

§ 665.250

50 CFR Ch. VI (10–1–14 Edition)

§ 665.250 Closed seasons.

(a) Lobster fishing is prohibited in Permit Area 1 during the months of January through June, inclusive.

(b) Lobster fishing is prohibited in Permit Area 2 during the months of May, June, July, and August.

§ 665.251 Closed areas.

All lobster fishing is prohibited:

(a) Within 20 nm of Laysan Island.

(b) Within the EEZ landward of the 10-fathom curve as depicted on National Ocean Survey Charts, Numbers 19022, 19019, and 19016.

§ 665.252 Harvest limitation program.

(a) *General.* Harvest guidelines for the Necker Island Lobster Grounds, Gardner Pinnacles Lobster Grounds, Maro Reef Lobster Grounds, and General NWHI Lobster Grounds for Permit Area 1 will be set annually for the calendar year and shall:

(1) Apply to the total catch of spiny and slipper lobsters.

(2) Be expressed in terms of numbers of lobsters.

(b) *Harvest guideline.* (1) The Regional Administrator shall use information from daily lobster catch reports and lobster sales reports from previous years, and may use information from research sampling and other sources to establish the annual harvest guideline in accordance with the FEP after consultation with the Council.

(2) NMFS shall publish a document indicating the annual harvest guideline in the FEDERAL REGISTER by February 28 of each year and shall use other means to notify permit holders of the harvest guideline for the year.

(3) The Regional Administrator shall determine, on the basis of the information reported to NMFS by the operator of each vessel fishing, when the harvest guideline for each lobster ground will be reached.

(4) Notice of the date when the harvest guideline for a lobster ground is expected to be reached and specification of the closure date of the lobster grounds will be provided to each permit

holder and/or operator of each permitted vessel at least 24 hours in advance of the closure. After a closure, the harvest of lobster in that lobster ground is prohibited, and the possession of lobster traps on board the vessel in that lobster ground is prohibited unless allowed under § 665.245(a)(8).

(5) With respect to the notification in paragraph (b)(4) of this section, NMFS shall provide each permit holder and operator of each permitted vessel with the following information, as appropriate:

(i) Determination of when the overall harvest guideline for Crustacean Permit Area 1 will be reached;

(ii) Closure date after which harvest of lobster or possession of lobster traps on board the vessel in a lobster grounds is prohibited;

(iii) Closure date after which the possession of lobster traps on board the vessel in Crustacean Permit Area 1 is prohibited by any permitted vessel that is not operating a VMS unit certified by NMFS; and

(iv) Specification of when further landings of lobster will be prohibited by permitted vessels not carrying an operational VMS unit, certified by NMFS, on board.

(c) *Monitoring and adjustment.* The operator of each vessel fishing during the open season shall report lobster catch (by species) and effort (number of trap hauls) data while at sea to NMFS in Honolulu. The Regional Administrator shall notify permit holders of the reporting method, schedule, and logistics at least 30 days prior to the opening of the fishing season.

§§ 665.253–665.259 [Reserved]

§ 665.260 Hawaii precious coral fisheries. [Reserved]

§ 665.261 Definitions.

As used in §§ 665.260 through 665.270:

Hawaii precious coral management unit species (Hawaii precious coral MUS) means any coral of the genus *Corallium* in addition to the following species of corals:

English common name	Scientific name
Pink coral (also known as red coral)	<i>Corallium secundum</i> , <i>Corallium regale</i> , <i>Corallium laauense</i> .
Gold coral	<i>Gerardia</i> spp., <i>Callogorgia gilberti</i> , <i>Narella</i> spp., <i>Calyptrophora</i> spp.

English common name	Scientific name
Bamboo coral	<i>Lepidisis olapa</i> , <i>Acanella</i> spp.
Black coral	<i>Antipathes griggi</i> , <i>Antipathes grandis</i> , <i>Antipathes ulex</i> .

Hawaii precious coral permit area means the area encompassing the precious coral beds within the EEZ around Hawaii. Each bed is designated by a permit area code and assigned to one of the following four categories:

(1) *Established beds.* (i) Makapu'u (Oahu), Permit Area E-B-1, includes the area within a radius of 2.0 nm of a point at 21°18.0' N. lat., 157°32.5' W. long.

(ii) Au'au Channel (Maui), Permit Area E-B-2, includes the area west and south of a point at 21°10' N. lat., 156°40' W. long., and east of a point at 21° N. lat., 157° W. long., and west and north of a point at 20°45' N. lat., 156°40' W. long.

(2) *Conditional beds.* (i) Keahole Point (Hawaii), Permit Area C-B-1, includes the area within a radius of 0.5 nm of a point at 19°46.0' N. lat., 156°06.0' W. long.

(ii) Kaena Point (Oahu), Permit Area C-B-2, includes the area within a radius of 0.5 nm of a point at 21°35.4' N. lat., 158°22.9' W. long.

(iii) Brooks Bank, Permit Area C-B-3, includes the area within a radius of 2.0 nm of a point at 24°06.0' N. lat., 166°48.0' W. long.

(iv) 180 Fathom Bank, Permit Area C-B-4, N.W. of Kure Atoll, includes the area within a radius of 2.0 nm of a point at 28°50.2' N. lat., 178°53.4' W. long.

(3) *Refugia.* Westpac Bed, Permit Area R-1, includes the area within a radius of 2.0 nm of a point at 23°18' N. lat., 162°35' W. long.

(4) *Exploratory areas.* Permit Area X-P-H includes all coral beds, other than established beds, conditional beds, or refugia, in the EEZ seaward of the State of Hawaii.

§ 665.262 Permits.

(a) Any vessel of the United States fishing for, taking, or retaining Hawaii precious coral MUS in any Hawaiian Archipelago precious coral permit area must have a permit issued under § 665.13.

(b) Each permit will be valid for fishing only in the permit area specified on

the permit. Precious Coral Permit Areas are defined in § 665.261.

(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 Administrator any current permit for the precious coral fishery issued under § 665.13.

(f) General requirements governing application information, issuance, fees, expiration, replacement, transfer, alteration, display, sanctions, and appeals for permits for the precious coral fishery are contained in § 665.13.

§ 665.263 Prohibitions.

In addition to the general prohibitions specified in 50 CFR 600.725 and in 665.15, it is unlawful for any person to:

(a) Use any vessel to fish for, take, retain, possess or land precious coral in any Hawaii precious coral permit area, unless a permit has been issued for that vessel and area as specified in § 665.13 and that permit is on board the vessel.

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

(1) By means of gear or methods prohibited by § 665.264.

(2) In refugia specified in § 665.261.

(3) In a bed for which the quota specified in § 665.269 has been attained.

(4) In violation of any permit issued under §§ 665.13 or 665.17.

(5) In a bed that has been closed pursuant to §§ 665.268 or 665.270.

(c) Take and retain, possess, or land any live pink coral or live black coral from any precious coral permit area that is less than the minimum height specified in § 665.265 unless:

(1) A valid EFP was issued under § 665.17 for the vessel and the vessel was