	14	0						
2019	9	0						
2020	14	0						

¹ Source: PIRO Sustainable Fisheries unpublished data

² On February 8, 2019, NMFS published a final rule (84 FR 2767) to reclassify some bottomfish MUS and all coral reef MUS in the Marianas as ecosystem component species (ECS).

Notes: Federal permit and reporting requirements for CNMI bottomfish became effective on May 6, 2009 (74 FR 15373, April 6, 2009); n.d. = Not available due to confidentiality.

1.1.10.2.2 Spiny and Slipper Lobster

Table 3. Summary of available federal logbook data for lobster fisheries in CNMI

Year	No. of Federal Lobster Permits Issued ¹	No. of Federal Lobster Permits Reporting Catch in CNMI	No. of Trips in CNMI EEZ	Total Reported Logbook Catch (lbs.) in CNMI		Total Reported Logbook Release/Discard (lbs.) in CNMI	
				<i>Spiny lobster ECS²</i>	<i>Slipper lobster ECS²</i>	<i>Spiny lobster ECS²</i>	<i>Slipper lobster ECS²</i>
2006	2	0					
2007	2	0					
2008	7	0					
2009	0						
2010	0						
2011	0						
2012	0						
2013	0						
2014	0						
2015	0						
2016	1*	0					
2017	0						
2018	1*	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 the Marianas as ecosystem component species (ECS).

*Area 5 CNMI and Guam.

Note: Federal permit and reporting requirements for CNMI lobster fisheries became effective on December 4, 2006 (71 FR 69496, December 1, 2006).

1.1.10.2.3 Deepwater Shrimp**Table 4. Summary of available federal logbook data for deepwater shrimp fisheries in CNMI**

Year	No. of Federal Shrimp Permits Issued¹	No. of Federal Shrimp Permits Reporting Catch in CNMI	No. of Trips in CNMI EEZ	Total Reported Logbook Shrimp ECS² Catch (lbs.) in CNMI	Total Reported Logbook Shrimp ECS² Release/Discard (lbs.) in CNMI
2009	0				
2010	2	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
2011	2	0			
2012	0				
2013	0				
2014	0				
2015	1	0			
2016	1	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 the Marianas as ecosystem component species (ECS).

Notes: Federal permit and reporting requirements for CNMI bottomfish became effective on June 29, 2009 (74 FR 25650, May 29, 2009); n.d. = Not available due to confidentiality.