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MEDIA ADVISORY / BRIEFING INVITATION

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Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Seasonal Closure to Start April 16

HONOLULU (11 April 2008) New regulations coming into effect on April 16, 2008, will close waters 0 to 200 miles around the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) to all fishing for seven deepwater bottomfish species (onaga, ehu, gindai, kalekale, opakapaka, lehi and hapuupuu—the Deep 7) until Aug. 31, 2008. The closure results from new management rules implemented in 2007 that, among other items, restricted landings of Deep 7 species from MHI waters between Oct. 1, 2007, and May 1, 2008, to 178,000 pounds. The closure will be in effect in both State and Federal waters and for both commercial and non-commercial fishermen. It will be implemented through a combination of State and Federal regulations. The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands bottomfish fishery, which is managed under a limited entry program and a separate catch quota, will remain open during the MHI closure.

MEDIA INVITATION – MHI Bottomfish Closure Briefing

What: Briefing and question-and-answer opportunity on the implementation of the April 16 to Aug. 31, 2008, closure for bottomfish in the main Hawaiian Islands

Who: Media are invited to participate in the briefing by State and Federal fishery management personnel and representatives to fishermen, seafood dealers, chefs and other members of impacted business sectors

When: 9 to 10 a.m., Monday, April 14, 2008

Where: United Fishing Agency at the Commercial Fishing Village, Pier 38, Honolulu Harbor (makai side of Nimitz Hwy. across from the New Eagle Café building)

For more information, visit www.hawaiibottomfish.info or contact Mark Mitsuyasu at 479-6357 or 522-8220 or at mark.mitsuyasu@noaa.gov. *Thank you for your coverage of this event!*