

§ 660.68 Fishing moratorium on Hancock Seamount.

Fishing for bottomfish and seamount groundfish on the Hancock Seamount is prohibited through August 31, 2004.

[63 FR 35163, June 29, 1998]

§ 660.69 Management subareas.

(a) The bottomfish fishery management area is divided into five subareas for the regulation of bottomfish and seamount groundfish fishing with the following designations and boundaries:

(1) Main Hawaiian Islands means the EEZ of the Hawaiian Islands Archipelago lying to the east of 161°20' W. long.

(2) Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) means the EEZ of the Hawaiian Islands Archipelago lying to the west of 161°20' W. long. However, for the purposes of regulations issued under this subpart, Midway Island is treated as part of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Subarea.

(i) Ho'omalulu Zone means that portion of the EEZ around the NWHI west of 165° W. long.

(ii) Mau Zone means that portion of the EEZ around the NWHI between 161°20' W. long. and 165° W. long.

(3) Hancock Seamount means that portion of the EEZ in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands west of 180°00' W. long. and north of 28°00' N. lat.

(4) Guam means the EEZ seaward of the Territory of Guam.

(5) American Samoa means the EEZ seaward of the Territory of American Samoa.

(b) The inner boundary of the fishery management area is a line coterminous with the seaward boundaries of the State of Hawaii, the Territory of American Samoa, and the Territory of Guam (the "3 mile-limit").

(c) The outer boundary of the fishery management area is a line drawn in such a manner that each point on it is 200 nautical miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured, or is coterminous with adjacent international maritime boundaries. The outer boundary of the fishery management area north of Guam will extend to those points which are equidistant between Guam and the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Subpart F—Precious Corals Fisheries**§ 660.81 Permits.**

(a) Any vessel of the United States fishing for, taking, or retaining precious coral in any precious coral permit area must have a permit issued under § 660.13.

(b) Each permit will be valid for fishing only in the permit area specified on the permit. Precious Coral Permit Areas are defined in § 660.12.

(c) No more than one permit will be valid for any one vessel at any one time.

(d) No more than one permit will be valid for any one person at any one time.

(e) The holder of a valid permit to fish one permit area may obtain a permit to fish another permit area only upon surrendering to the Regional Director any current permit for the precious corals fishery issued under § 660.13.

(f) General requirements governing application information, issuance, fees, expiration, replacement, transfer, alteration, display, sanctions, and appeals for permits for the precious corals fishery are contained in § 660.13.

§ 660.82 Prohibitions.

In addition to the general prohibitions specified in § 600.725 of this chapter and in § 660.15, it is unlawful for any person to:

(a) Use any vessel to fish for, take, retain, possess or land precious coral in any precious coral permit area, unless a permit has been issued for that vessel and area as specified in § 660.13 and that permit is on board the vessel.

(b) Fish for, take, or retain any species of precious coral in any precious coral permit area:

(1) By means of gear or methods prohibited by § 660.88.

(2) In refugia specified in § 660.12.

(3) In a bed for which the quota specified in § 660.84 has been attained.

(4) In violation of any permit issued under § 660.13 or § 660.17.

(c) Take and retain, possess, or land any pink coral from the Makapuu Bed (Permit Area E-B-1), Keahole Point Bed (Permit Area C-B-1), or Kaena Point Bed (Permit Area C-B-2) that is

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less than the minimum height specified in § 660.86, unless:

(1) A valid EFP was issued under § 660.17 for the vessel and the vessel was operating under the terms of the permit; or

(2) The coral originated outside coral beds listed in this paragraph, and this can be demonstrated through receipts of purchase, invoices, or other documentation.

§ 660.83 Seasons.

The fishing year for precious coral begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 the following year, except at the Makapuu Bed, which has a 2-year fishing period that begins July 1 and ends June 30, 2 years later.

§ 660.84 Quotas.

(a) *General.* The quotas limiting the amount of precious coral that may be taken in any precious coral permit area during the fishing year are listed in Table 1 of this part. Only live coral is counted toward the quota. The accounting period for all quotas begins July 1, 1983.

(b) *Conditional bed closure.* A conditional bed will be closed to all non-selective coral harvesting after the quota for one species of coral has been taken.

(c) *Reserves and reserve release.* The quotas for exploratory areas will be held in reserve for harvest by vessels of the United States in the following manner:

(1) At the start of the fishing year, the reserve for each of the three exploratory areas will equal the quota minus the estimated domestic annual harvest for that year.

(2) As soon as practicable after December 31 each year, the Regional Director will determine the amount harvested by vessels of the United States between July 1 and December 31 of that year.

(3) NMFS will release to TALFF an amount of precious coral for each exploratory area equal to the quota minus two times the amount harvested by vessels of the United States in that July 1 through December 31 period.

(4) NMFS will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notification of the Regional Director's determination and a

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summary of the information on which it is based as soon as practicable after the determination is made.

§ 660.85 Closures.

(a) If the Regional Director determines that the harvest quota for any coral bed will be reached prior to the end of the fishing year, or the end of the 2-year fishing period at Makapuu Bed, NMFS will issue a field order closing the bed involved by publication of an action in the FEDERAL REGISTER, and through appropriate news media. Any such field order must indicate the reason for the closure, the bed being closed, and the effective date of the closure.

(b) A closure is also effective for a permit holder upon the permit holder's actual harvest of the applicable quota.

§ 660.86 Size restrictions.

Pink coral harvested from the Makapuu bed (E-B-1), the Keahole Point Bed (C-B-1), and the Kaena Point Bed (C-B-2), must have attained a minimum height of 10 inches (25.4 cm). There are no size limits for precious coral from other beds or other species.

§ 660.87 Area restrictions.

Fishing for coral on the WestPac Bed is not allowed. The specific area closed to fishing is all waters within a 2-nm radius of the midpoint of 23°18.0' N. lat., 162°35.0' W. long.

§ 660.88 Gear restrictions.

(a) *Selective gear.* Only selective gear may be used to harvest coral from the EEZ of the main Hawaiian Islands.

(b) *Selective or non-selective gear.* Either selective or non-selective gear may be used to harvest coral from Brooks Bank, 180 Fathom Bank, and exploratory areas other than the EEZ off the main Hawaiian Islands.

Subpart G—West Coast Groundfish Fisheries

660.301 Purpose and scope.

This subpart implements the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PCGFMP) developed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. These regulations govern groundfish