

Volume 20
June 2018



Two nice Onaga, Photo credit to Dave Itano

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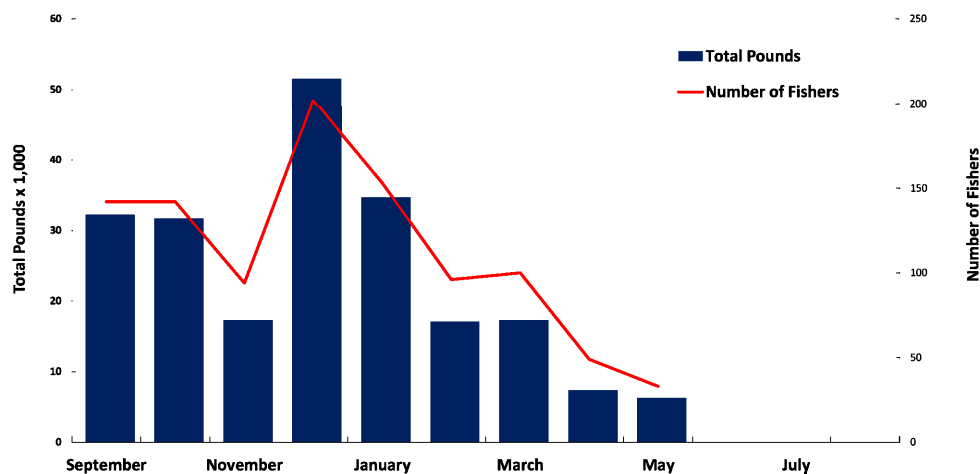
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New Annual Catch Limits (ACL) Announced for the
MHI Deep 7 Bottomfish Federal Fishing Years
2018-2019, 2019-2020, & 2020-2021
492,000 Pounds each year

Main Hawaiian Islands Deep 7 Bottomfish Fishery 2017 - 2018

BF Fishing Year	Number of Fishers	Number of Trips	Number of Pieces	Total Reported Pounds	Percent Of ACL
2017 - 2018	335	1,974	52,606	209,241	68.4%*

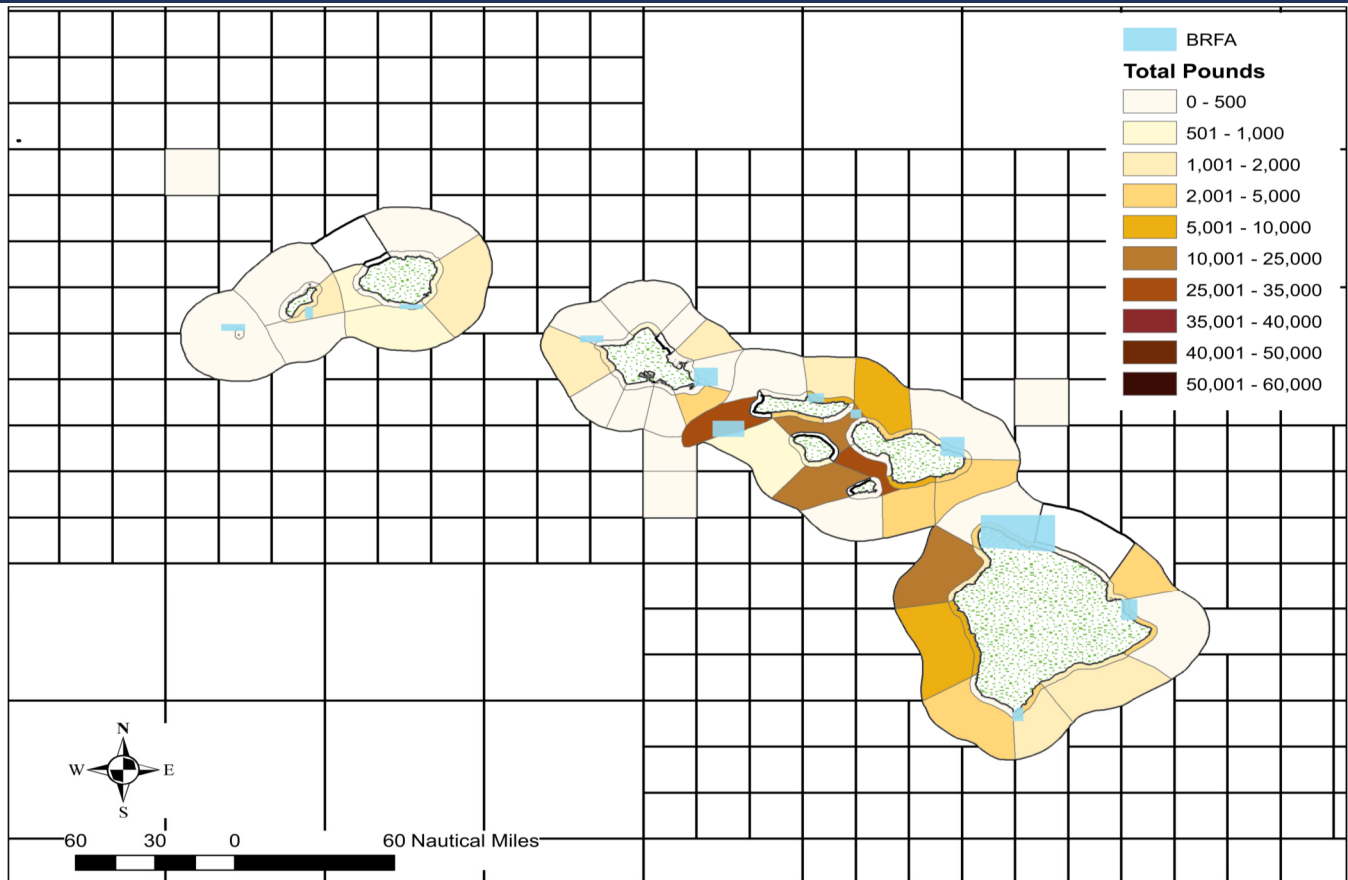
*Data as of June 8, 2018



The MHI Deep 7 Bottomfish 2017-2018 federal fishing year has two more months to go. So far a total of 335 commercial fishers have made 1,974 trips and landed 209,241 pounds of Deep 7 bottomfish, or 68.4% of the ACL (306,000 pounds).

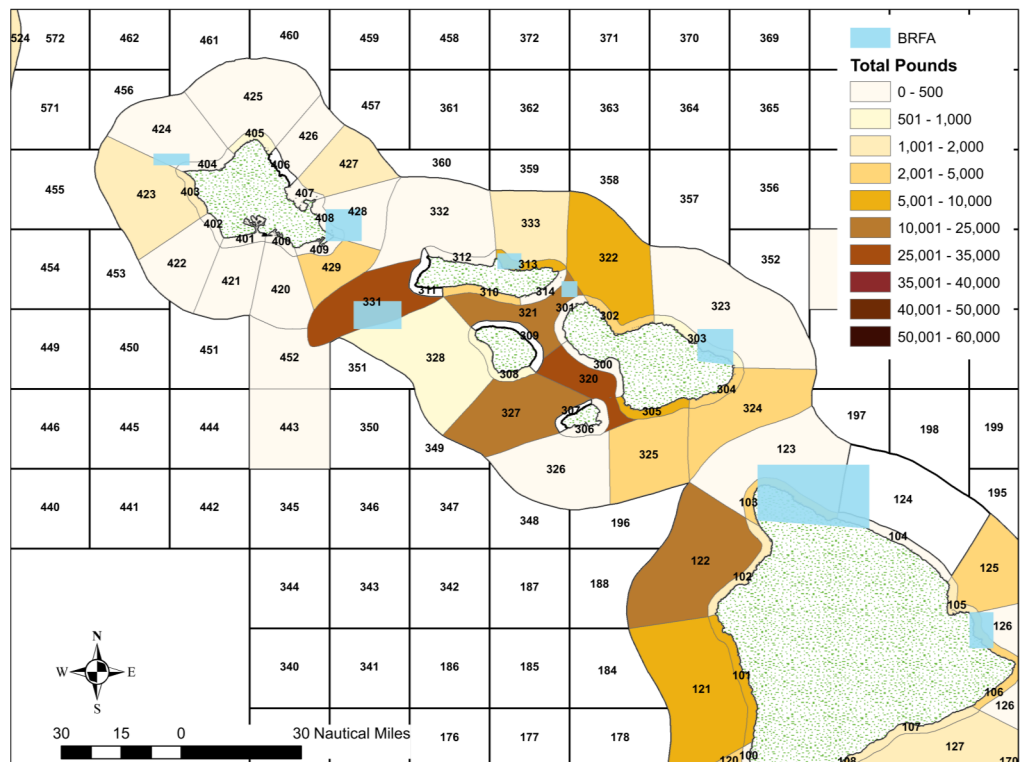
Mahalo Nui Loa goes out to all commercial bottomfish fishers who submit accurate and timely trip reports. Your diligence and cooperation is appreciated!

MHI Deep 7 Bottomfish Total Reported Pounds by Grid Area



Oahu, Maui County and Hawaii Island Catch by Grid Areas

Figure 2. The total pounds of non-confidential catch for the 2018 federal fishing year, 201,376 lbs., reported by grid area. The darker the color the more pounds were reported for that grid. In the Penguin Banks grid # 331 alone, 34,365 lbs., or 17% pounds were reported. The three areas included in the Maui triangle, # 320, 327, and 321 represent over 66,000, or 32% of the total catch. Grid areas off Hawaii County, 122, 121, and 101 represented 19,000 lbs., or 9% of the total catch.



Total pounds for all MHI Deep 7 Bottomfish Federal Fishing Years

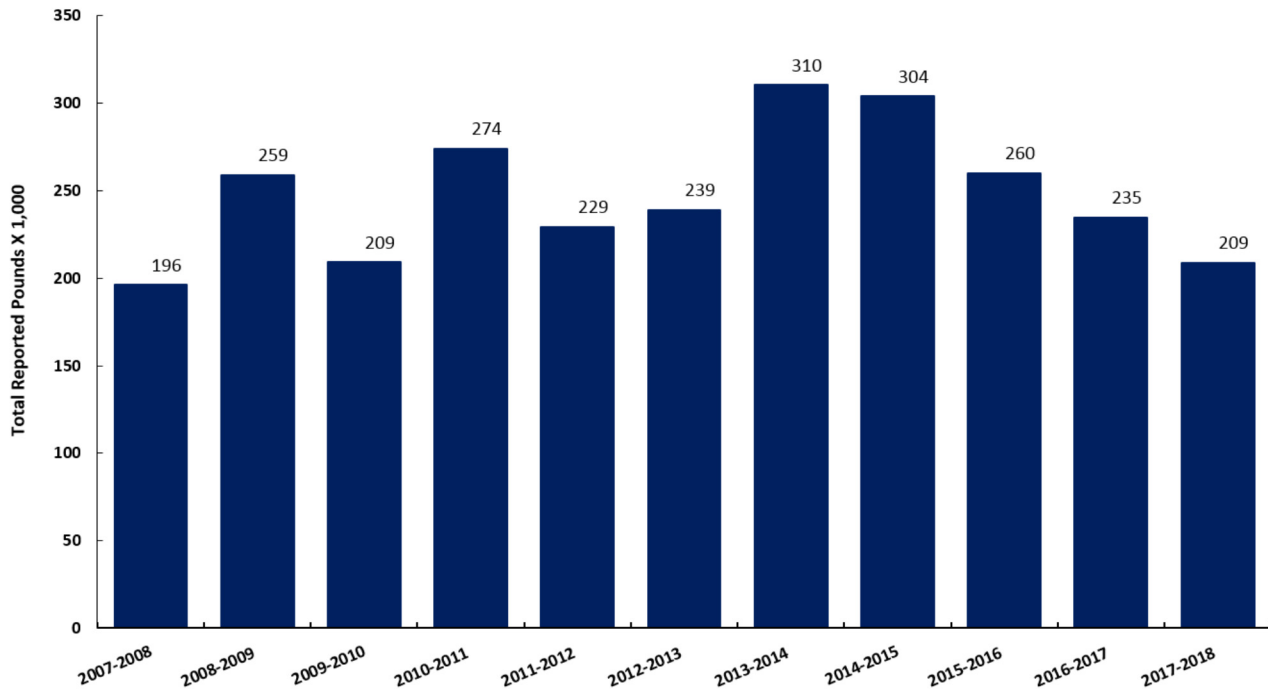


Figure 3. The total Pounds reported annually for each MHI Deep 7 bottomfish federal fishing year between 2007 and 2018, as of June 7, 2018.

MHI Deep 7 Bottomfish Fishery Total Catch 2016-2018 Federal Fishing Years

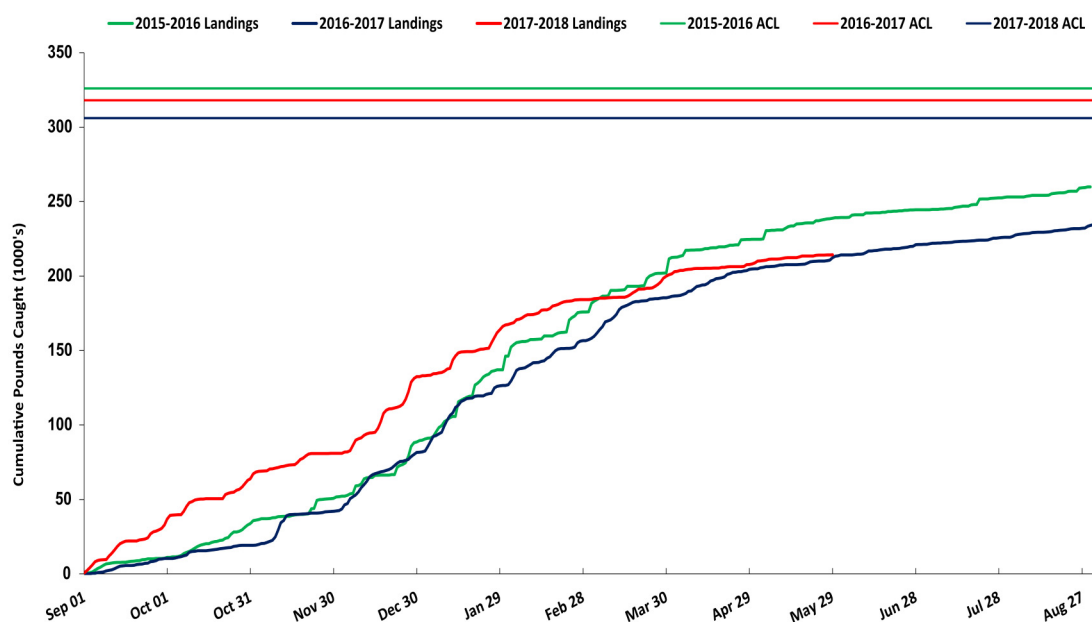


Figure 4. A comparison of the past three bottomfish fishing years, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 total pounds landed. The 2018 landings started strong this year, but flattened out with windy weather to follow the trend from the previous 2016-2017.

Total Number of Pounds Reported by Each County

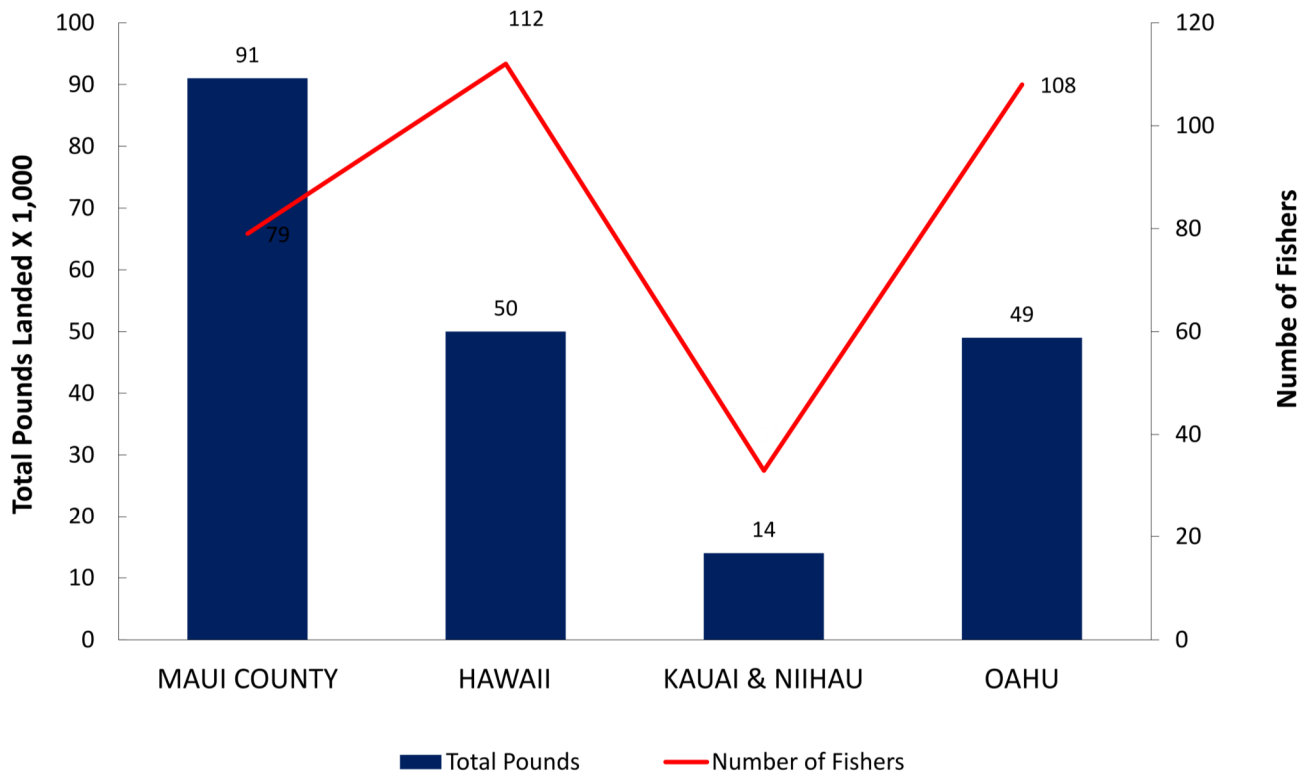


Figure 8. The total pounds of Deep 7 landed for each county and the number of reporting fishers. The reported county comes from the designated port of landing reported on the Deep-7 bottomfish report.

Total Pounds of Reported Catch by Species

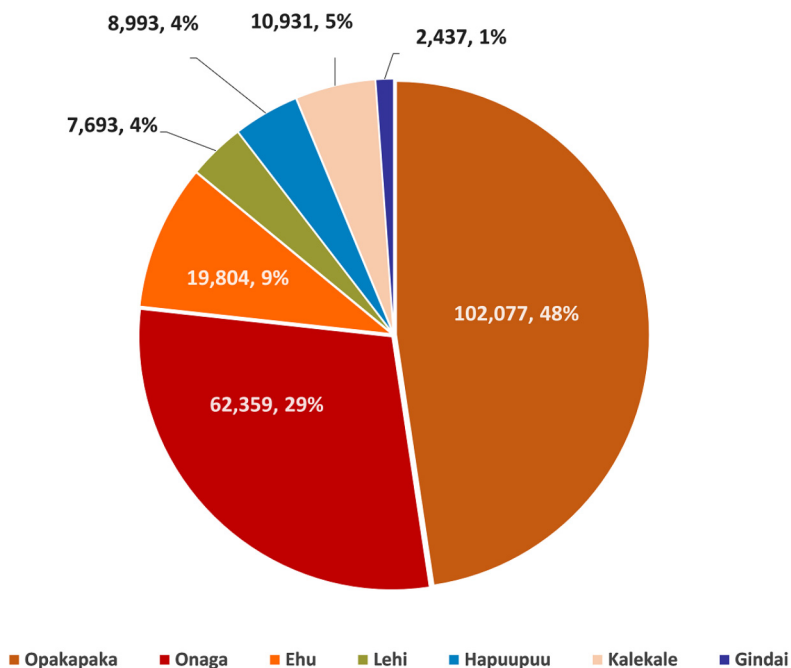


Figure 9. The total pounds of Deep 7 catch listed by species caught in the 2017-2018 bottomfish season. Opakapaka accounted for 48% of all reported catch, 102,077 lbs, while Onaga was the second most reported, 29%, 62,359 lbs.



Important Bottomfish Reporting Instructions from MHI Deep 7 Report Book

Fishing Effort (Complete this section even if you did not catch anything)

1. **"Day Fished"** — Enter day of the month fished (e.g., 1, 2, 12.. .31), and use a separate line for each day fished, even if you did not catch anything, and complete this fishing effort section. For overnight fishing trips less than 24 hours, enter the day of month when the trip began. For multiple fishing trips during the same day, enter day fished for each fishing trip.
2. **"Buoy or Area Fished"** — Print only one buoy identification letter(s) or one area code fished per line. Use a separate line when buoy or area fished changes. Enter buoy or area code fished even if you did not catch anything. For example, inshore area (e.g. 403) in the main Hawaiian Island is approximately 2 nautical miles from shore. Refer to the **Commercial Fisheries Statistical Chart** included in this trip report book for statistical areas and Bottomfish Restricted Areas. For buoy information please refer to the statistical chart in your pink Fishing Report booklet or check online, [http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/artificial reefs.html](http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/artificial%20reefs.html) for Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) maps by island, or visit your local DAR office to obtain a copy of the FAD maps.
3. **"Fishing Method"** — Print fishing method code (**TL = Trolling with lures, BF = Deep-sea handline, IH = Inshore handline, IS = Ika-shibi and PA = Palu-ahi**) or print name of method used (see methods list in this booklet). Use another line when fishing method changes.
4. **"Hours Fished Per Method/Area"** — Enter number of hours fished (fishing gear soak time).
4. **"Hours Fished Per Method/Area"** — Enter number of hours fished (fishing gear soak time).
- **This does not include searching time, only when your lines are in the water.**
7. **"Port of Landing"** — Print the name of the port or launch ramp where you land your catch, or where you recover your vessel: e.g. Honokohau Harbor, Kewalo Basin, Hawaii Kai, etc.

Catch Per Unit of Effort (CPUE)

Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) in simple terms represents the amount of effort (time) to catch the number of fish. When it is used as a corner stone of a successful stock assessment, this calculation becomes more complicated. NOAA scientists took many years to standardize CPUE to take into account all factors that affect the CPUE of bottomfishing. However, the first step was to look at the State of Hawaii, Division of Aquatic Resources commercial Deep 7 bottomfish data. Scientists held five workshops over two years to speak with bottomfishers to understand everything that goes into a successful or unsuccessful bottomfish trip.

NOAA has also collaborated with MHI bottomfishers to perform independent research measuring and understanding the CPUE for MHI bottomfish. Each trip was methodically planned and recorded with randomly picked fishing sites. With some fishing occurring in the closed Bottomfish Restricted Areas. More of these bottomfish research trips are planned, and their results will help future BF stock assessments, that are used to determine the Deep 7 Bottomfish Annual Catch Limits (ACL) to be even more accurate. However, we still depend on the data you provide us on your fishing report, so please try to be as accurate as possible with the number of hours your gear is in the water and how many fish you land, release and or lose to a predator.

Reporting Lost and Released Fish

One field on your fishing report that is often overlooked is the **Lost and Released** columns. We at DAR hear from fishers that interactions with sharks are increasing, however we do not see that interaction on the reports. Please report all fish Released and Lost to predators.

L/R (Lost and Released)

"L" — Lost refers to fish that were lost to any type of predation, i.e. sharks, dolphins, etc. For lost fish, print species name under species name column and enter only the number lost to predation in the L column. If species lost is unknown, print unknown for species name and enter number lost in the L column. **Do not include lost fish with number or pounds landed.**

"R" — Released refers to fish landed and then intentionally released dead or alive, or tagged and released. For released fish, print species name under species name column and enter only the number released in the R column. **Do not include released fish with number or pounds landed.**

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"Number Lost to Predators" — To the best of your knowledge enter the number of losses to **Sharks**, or if predator cannot be identified, use "Unknown". If predator can be identified, print predator name next to "Other" and enter number lost. The total number of fish lost to predation in the "L" column should equal the sum of the "Number Lost to Predators"

Excerpt on the importance of reporting bycatch, the NOAA National Bycatch Report:
http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110922_bycatchreport.html

"The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that NOAA's conservation and management measures minimize bycatch to the extent practicable. Bycatch data are important information used by managers in setting annual catch limits and scientists in producing stock assessments for fish and protected species. Conservation and management measures are developed through a public process by the eight regional fishery management councils, which include members who represent commercial fishing, recreational fishing, environmental interests, and academia. Improved data on the scope of the problem and how bycatch reduction measures are working will help councils and fishermen increasingly avoid the costly and wasteful problem of bycatch."

Bottomfish Vessel Registration Renewal Reminder

Your Bottomfish Vessel ID registrations need to be renewed for the 2018-2019 season. Bottomfish vessel registrations (BFVR) are valid only for the current federal fishing year or when the ACL is reached. In the unlikely event that the ACL is reached before August 31, all bottomfish vessel registrants will be notified by mail. BFVRs for the 2018-2019 fishing can be renewed online at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/cmls-public/app/welcome.html>, by mail, or at your local DAR office. Applications can be submitted starting on July 1, 2018.

MHI Deep 7 Bottomfish Trip Reporting FAQ's



Glenn Hurry with an Uku. Photo Credit to Dave Itano.

Why is there MHI Deep- 7 Bottomfish Trip Reporting?

Answer: The Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Deep 7 Commercial Fishery (BF) is jointly managed by a federally mandated annual catch limit (ACL) and state reporting requirements. The catch is monitored through your BF reports and not from Commercial Marine Dealer reports. To properly monitor the ACL in real time, we need your BF trip report submitted within five days after the last day of your trip.

When do I fill out a deep 7 trip report form?

Answer: Please submit a paper or online trip report form if you go bottomfishing and catch, lose, and/or release a Deep 7 bottomfish species (onaga, ehu, opakapaka, kalekale, lehi, hapuupuu, and gindai). Commercial fishers must report all Deep 7 bottomfish trips within five days after the last day of the trip.

How do I report a trip if I go fishing for more than 1 day?

Answer: If your trip lasts less than 24 hours put all your trip details on the first day you started fishing. If your trip is over 24 hours, separate the fishing trip details by the 24 hour period fished.

If I fish three "day trips" in a row, when does the first day trip have to be reported?

Answer: If you fished three separate (came back to port) days in a row, that is three separate trips and each trip needs to be reported within five days after you return from that trip. If you went on a fishing trip and were gone for three days, then DAR must receive your report five days after you return from your trip.

Why do you need to have the crew CML#? If you want my crew's name you should pass another ruling for this?

Answer: The reason for wanting the crew's CML # is to get a better idea of the number of fishers involved in the Deep- 7 bottomfish fishery and it will also allow DAR to include crew members in mail outs and notifications related to the bottomfish fishery. It also allows DAR staff to cross verify fish landed and fish sold.

If we troll and bottomfish on the same trip, how will this be reported?

Answer: The Deep 7 bottomfish trip report was designed to collect fishing method information in order to allow bottomfish fishers to record all fishing methods that they used on that trip. For example, if a Deep 7 bottomfish fisher deep sea handlines and catches Deep- 7 bottomfish and then trolls in the same trip, the fisher can record both methods on the trip same report form.

How will the Deep 7 BF trip requirement be enforced?

Answer: Fishers must submit a complete and accurate Deep-7 bottomfish report within five days after the last day of their fishing trip. When a fisher submits a late report, inaccurate or when a missing report is discovered through Commercial Marine Dealer data; we use the Civil Resources Violation System to enforce the Commercial Marine License reporting requirements.



Meagan Luers holding a nice size onaga. Photo Credit NOAA

State of Hawaii
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Aquatic Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 330
Honolulu, HI 96813



Attention Deep 7 Bottomfishers:

If a Deep 7 species is landed, lost or released a trip report is **due within 5 days** of the trip end date.

- Bottomfish trip reports are due within 5 days of trip end.
- Late trip reports are subject to a fine.
- Reports can be entered online: dlnr.ehawaii.gov/cmls or using a paper form, please call 808-587-0109 for a trip report book or visit your local DAR office.



Division of Aquatic Resources
Hawaii Department of Land and
Natural Resources

Dear Commercial Bottomfish fishers and dealers, We welcome your feedback. Please let us know what kind of information is useful to you. Any feedback about the newsletter, positive or negative, is greatly appreciated! **PLEASE CALL, Kimberlee Harding BF Data Supervisor, (808) 587-0594 or e-mail dlnr.ar.bf@hawaii.gov.** Mahalo! – DAR Statistical Unit

Thank you to everyone for your ideas and assistance in editing the Bottomfish Newsletter Volume 20! A special thanks to: Dave Itano, Reginald Kokubun, Eric Yokomori, and Pua Furuuchi.

Editor: Kimberlee Harding