



Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Management

- ! Some species of main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) bottomfish have been considered **overfished** for nearly a decade. For much of this time, the Council encouraged the State of Hawaii to take corrective action, as about 80 percent of the MHI bottomfish resource occurs within state waters (i.e., 0B3 miles from shore).
- ! Under current Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Council is mandated to restore overfished stocks to healthy levels within 10 years. In 1997, a report to Congress listed onaga and ehu as **overfished** species in Hawaii and hapuupuu as **Approaching** an overfished condition.
- ! In June 1998, the State of Hawaii implemented a MHI bottomfish management program, which primarily utilizes numerous closed areas around the MHI.
- ! The Council considered options to assist the State to better manage its MHI bottomfish, and, in December 1998, it adopted a resolution that recognizes the State's bottomfish management plan as being consistent with the Council's bottomfish fishery management plan (FMP).
- ! Nearly completed results of new genetic work on onaga and ehu by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology suggests that onaga and ehu each comprise a single archipelagic-wide stock in Hawaii; work on hapuupuu is in progress. Considering the stock range as the entire archipelago, onaga and ehu are not overfished (no biological risk of stock collapse), even though they are locally depleted in the MHI where fishing intensity is greatest.
- ! The Council continues to monitor the stocks and fishery through its annual report on bottomfish and may choose to assist the State in additional ways to facilitate its MHI management program.