

Critical Mineral has the meaning given the term in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a)) and enumerated by the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey at 87 FR 10381 and any successive U.S. Geological Survey Director enumerations made pursuant to that authority, and any amendments to the enumerations by Act of Congress.

Critical Minerals Project means a project for which the primary product or co-product by economic value is a critical mineral.

Extraction means the activities performed to extract or harvest minerals or natural resources from the ground or a body of water, including, but not limited to, by operating equipment to extract or harvest minerals or natural resources from mines and wells, or to extract minerals or natural resources from the waste or residue of prior extraction.

FAST-41 means Title 41 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, 42 U.S.C. 4370m et seq.

Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council or Permitting Council means the Federal agency established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4370m-1(a).

Mining means a process for which the primary purpose is extracting minerals from the ground. Mining does not include the process of extracting oil or natural gas.

Processing means the refining of materials, including the treating, baking, and coating processes used to convert raw products into constituent materials.

Recycling means the process of collecting and processing spent materials and devices and turning the materials and devices into raw materials or components that can be reused either partially or completely.

■ 3. Amend § 1900.2 by revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 1900.2 FAST-41 sectors.

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(a) Critical minerals mining, extraction, beneficiation, processing, and recycling.

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Eric Beightel,

Executive Director, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

[Docket No. FWS-R4-ES-2023-0103; FF09E21000 FXES1111090FEDR 234]

RIN 1018-BG31

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Miami Cave Crayfish

Correction

In proposed rule document 2023-20293, appearing on pages 64856-64870 in the issue of Wednesday, September 20, 2023, make the following correction:

§ 17.46 [Corrected]

■ On page 64870, in the first column, in the fourth and fifth lines after the table at the top of the page, “(e) Miami cave crish (Procambarus milleri).” should read “(e) Miami cave crayfish (Procambarus milleri).”

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 665

[Docket No. 230918-0221]

RIN 0648-BM34

Pacific Island Fisheries; 5-Year Extension of Moratorium on Harvest of Gold Corals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would extend the current region-wide moratorium on the harvest of gold corals in the U.S. Pacific Islands through June 30, 2028. NMFS intends this proposed rule to prevent overfishing and to stimulate research on gold corals.

DATES: NMFS must receive comments by October 23, 2023.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2023-0071, by either of the following methods:

- Electronic Submission: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to

https://www.regulations.gov and enter NOAA-NMFS-2023-0071 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

• Mail: Send written comments to Sarah Malloy, Acting Regional Administrator, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), 1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176, Honolulu, HI 96818.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, will not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on https://www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pua Borges, NMFS PIRO Sustainable Fisheries, 808-725-5184.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Jewelry designers use small amounts of precious corals to adorn their products. The precious corals fishery in the U.S. Pacific Islands include black, pink, bamboo, and gold corals. They are slow-growing and have low rates of natural mortality and recruitment. Unexploited populations are relatively stable, and a wide range of age classes is generally present in those populations. Due to the great longevity of individuals and the associated slow population turnover rates, a long period of reduced fishing effort is required to restore a stock’s ability to produce at the maximum sustainable yield if a stock has been over-exploited. Fishermen harvest precious corals by various methods, including by hand-harvesting and by submersible.

Gold corals are suspension feeders and live in deep water (100-1,500 meters (m)) on hard substrates where bottom currents are strong, such as seamounts, ledges, pinnacles, walls, and cliffs. Prior fishing effort harvested gold corals by submersible or tangle net dredges. There are several beds of gold corals (Gerardia spp., Callogorgia gilberti, Narella spp., and Calyptrophora spp.) in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; generally 3-200 nautical miles (6-370 kilometers) from shore) around Hawaii. Gold coral distribution and abundance are unknown in the region beyond Hawaii, but they likely occur in the EEZ around American