

# Mahalo Nui Loa!

Thank you to the over 100 community members who participated in the February 2020 scoping meetings throughout the state and shared their input at the meetings or through written comments. Your participation will help to ensure that the Hawai'i small-boat pelagic fisheries can be managed effectively and appropriately.



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# Moving Forward

The Council staff is currently working with its advisory groups, the State of Hawai'i and other stakeholders on options to require mandatory permits and reporting for small-boat pelagic fisheries operating in the US exclusive economic zone (3 to 200 miles off-shore) waters around Hawai'i. A second series of public meetings is scheduled to be held throughout the Hawaiian Islands in late summer 2020 to explore these options and other issues facing Hawai'i's small-boat pelagic fishing community.

Visit the Council's website

[www.wpcouncil.org/hawaiismallboatfishery](http://www.wpcouncil.org/hawaiismallboatfishery)

for dates, locations and times of these future meetings.

## For more information, contact:

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**Join us in being part  
of the solution!**



# Summary of Participant Issues and Concerns from the Main Hawaiian Island Small- boat Pelagic Fisheries Public Scoping Sessions



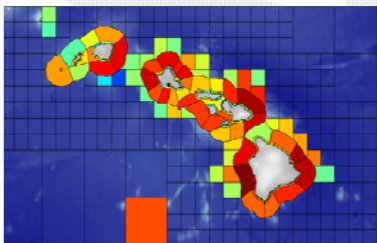
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# Background

Fisheries in the US exclusive economic zone (3-200 miles from shore) around Hawai'i are federally managed under fishery ecosystem plans (FEPs) developed and monitored by the **Western Pacific Regional fishery Management Council** and implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Pacific Pelagic FEP manages fisheries that catch tuna, billfish, mahimahi or other open-ocean species. Hawai'i fisheries managed under the Pelagic FEP include the commercial longline fishery and the small-boat pelagic fisheries (commercial and non-commercial troll and handline fisheries).

At public meetings held Feb. 4-13, 2020, Council members and staff met with communities throughout the Hawaiian Islands to explore different management scenarios for the Hawai'i small-boat pelagic fisheries. Council staff shared what they knew about the fisheries based on existing data collection programs and the information gaps that hinder more effective management. Participants provided comments on future management options and other issues affecting their fisheries.



Intensity of pelagic fishing around the main Hawaiian Islands based on the number of fish caught.

## Community Concerns from Input at the Public Meetings and Written Comments

### Honolulu, O'ahu

- Understanding the economic value of the non-commercial fisheries
- Increase in the frequency of protected species interactions
- Shark depredation

### Kona, Hawai'i

- Understanding stock assessments
- Need for better data to understand how fish sizes have changed over time

### Kāne'ohe, O'ahu

- Representation from the small-boat fleet in the fisheries
- Need to build trust with fishermen

### Common Concerns

- ⇒ Get better data
- ⇒ Federalizing the small-boat fishery
- ⇒ Viability of small-boat commercial fishermen to compete in the market
- ⇒ Request for more meetings and forums to keep the community informed and involved
- ⇒ Better enforcement
- ⇒ Raising the minimum size of yellowfin tuna

### Hilo, Hawai'i

- Need for more research initiatives to better understand the fisheries
- Small-boat fleets competing against larger fleets

### Līhu'e, Kaua'i

- Need for more research on local ahi stocks
- Cost of being a fisherman
- Offshore leasing (windmills)
- Environmental factors affecting the fisheries (e.g., runoff and garbage island)

### Kahului, Maui

- Understanding how much fish caught stays in Hawai'i
- Under-reporting of fish caught and sold by different vendors
- Climate change effects on the fisheries