

How the Data Will be Used

The HMRFS will provide essential data to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, NMFS and DAR. Resource managers will use the data to improve stock assessments and develop recommendations for sound management strategies. The data can also be used in ways not directly related to fisheries management.

- they can contribute to damage assessments from chemical spills, pollution and other accidents that degrade local fisheries and ecosystems
- they can contribute to the planning of conservation and restoration strategies important to fishery resources

Your Participation is Vital!

As a recreational or subsistence fisher, you can play an important role in managing and sustaining Hawai'i's fisheries. *Your kōkua (cooperation) with HMRFS field and telephone interviewers will help ensure that fishing in Hawai'i remains a productive and rewarding experience.* For more information about the Marine Recreational Information Program, please visit their website at:

<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/recreational-fisheries/index>

Mahalo for your participation, good luck and Great Fishing!!!



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Photos courtesy of the Oceanic Institute & HMRFS staff

Hawai'i Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (HMRFS)



Artwork by Patrick Conley



<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/fishing/hmrfs/>

HMRFS

Beginning July 2001, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) began collecting marine non-commercial (ie. recreational) fishing data in Hawai'i, administered by the Hawai'i Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (HMRFS). Since 2001, data has been collected continuously to the present and is currently processed by NMFS through the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP, formerly known as the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey). Hawai'i is one of many coastal states participating in a national survey conducted by MRIP since 1979.

Creel Surveys

DAR staff collect catch data at various sites around the State on the islands of Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Maui and Hawai'i. Survey sites include beaches, boat ramps, harbors, piers and other popular fishing areas. Species-specific information such as the number, length and weight of each species caught is gathered from both shoreline fishers and private boat fishers.



Telephone Surveys

Telephone interviews of random households in Hawai'i are conducted by contracted surveyors. The telephone surveys collect demographic information of non-commercial fishers in Hawai'i as well as data specific to fishing effort such as frequency of fishing trips, species targeted and types of fishing gear used.



Need for Fisheries Management

Marine recreational and subsistence fishing are important cultural activities for many residents of Hawai'i. Fishing and diving are also important components of the tourism industry which is so vital to Hawai'i's economy. However, like so many other human activities, fishing can have detrimental impacts upon our resources by depleting too many animals and disrupting the balance of our offshore ecosystems. Unlike commercial fisheries, monthly reports of non-commercial fishing activities are not required by the State. HMRFS thus provides resource managers with information that characterizes the activities of Hawai'i's recreational and subsistence fishers so that they are able to maintain and improve the quality of ocean fishing for present and future generations.



Although the activity of a single non-commercial fisher is not likely to be significant, the combined activity of all Hawai'i fishers represents a tremendous amount of fishing effort. Gaining an understanding of both the biological impact and social importance of recreational and subsistence fishing is a vital part of the management process because it helps decision makers develop wise policies. Thus, your involvement with our surveys is much appreciated by the HMRFS team as well as the general public who share and enjoy the many benefits that our ocean provides.

