**Where Seafood Consumed in Hawai‘i Originates**

In Hawai‘i, we are fortunate to be less dependent on seafood imports than the US mainland, where about 90 percent of the seafood consumed is from foreign sources.¹

Our local commercial fisheries provide us with about 37 percent of the seafood consumed in our islands (Fig. 5). While we consider our non-commercial fishery as well, we are about 1 percent sustainable in regards to seafood (Fig. 2). The remainder of our fish, shellfish and edible seaweed comes from the US mainland (5 to 6 percent) and foreign imports (44 to 57 percent).²

In 2010 to 2014, our imported seafood came from 26 different countries (Fig. 3) and included hundreds of different seafood goods. Other countries provided Hawai‘i with a single seafood product: Argentina with squid; Guatemala, dolphins with Mexico; grouper; New Caledonia, shrimp and Greece; and Maldives with manta, Malta and Singapore with tuna.

In the past five years, Hawai‘i has imported on average about 19 million pounds of seafood annually at a cost of about $4.6 million each year corrected for inflation, and the amount and value of these imports are increasing (Fig. 4).

Dolphin fish is one species whose imports have been on the increase (Fig. 5). In 2000-2004, Hawaii’s imported dolphinfish from 13 countries: Australia, China, Taiwan, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Japan, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, United States, Vanuatu, and Western Samoa.

A favorite local fish is ‘ahi, or bigeye and yellowfin tuna. These tunas are used to prepare raw fish dishes such as sashimi and poke, at least 11 countries supply bigeye tuna to Hawai‘i while at least 18 countries supply yellowfin tuna to our islands (Fig. 5). The countries supplying bigeye include Australia, Ecuador, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tonga, Vietnam and Western Samoa. For example, Ecuador, these same countries also provide Hawaii with yellowfin tuna, as did China-Taipei, Costa Rica, Singapore, Thailand and Vanuatu.

However, the exact amount and value of bigeye and yellowfin imported into Hawai‘i is not accurately known. This is because significant amounts of these tunas and other marine fish that are shipped through ports in Honolulu are labeled as “NRPD,” meaning “not specifically provided for” (Figs. 6 and 7). It is also likely that foreign tuna is re-processed at West coast ports (California, Washington) to Hawai‘i.

While it is unfortunate that we are unable to accurately identify all of the fish that are imported directly or indirectly into our islands, we are fortunate that the fish caught by our local commercial vessels are easily identified and are landed fresh on ice.

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