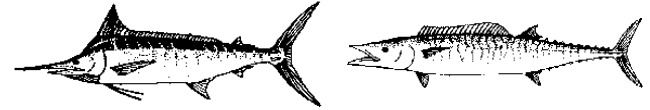




# THE HAWAII MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING SURVEY (HMRFS)



According to data collected through this program and others like it throughout the country, Hawaii's recreational catch ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation in pounds landed (excluding Alaska and Texas), behind only Florida, Louisiana and North Carolina. Per capita, Hawaii ranks number one. As a recreational or subsistence fisher, you play an important role in the management of our fisheries program. Collecting accurate catch data through this survey will help ensure that recreational marine angling in Hawaii remains productive and strong.



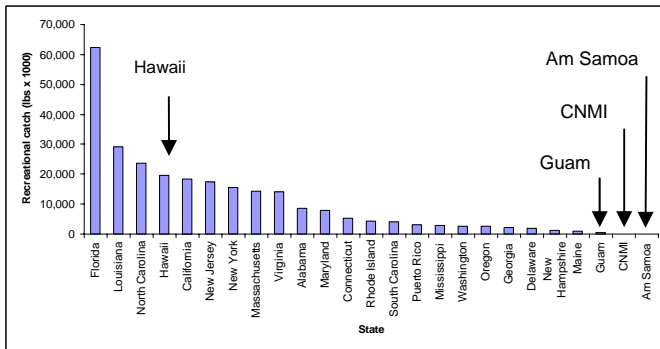
## HISTORY: THE HMRFS STORY

Over 30 years ago, NOAA Fisheries Service began conducting a survey of recreational fishing in Hawaii. Two years later, due to lack of funding and other challenges, the program was discontinued.

In 1999, the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council, Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) and NOAA Fisheries began working together within the Council's Recreational Fisheries Data Task Force to restart the project. In May 2001, the survey began anew with four surveyors collecting recreational fishing data.

Average Annual Marine Recreational Catch in Pounds (2003-2004)

Source: Fisheries of the U.S., NOAA Fisheries



HMRFS surveyors follow-up their May 2006 pelagics refresher with a trip to the Honolulu Fish Auction.

## HOW ARE DATA USED?

Data provide general information to fishery managers, biologists and others for review and evaluation. This information can be used to make stock assessments, study species life cycles, FAD utilization and more. By combining these data with reported catch from commercial permits, we will have a more complete picture of catch and effort in Hawaii. Mahalo to fishers for participating!

The HMRFS project collects effort and landings data for over 200 species of fish and invertebrates caught by recreational fisherman in the nearshore and offshore fisheries. You can access these data at [www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational](http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational).

Today, HMRFS has 14 surveyors on five islands; Maui, Hawaii, Kauai, Oahu and Molokai. Most of the HMRFS surveyors are fishers themselves, and many have been with the HMRFS since it began in 2001. They meet regularly to obtain refresher training on species IDs and field procedures. DAR supports almost three-quarters of the total field survey budget using some state funds and the state's Sport Fish Restoration Fund (Dingell-Johnson). NOAA Fisheries contributes the remaining 25 percent through a permanent cooperative grant.



## 2005 HMRFS DATA

In 2005, HMRFS surveyors interviewed 5,000 fishers in Hawaii.

### Field Interviews by Island, 2005

Big Island	Oahu	Kauai	Maui	Molokai
1446	1106	978	1176	294

Using a questionnaire developed by NOAA Fisheries and DAR, surveyors obtain information on the fishing trip (time and area fished, gear used, number of fishers), the fisher (whether they are fishing commercially, to cover their fishing expenses, or just for fun) and sample the catch by obtaining fork lengths and weights.



An HMRFS surveyor interviews a private boat fisher on Oahu.

The HMRFS does not pick up much data on less common gear types due to small sample sizes.

### Shore Fishing Method by County, 2005 (Percent of total fishers interviewed, n=3829)\*\*

	Big Island	Oahu	Kauai	Maui
Rod & Reel	81.75	77.57	81.55	75.07
Net	4.43	4.72	3.93	5.79
Spear	9.38	12.48	12.89	15.73
Other	4.08	4.89	0.95	2.89

\* "n" is the sample size, or number of fishers interviewed.

\*\* Percentages do not total to 100 due to refusals and unidentified gear.

### Private Boat Fishing Method by County, 2005 (Percent of total fishers interviewed, n=1031)\*\*

	Big Island	Oahu	Kauai	Maui
Trolling	71.09	51.56	73.08	67.61
Handlining	5.9	1.04	2.2	2.52
Bottom	7.37	4.17	9.34	6.6
Casting	7.96	29.69	8.79	9.43
Netting	0	0	3.3	0.31
Spearfishing	3.83	5.73	2.75	11.32
Other	1.18	5.73	0	0.31

\* "n" is the sample size, or number of fishers interviewed.

\*\* Percentages do not total to 100 due to refusals and unidentified gear.

## 2006 ECONOMIC SURVEY UPDATE

An expenditure survey to show the importance of recreational saltwater fishing to our state's economy is currently underway. HMRFS surveyors collect names and addresses from fishers they interview in the field (FIELD). Fishers across the state have volunteered to participate at local tournaments or through tackle shops (VOL). In wave 2, we began sampling commercial marine license (CML) holders who take recreational trips. As of September 1, a total of 552 fishers from the field and another 1155 volunteers agreed or asked to participate. Surveys for wave 1 were mailed on April 24; wave 2 on June 28. The wave 3 mailing was delayed, but wave 4 is on track, so if you provided an address between May–August, you should receive your survey by late October.

### Expenditure Survey Response Rates, 2006

	VOL	FIELD	CML	Total
<b>Wave 1 (Jan/Feb)</b>				
Fishers Surveyed	518	52	0	570
Percent Completed	44%	33%	0	43%
<b>Wave 2 (Mar/Apr)**</b>				
Fishers Surveyed	117	52	387	556
Percent Completed	47%	26%	23%	27%

\*\*\* We are still receiving surveys from wave 2; rates as of 9/22/06.

Data are preliminary and not for use or for other publication. For further information contact Jeff Muir, Project Manager, Division of Aquatic Resources, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Ph: 808.587.0093 Email: [hmrfs1@earthlink.net](mailto:hmrfs1@earthlink.net). If you would like to be involved in reviewing Hawaii's recreational data contact Nicole Bartlett at NOAA Fisheries, 944-2151, Email: [nicole.bartlett@noaa.gov](mailto:nicole.bartlett@noaa.gov).

DLNR receives financial support under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration and other federal programs. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the laws of the State of Hawaii, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the State of Hawaii prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, and disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire information, please write to: Affirmative Action Officer, Personnel Office, Department of Land and Natural Resources, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Rm. 231, Honolulu, HI 96813, or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Civil Rights Branch, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203.