



September 9–10, 2023

Fishing Tournament Rules and Information

About the tournament

Ta'ape (*Lutjanus kasmira*) were first introduced by the Hawai'i Territorial Government in the 1950's from French Polynesia to supplement Hawaii's local fisheries. While ta'ape was one of dozens of species introduced to Hawai'i, none of the other species have attained such numbers in the ensuing decades. Ta'ape can now be found in large schools throughout the entire Hawaiian archipelago and are found in shallow waters to depths of over 400 ft deep. Due to their smaller size (generally less than 12 inches) and yellow color, their market value has always been lower than comparable fish. Despite this, ta'ape are an excellent food fish and are growing in popularity with chefs and sustainability-minded fishers. The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is holding this tournament to promote ta'ape as a delicious, abundant, and sustainable food resource. DAR is excited to feature Chef Mark Oyama of Mark's Place Restaurant and Contemporary Flavors Cuisine who will be hosting a fish fry at the tournament weigh-in.

This tournament is funded in part by the Sport Fish Restoration Act federal grant funds and contributes to the statewide efforts of The Ta'ape Project, which aims to promote ta'ape with local fishers, chefs, and businesses and is run by local nonprofits Chef Hui and Conservation International Hawai'i.

Tournament dates (all eligible fish MUST be caught during the following times)

Tournament start: Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 6:00am.

Tournament stop: Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 11:00am.

All teams must notify tournament organizer (Aaron Swink 808-271-0089) via text when they begin fishing and when they stop.

Weigh-in:

September 10, 2023 from 11am-12pm at the Kauai Sailing Association building (formerly Nawiliwili Yacht Club). Nawiliwili Small Boat Harbor, 2494 Waapa Rd, Lihue.

If fishers want to weigh-in fish, you must be in the weigh-in line before 12:00pm to be eligible for prizes. Fish must be in good shape (not mutilated, damaged, or spoiled) and kept on ice.

Fish fry with Chef Mark Oyama and prize ceremony from 12-1pm at the Kauai Sailing Association building.

This is a "catch and cook" tournament. Teams may donate their catch after weigh-in to be cooked up by Chef Mark and enjoyed by tournament participants.

Fishing tournament boundaries:

Any state waters (up to 3 miles out) around Kauai not prohibited to fishing pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 13, Subtitle 4.

Fishing methods:

Any legal method of fishing in areas not prohibited to fishing pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 13, Subtitle 4. Please refer to the most current Hawaii Fishing Regulations Handbook or view rules online at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/fishing/fishing-regulations/>.

Eligible species

Ta'ape – Blueline snapper, *Lutjanus kasmira*

To'au – Blacktail snapper, *Lutjanus fulvus*

Teams

Teams must have a **minimum of 2 fishers (for safety reasons)** and a **maximum of 6 fishers**.

Winning categories:

- **Highest cumulative weight (top three teams – all eligible species combined weight)**
- **Heaviest fish (individual winners, ta'ape only)**
 - o **Heaviest fish overall**
 - o **Heaviest fish caught by a youth under 10**
 - o **Heaviest fish caught by a youth ages 10-13**
 - o **Heaviest fish caught by a youth ages 14-17**

Each fisher may select only one fish from their catch to submit to the weighmaster to compete for the heaviest fish category. In the event of a tie, the fish with the longest fork length will win the tie-breaker.

Eligibility:

All tournament participants must submit a completed entry form, signed waiver, and release form by the registration deadline **12:00pm Friday, September 8th, 2023**.

Entry forms are available at the DAR Lihue office or on the DAR website at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar> and can be mailed to or dropped off at the DAR Lihue office: Division of Aquatic Resources, 3060 Eiwa St, Rm 306 Lihue, HI 96746 or emailed to: aaron.swink@hawaii.gov.

Minors must have parental/guardian consent.

All fish entered for weigh-ins must be fresh. No spoiled, rotten, or mutilated fish will be accepted.

Disqualification:

Any violations to the tournament rules or fishing regulations (HAR 13-4), Federal, State or County laws, unsportsmanlike conduct including the disrupting or harassing of other participants, fishing outside of the tournament boundaries, entering fish for weigh-in caught before the tournament begins, or any other matters brought to the tournament staff's attention that are deemed unsportsmanlike, will be grounds for immediate disqualification from the tournament and any eligibility of winning prizes.

Protests:

Any protests need to be announced verbally to the tournament staff at the time of the incident, at the designated weigh-in date and time listed above.

Questions? Contact Aaron Swink at 808-271-0089 or aaron.swink@hawaii.gov

**Ta'ape Throwdown
Registration Form
September 9-10, 2023**

8

Deadline to register is 12:00pm Friday, September 8th, 2023

(Please submit form as early as possible though!)

Submit this form and signed tournament waiver and release form or by mail, email, or drop off at our office.

Division of Aquatic Resources

3060 Eiwa St, Rm 306

Lihue, HI 96746

Email: aaron.swink@hawaii.gov

Questions? Contact Aaron Swink at 808-271-0089 or the email address above

Please carefully read all tournament rules and submit one registration form and signed release for each participant

Team name _____

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Age _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Staff use only

Participant Number: _____

KAUAI TAAPE THROWDOWN FISHING TOURNAMENT WAIVER AND RELEASE FORM

In signing this WAIVER AND RELEASE form, I acknowledge that I am voluntarily participating in the Kauai Taape Throwdown Fishing Tournament (referred to as "Tournament" hereon) described above, which is coordinated by the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR). I have not been coerced or required to participate in this Tournament. I understand and acknowledge that the DAR is not promoting, operating, monitoring, or otherwise controlling the conditions and circumstances of this Tournament. I understand that this Tournament may involve hazardous conditions. I freely accept and voluntarily assume any RISKS OF SERIOUS INJURY AND/OR DEATH AND/OR PROPERTY DAMAGE that may result from my participation in this Tournament. I have carefully considered the pros and cons of participating in this Tournament, and I consider myself to possess the necessary equipment and physical conditioning to participate. I assume sole responsibility for my own safety. Considering all the above, I HEREBY AGREE – to the fullest extent allowed by the law -TO WAIVE, RELEASE, DISCHARGE, INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE THE STATE OF HAWAII OR ITS DEPARTMENTS, DIVISIONS, AGENCIES, EMPLOYEES, AND PARTNER ORGANIZERS AND AFFILIATED INDIVIDUALS OF THE TOURNAMENT from any and all claims and liabilities arising out of my participation in this Tournament. I acknowledge that I have read and understand the rules of the Tournament and accept that any violations to these rules will result in my disqualification from the Tournament. I give my consent to receive emergency medical treatment in the Tournament of my injury or illness during the Tournament. I also give my permission for the DLNR DAR to use my name and any photographs of me that are taken during this Tournament.

Signature:

Print Name:

If participant is under the age of 18, parental/guardian consent is required

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Print Name

Staff use only

Participant Number: _____