



WESTERN
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COUNCIL

Fact Sheet

Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Management

- Some species of main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) bottomfish have been considered locally depleted for nearly a decade. For much of this time, the Council encouraged the State of Hawaii to take corrective action, as about 80 percent of the MHI bottomfish resource occurs within state waters (i.e., 0–3 miles from shore).
- In June 1998, the State of Hawaii implemented a MHI bottomfish management program, which primarily utilizes numerous closed areas around the MHI.
- The Council considered options to assist the State to better manage its MHI bottomfish, and, in December 1998, it adopted a resolution that recognizes the State's bottomfish management plan as being consistent with the Council's bottomfish fishery management plan (FMP). The Council was instrumental in getting the US Coast Guard to assist the state Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) in monitoring the state's bottomfish area closures.
- The Council continues to monitor the stocks and fishery through its annual report on bottomfish and may choose to assist the State in additional ways to facilitate its MHI management program.