

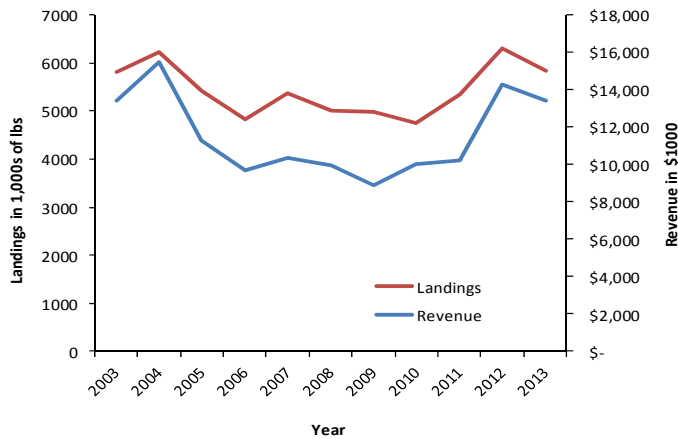
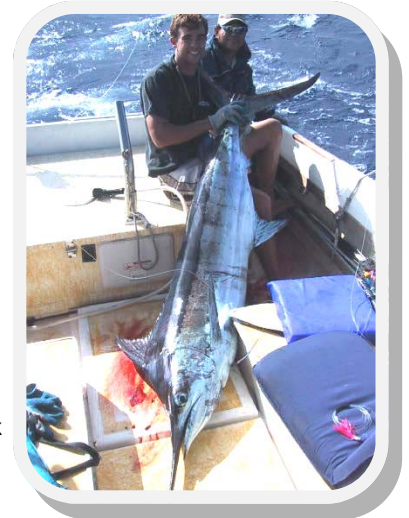
# F I S H E R I E S F A C T S H E E T

## HAWAII SMALL BOAT FISHERIES

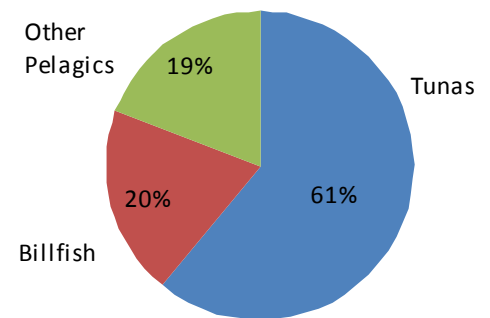
The Hawaii small boat fishery is complex and comprised of diverse fishing activities and motivation. The small boat fishery typically means vessels under 40 feet and consists of commercial and non-commercial (recreational, subsistence, artisanal, sustenance, etc.) sectors. This fishery supports small-scale fishing businesses and local seafood production and is important in the continuation of traditional fishing practices in Hawaii.

### Small Boat Fishery Characterization

- Both commercial and non-commercial sectors represented with vessels fishing mainly for pelagic species, but also includes bottomfish and coral reef fishes.
- Fishery consists of trailered boats that utilize public access at small boat harbors across the State, and typically range from 12 to 37 feet in length.
- Gears and methods primarily include trolling and handline, with specialized handline methods of Ika Shibi and Palu Ahi almost exclusively used by commercial fishermen.
- The fishery operates in both state waters (0-3 miles) and Federal waters (3-200 miles) with offshore areas such as Cross Seamount and Middle Bank important for the handline fisheries, as well as at NOAA weather buoys throughout the archipelago
- Fish caught in the small-boat fishery stays in Hawaii, feeding families, community members, and visitors.
- There are over 1,000 State of Hawaii-issued commercial licenses issued in Hawaii for the commercial small boat fishery and may be at least equal, if not more participation by the non-commercial fishery. The State of Hawaii do not require permits/licenses or logbooks for non-commercial fishing.



Hawaii Small Boat Fishery Landings and Revenue, 2003-2013



Average species composition of Hawaii Small Boat Fishery landings from 2003-2013

### Small Boat Fishery Statistics

- Small boat fishery has averaged over 5.5 Million pounds in landings from 2003-2013, with an average revenue of over \$11 Million.
- Trolling is the primary gear type for the small boat fishery, followed by handline and other gears.
- Tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack, and albacore) comprise the majority of the catch, but Billfish (Blue Marlin, Striped Marlin, Swordfish, Other Marlins), and Other Pelagics (mahimahi, ono, moonfish, pomfret, sharks, and oilfish) are also a large part of the fishery.



**Social and Economic Considerations**

- Fishermen are heavily invested in the small boat fishery as boats, gear and trip costs are expensive
- Many part-time fishermen are able to cover costs through the sale of fish, while full time commercial fishermen depend on the sales of fish for their livelihood.
- Increasing costs and regulations (prohibitions, closed areas, etc) may cause fishermen to either switch target species, take fewer trips, or switch fishing gears/methods
- Covering costs may also cause an increase in percent of catch sold, which removes a greater portion of the fish provided to the family and community.

**Current Small Boat Fishery Issues**



- Small boat fisheries are dependent upon the infrastructure at harbors and boat ramps and fishermen are concerned with the current conditions and would like to see improvements.
- Some fishermen would like to see markets developed for fish that are caught in abundance but do not receive high prices
- Participants in the small boat fishery continue to be concerned with the potential impact of future regulations and closed areas on the fishery
- The small boat fishery is continuing to experience the loss of fishing areas due to closures (Monuments, Sanctuaries, MPAs) which is concern for both providing fish and for continuing traditions and culture.
- The cost to fish (gas, maintenance, fish prices) is of concern that should be noted to explain any declining trends in the small boat fishery.
- Non-commercial fishery sector data collected through Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (HMRFS) may not be adequate for management. Adjustments and review of current methods underway to strengthen the program through the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)



**Future Priorities for Hawaii Small Boat Fisheries**

- Improve fisheries catch data from both commercial and non-commercial sectors and that such data is used for management decisions
- Ensure that any future regulations are based upon the best available scientific information
- Avoid placing unnecessary regulations on small boat fishermen

**References**

Hospital J, Scholey Bruce S, Pan M. 2011. *Economic and Social Characteristics of the Hawaii Small Boat Pelagic Fishery*. Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center Administrative Report H-11-01, 47 p. + Appendices

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. 2014. *2014 Pelagics Annual Report*. Honolulu, HI.

Additional data sources from: Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources, Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishery Survey (HMRFS)