

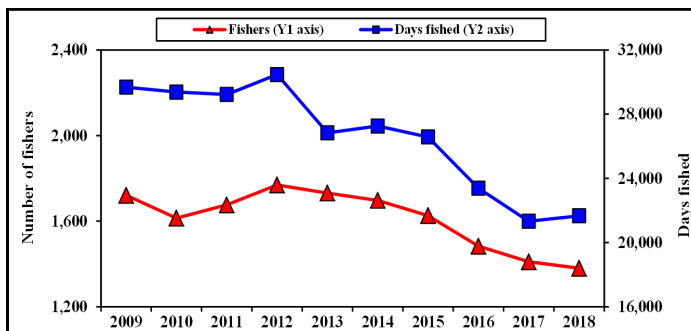
FISHERIES FACT SHEET

HAWAII SMALL-BOAT FISHERIES

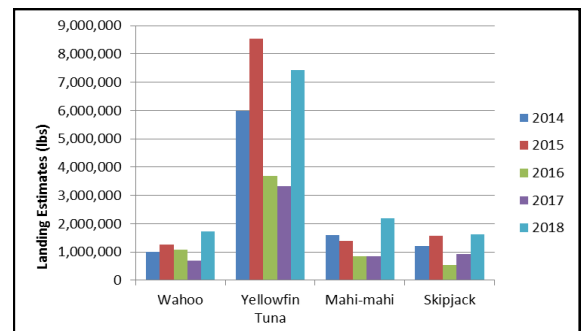
The Hawai'i pelagic small-boat fleet is a mixed gear fishery that is complex and comprised of diverse fishing activities and motivations. The small-boat fishery typically means vessels under 40 feet and consist of commercial and non-commercial (recreational, subsistence, artisanal, sustenance, etc.) sectors. These fisheries support small-scale fishing businesses and local seafood production and are important in the continuation of traditional fishing practices in Hawai'i.

Small-Boat Fisheries Characterization

- Both commercial and non-commercial sectors represented with vessels fishing mainly for pelagic species, but also includes bottomfish and coral reef fishes.
- Consist 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.
- Operate 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 stay in Hawai'i to feed families, the community, visitors and support the local markets.



Pelagic Small-Boat Commercial Fisheries
Participation from 2009-2018



Annual non-commercial fishery landing by weight of 4
major pelagic fish species in Hawai'i between 2014 - 2018

Small-Boat Fisheries Statistics

- Averaged over 3.8 million pounds in landings from 2017-2018, with an average revenue of over \$11 million.
- Trolling is the primary gear type, 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 fisheries as boats, gear and trip costs are expensive and somewhat prohibitive for some fishermen.
- 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 Fisheries 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.
- Small-boat fisheries continue to be concerned with protected species interactions (false killer whales, monk seals, sea turtles, etc.) and the impact of regulations on the fishery.
- Small-boat fisheries continue to experience the loss of fishing areas due to closures (Monuments, Sanctuaries, marine protected areas) which is a 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 fisheries.
- Non-commercial fishery sector data collected through the Hawai'i Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (HMRFS) may not be adequate for management. Adjustments and review of current methods are underway to strengthen the program through the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).



Future Priorities for Hawai'i Pelagic Small-Boat Fisheries

- Continue refinement of the non-commercial sector data collection through the HMRFS and MRIP and increase voluntary reporting.
- Address concerns regarding bycatch.

References

Chan, H.L. and Pan, M., 2017. Economic and social characteristics of the Hawaii small boat fishery 2014. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA Technical Memorandum NOAAAPPENDIX ATM-NMFS-PIFSC-63, 97 pp. <https://doi.org/10.7289/V5/TM-PIFSC-63>.

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. 2018. *2018 Pelagics Annual Report*. Honolulu, HI.

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