



# HAWAII MARINE RECREATIONAL FISHING SURVEY

**Division of Aquatic Resources,  
Dept. of Land & Natural Resources November 2004**



## WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?

As a recreational or subsistence fishing angler, you play an important role in the management of the state's fisheries program. The preliminary report from the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy suggests the possibility of requiring saltwater recreational fishing licenses for Hawaii's anglers. This possibility has shown to be very unpopular among anglers. Collecting accurate fishing data, through this survey, will help ensure that recreational marine angling in Hawaii remains productive and strong. For more information on the Commission's report, please visit, [www.hawaii.gov/dlnr](http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr).



## HOW WILL THE DATA BE USED?

The data will provide general information to fishery managers, biologist and others for review and evaluation. This information can be used to improve stock assessments, study species life cycles, FAD utilization and more. By combining the data with other information collected from commercial permits, it will provide a better understanding of the actual catch and efforts for Hawaii.

It will also allow resource managers to develop new management programs that could reduce the necessity of additional regulations. For more program information, please visit [www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational](http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational).

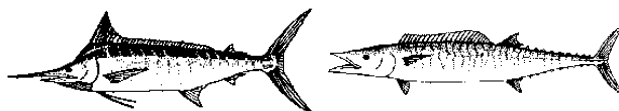
## HISTORY: THE "GOT FISH" STORY

Over 20 years ago, the National Marine Service came to Hawaii to conduct the Marine Recreational Fishing Statistical Survey (MRFS), due to lack of funding and other challenges, the program was discontinued.

Recently, the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council, state Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) have worked together to bring the project back. The project began two years ago with four surveyors collecting recreational fishing data.

Today, the project has 11 surveyors on five islands; Maui, Hawaii, Kauai, Oahu and Molokai. Using a special format and sampling regime designed by NMFS and DAR, the surveyors collect information statewide from anglers on gear type, fishing modes, species; including weight and fork length, number of anglers and trips made annually. For information on DAR, please visit, [www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dar](http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dar) or HMRFS [www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/surveys/index.htm](http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/surveys/index.htm).

*The HMRFS newsletter is an information bulletin only. All data is preliminary and not for use or for other publication. For further information please contact Matthew Parry, Project Manager, Division of Aquatic Resources, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Ph: 808 587.0093 Email: [hmrfs1@earthlink.net](mailto:hmrfs1@earthlink.net).*



## HMRFS TEAM PICTURES

Currently, the team consists of 13 members from five islands; Maui, Hawaii, Kauai, Oahu and Molokai. (Available pictures)



Gary -Maui



Imiola -Molokai



Jason -Maui



John -Oahu



John -Hawaii



Jordan -Kauai



Larry -Oahu



Matt -Oahu



Patrick -Kauai



Richard -Oahu



Steve -Oahu



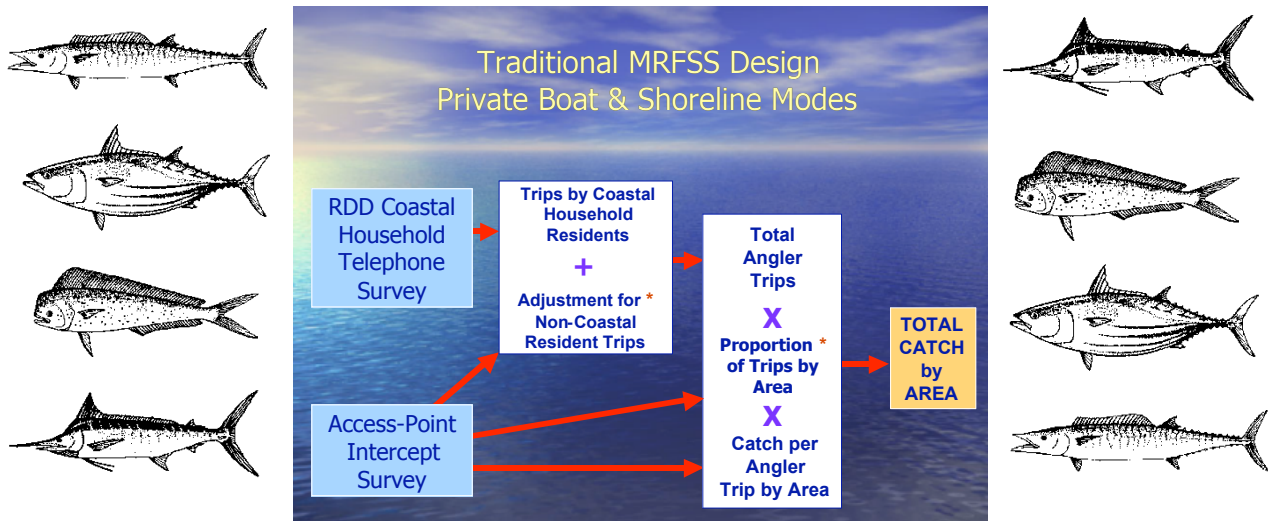
Wes -Hawaii

## ALOHA FROM HMRFS MEMBERS

We would like to thank the Charter Fishing Industry and all anglers for their cooperation with our HMRFS field interviews and telephone surveys over the past few years. Your continuing cooperation helps to ensure that recreational marine fishing in Hawaii remains a productive and rewarding experience for generations to come. Tight Lines and Great Fishing.

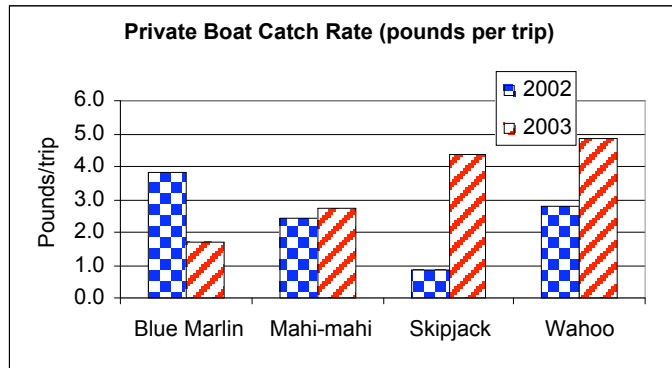
Mahalo,

HMRFS Surveyors & Staff



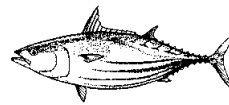
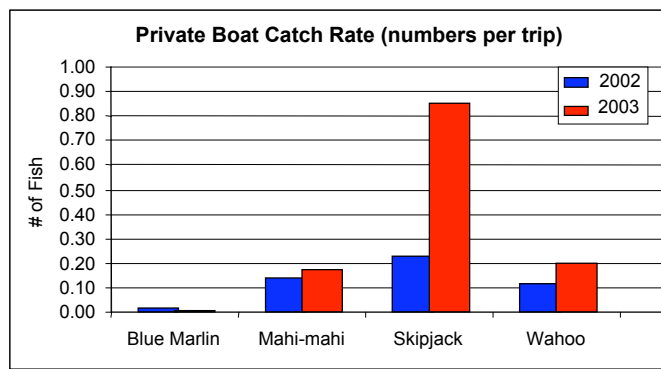
The above graph illustrates how information is compiled to generate the survey's results.

## Preliminary Statewide Estimates from 2002-03 HMRFS Date

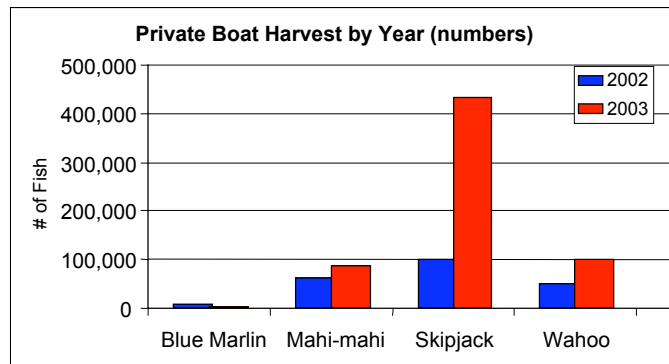


HMRFS collects data on over 260 types of fish and over 42 types of invertebrates. The following graphs are for a select number of species that are of interest to Hawaii fishers.

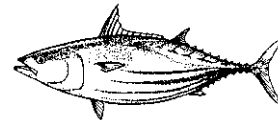
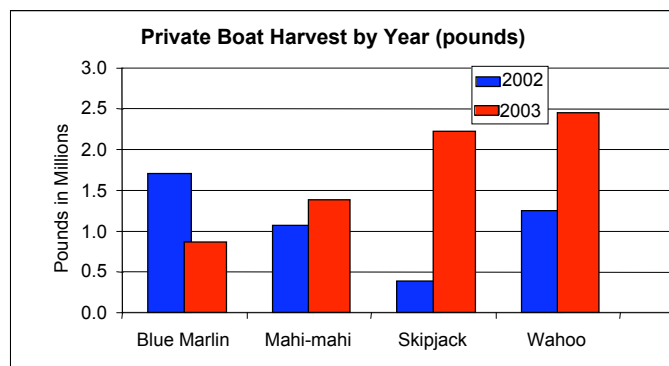
Number of pounds of certain fish species that were caught during a boat fishing trip.



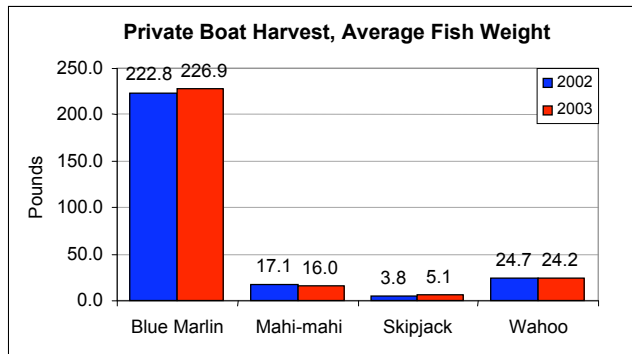
Number of certain fish species that were caught during a boat fishing trip, showing increases in Mahi, Wahoo and a large increase in Skipjack.



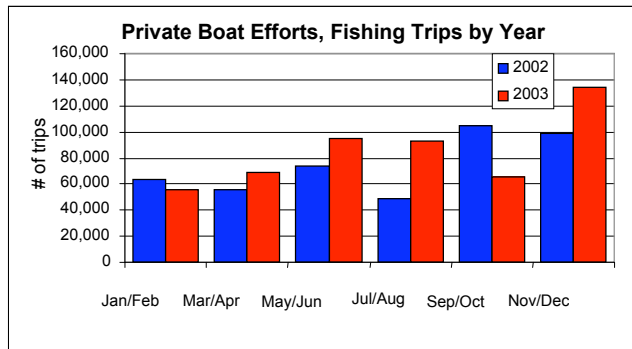
Number of certain species of fish caught during 2002-03, showing an increase in the catch of Mahi, Skipjack and Wahoo as Blue Marlin catches decreased.



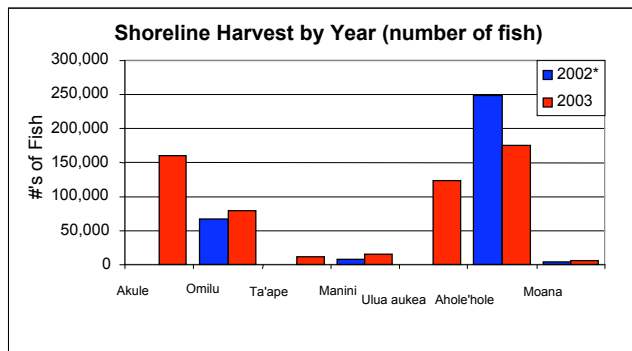
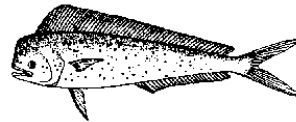
Pounds of fish caught for certain fish species. (*Numbers represent millions of pounds.*) Increases seen in Mahi, Skipjack and Wahoo, with a decrease in Blue Marlin.



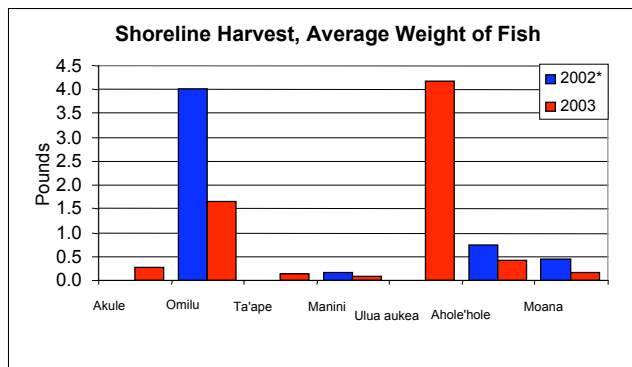
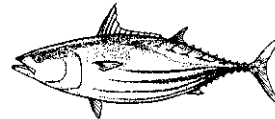
Average weight of certain fish species caught by private boat fishers, showing that average weights remained nearly the same in both years.



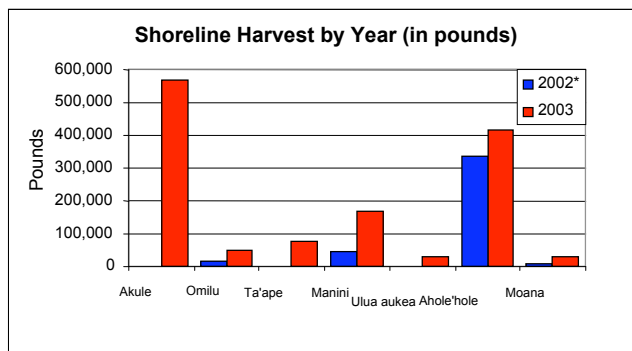
Number of fishing trips taken by private boaters over a year period for 2002 and 2003. (Year's are in 2-month segments.)



Number of certain fish species caught by shoreline fishers. (Shoreline surveys did not operate for the entire year in 2002.)



Average weight of certain fish species caught by shoreline fishers. (Shoreline surveys did not operate for the entire year in 2002.)



Total catch, by shoreline fishers, of certain species. (Shoreline surveys did not operate for the entire year in 2002.)