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Fact Sheet

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Hoomalu Zone Bottomfish Fishery

- The Hoomalu Zone of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) encompasses federal waters beginning north of Necker Island and ending north of Kure Atoll (see map).
- In 1989 the Hoomalu Zone became a federally permitted limited access fishery for bottomfish.
- Currently, seven permits are issued for the zone.
- Permits are non-transferable and must be renewed annually.
- Each permit holder must make a minimum of three trips to the Hoomalu Zone per year and land 2,500 pounds of fish, of which 50% must be bottomfish management species.
- Each permit holder must attend a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) protected species workshop.
- The fishery is subject to mandatory logbook reporting using State of Hawaii NWHI bottomfish forms.
- The fishery is subject to observer coverage. In the early 1990s, observers were placed on bottomfish vessels to determine the interaction between the fishery and monk seals.
- According to NMFS, there are no known mortalities of monk seals attributed to the NWHI bottomfish fishery.
- The status of bottomfish species in the NWHI is healthy. Spawning potential ratios (SPR), an indicator to measure overfishing, ranged between 73% and 94% in 1998 for the five major bottomfish species, i.e., opakapaka, onaga, ehū, hapuupuu and uku. Overfishing is defined as 20% or less.