



Pacific Blue Marlin

Kajiki, A'u, Sa'ula, Batto

Distribution

- Found in all tropical oceans.
- Found year-round in Hawai'i.
- Large females migrate into Hawaiian waters in summer to spawn.

Stock Status

- Fished sustainably, with the stock neither overfished nor subject to overfishing.

Importance to the Western Pacific Region

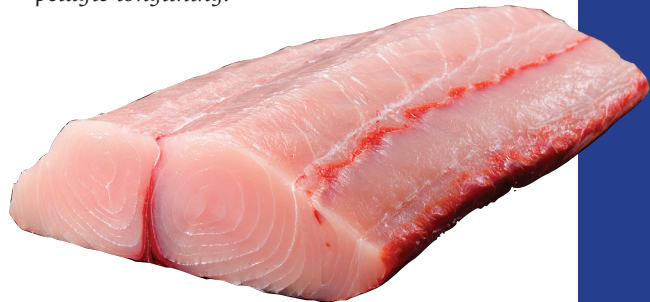
- Traditionally targeted food fish in Hawai'i and other US Pacific Islands.
- Chamorro fishermen in Guam and other Mariana Islands were famed for their ability to catch blue marlin.
- Kona on Hawai'i's Big Island has the world's largest charter vessel fishery based on blue marlin.
- One of the oldest and prestigious fishing competitions, the Hawai'i International Billfish Tournament, is based on this availability of large marlins in the summer off the Kona Coast.
- Hawai'i fisheries land about 1 million to 1.5 million pounds of blue marlin annually, with about 70 percent landed by longliners and 30 percent by commercial trollers.
- Hawai'i recreational troll fishermen land about 800,000 pounds of blue marlin annually. Some recreational clubs have their own facilities to smoke marlin meat.

Markets

- This highly versatile food fish is marketed fresh and smoked and as pate, sausage, dip and jerky.
- Hawai'i-caught blue marlin commands a high price in mainland US markets.
- Every blue marlin landed stateside is traceable back to Hawai'i.

Management

- Blue marlin is part of the management units species managed under the Pelagic Fisheries Ecosystem Plan (FEP) of the Western Pacific Region.
- The Pelagics FEP requires logbooks, 100 percent observer coverage for the shallow-set fishery for swordfish, 20 percent observer coverage for the deep-set fishery for bigeye tuna, vessel monitoring systems and protected species mitigation measures.
- The Hawai'i longline fishery is a global icon for environmentally responsible pelagic longlining.



Marlin fillet. Photo courtesy of The Honolulu Fish Company.