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Public Notice

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: January 15, 2020

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) regarding the proposed fisheries and ecosystem research throughout the Pacific Region. The purpose of the research activities is to improve our understanding of ocean ecosystems and support NOAA's mission of science, service and stewardship.

For more information about the project, please proceed to the following link: <u>https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/PEA_CZMAConsult-CNMI.pdf</u> and <u>https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/PIFSC-Public-Draft-PEA-2019edition.pdf</u>

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally-approved coastal management plan. Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at <u>fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp</u>.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on January 15, 2020 and ending on January 29, 2020. We look forward to your input.