



**Western  
Pacific  
Regional  
Fishery  
Management  
Council**

June 17, 2021

Adrienne Thomas  
NOAA PRA Officer  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: OMB Control Number 0648-0634

Dear Ms. Thomas:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the list of allowable gear used in the Western Pacific Region under Section 305(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The current list of fisheries and gear for the Western Pacific Region is organized around the Council's prior species-based fishery management plans. In 2009, the Council transitioned its FMPs to archipelago-based Fishery Ecosystem Plans (FEPs). The list should be reorganized following the Council's five FEPs as structured in Title 50, Chapter VI, Part 665 of the CFR for Fisheries in the Western Pacific. The five FEPs are for American Samoa Fisheries, Hawaii Fisheries, Mariana Islands Fisheries, Pacific Remote Islands Area Fisheries and Western Pacific Pelagic Fisheries. An example for restructuring the list to be consistent with the FEPs is provided below.

1. American Samoa Fisheries (Fishery Ecosystem Plan, FEP)	
A. Bottomfish (commercial, recreational and charter)	Hand harvest, spear, slurp gun, hand net/dip net, hoop net for kona crab, throw net, barrier net, surround/purse net, hook and line, crabs and fish traps, bandit gear, handline, rod and reel, buoy gear
B. Coral Reef Ecosystem (commercial, recreational and charter)	Hand harvest, spear, slurp gun, hand net/dip net, throw net, barrier net, attended surround/purse net, hook and line, rod and reel, trolling, crab and fish traps
C. Crustacean (commercial, recreational and charter)	Trap, hand harvest, hoop net, gillnet, spear, snare, trawl
D. Precious Corals (commercial, recreational and charter)	Hand harvest, submersible

Finally, the Council will be taking final action this year to establish new permitting, reporting and other measures to monitor and manage offshore aquaculture in the Western Pacific Region. The list of allowable fisheries and gear should include provisions for offshore aquaculture structures or cages.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Council office.

Sincerely,



Kitty M. Simonds  
Executive Director