



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
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August 28, 2014

Mr. Michael Tosatto  
Pacific Islands Regional Administrator  
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1845 Wasp Blvd., Building 176  
Honolulu, HI 96818

Dear Mr. Tosatto,

The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center completed the 2014 stock assessment of Deep 7 Bottomfish in the Main Hawaiian Islands, entitled "Stock Assessment Update for the Main Hawaiian Islands Deep7 Bottomfish Complex Through 2013 With Projected Annual Catch Limits Through 2016." This updated assessment was presented to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee and to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in June 2014. The assessment will be published as a NOAA NMFS Technical Memorandum later this year.

PIFSC considers this newest assessment to be superior to the 2011 stock assessment. The new assessment added three years of data to that used in the 2011 stock assessment and one additional improvement: it included State of Hawaii Commercial Marine License (CML) as a variable to standardize CPUE over time. The CMLs began being uniquely and consistently assigned to a single individual through time starting in 1994. The stock assessment included CMLs in the CPUE standardization for that year and onward. The improvement was highly significant, resulting in a two-fold increase in the explanatory power (R-squared) and a substantial decrease in the AIC value of the CPUE standardization, which now explains over 50% of the variation in observed CPUE.

In the three additional years (2011-2013) covered by this updated assessment, the biomass of the deep seven species and the exploitation rate were about the same as in the preceding three years. In other words, the updated estimates of the values for management are not a result of any significant change in biomass or exploitation rate, but are due to a better estimation of their values than those provided by the previous assessment.



The SSC, through the Council, requested PIFSC responses to several questions and these have been provided to the Council (Boggs e-mail of August 15, 2014, attached).

This assessment has been submitted to the NMFS CIE review process for a formal review in December 2014.

Attachment

Sincerely



Dr. Samuel Pooley F/PI

Director, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
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