



Fact Sheet

Akule and Opelu

- ! Fisheries for akule and opelu are important fisheries throughout the tropics and are among the most productive nearshore fisheries in Hawaii. Combined landings of akule and opelu in Hawaii amount to over 900,000 pounds annually.
- ! Commercial, community and government interests have raised concerns of overfishing of akule and opelu in local waters.
- ! However, a recent study, using a 30-year fisheries database, indicates that both akule and opelu are exploited below maximum sustainable yield and are not threatened by the fisheries.
- ! The study also shows that akule productivity may be influenced by precipitation and that the majority of the local catch is taken from a small number of areas that receive the most effort.
- ! This study also indicates that akule has sufficient site fidelity to allow localized reduction in catch per unit of effort due to fishing, while opelu likely does not.