

# SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE PUBLIC MEETINGS

## DECEMBER 2 - 13, 2014

### MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS BOTTOMFISH and AHI MANAGEMENT

#### STAFF:

DAR: Alton Miyasaka  
Reginald Kokubun  
Jo-Anne Kushima  
Jessica Miller  
Eric Yokomori

WESPAC: Mark Mitsuyasu  
Asuka Ishizaki  
Joshua DeMello  
Marlowe Sabater  
Dr. Chris Hawkins  
Asuka Ishizaki  
Rebecca Walker

PIRO: Walter Ikehara

#### Background and overview

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC) and the Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agreed to work cooperatively to hold a series of statewide public meetings during the first two weeks in December 2014. The discussions focused on two main fisheries, the Main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish fishery and the commercial size limits for ahi. There were seven public meetings held, mostly during the evenings when most fishers could attend and one meeting was on a Saturday morning. During the meetings, presentations were given on the background for the discussions on the commercial minimum size for ahi and the State's bottomfish management plan. The purposes of the meetings were to gather the public's thoughts on some proposed changes to the current State and Federal management of the bottomfish and ahi fisheries. The question and answer format of the meetings allowed for full discussion of the various topics. The agencies are working together to create one concerted set of management regulations since these resources occur in shared jurisdictions.

In addition to notes taken at the meetings, a written survey was given to attendees to capture quantitatively their thoughts on the proposals. The surveys were only given to attendees and were not distributed outside the meetings. This was because the fuller discussions provided more context to the survey questions. Without this context, those filling in the surveys may not be able to fully understand the questions being asked and how to respond. The survey was not intended

as a vote mechanism but the responses received would provide added guidance to managers on what the future regulations might include. The survey results are provided in this report.

Bottomfish measures included options for non-commercial fishing daily bag limits, creating a market grace period during which seafood dealers and markets can sell deep-7 bottomfish after a fishery closure and changes to the State bottomfish restricted fishing area closures and reporting grids. Information was also provided on the following topics:

- A. State of Hawaii Bottomfish Reporting Requirements
  - a. Standardizing and Improving Catch and Effort reporting
  - b. Volunteer Non-Commercial Reporting
- B. Federal Non-Commercial Bottomfish Permit and Reporting
- C. Ahi Science and Minimum Size Considerations
- D. Community Fish Aggregation Device Voluntary Reporting

#### Topic context

1) Should ahi include both species

Most of our scientific understanding of ahi movement and size is from studies on yellowfin. We have information that the big eye tunas (BET) and yellowfin tunas (YFT) behave very differently from each other. While the YFT stays around the Hawaiian Islands, the BET tends to travel farther outside the islands. This difference would suggest that these two species should be managed differently. However, the smaller ahi, such as those under ten pounds, are very difficult for the general public to distinguish as they look very much alike. Including both species in the ahi regulations would make enforcement of these provisions easier. The discussion will seek to see how much community support there is to include both species under the ahi regulations.

2) Ahi commercial minimum size

The current State ahi commercial minimum size of three pounds was approved on June 25, 1990. This regulation was transferred from Section 188-70, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to Section 13-95-17, Hawaii Administrative Rules, on December 3, 1998. Recent tagging studies indicate that the yellowfin tunas (YFT) around the Hawaiian Islands tend to stay in the area. Previous assumptions were that these tuna were migrating throughout the Pacific so conserving these tunas would not benefit Hawaii fishermen. The information that the YFTs are a resident population argues that we should manage these YFT as they are a local population.

Also, natural mortality studies indicate that mortality is high in very young YFT but that if allowed to live past one year old, survival increases. This may result in more fish getting larger, making it to reproductive size, and contributing to the next generation. The size at one year old is about 12 inches fork length or about 10 pounds in weight.

Natural mortality is the death of fish in a population due to natural causes while fishing mortality is death cause by fishing.

Increasing the commercial minimum size from three pound to 10 pounds would help increase survival of the small ahi to reach maturity by reducing or eliminating fishing mortality of fish in this size range.

The discussion will seek to see how much community support there is to increase the ahi commercial minimum size from the current three pounds and if yes, how much should that limit be.

3) Ahi bag limit for undersized fish

Currently there is no bag limit for ahi under three pounds if not being sold. A bag limit would prevent the excessive take of undersized ahi and discourage commercial fishers from taking large numbers of undersized ahi and claiming they are not selling them.

The discussion will seek to see how much community support there is to establish an ahi bag limit for those ahi under the commercial minimum size and if yes, how much should that limit be.

4) Bottomfish market delay

During the earlier years when the bottomfish fishery reached the catch limit and had to close, some markets were not buying fish as the closure approached because of concerns they would not be able to sell the bottomfish after the season closed. The markets and fishers asked the managers to allow a delay for the markets that bought the fish legally caught during the open season but allow for the inventory in the markets to be sold during the closed season. The length of the delay was five days in initial discussions. Later discussions with the retailers and restaurants indicated that a longer time delay would be helpful for the bottomfish to be sold if purchased on the last day of the open season. The discussion will seek to see how much community support there is for a market delay and if yes, how long should that delay be.

5) Bottomfish non-commercial bag limit

Current State law provides that non-commercial bottomfishers are limited to five of the deep-7 species per person. These fishers have asked us to re-consider this limit as the costs and effort to make a bottomfishing trip to catch only five fish makes the trip not worthwhile. Increasing the non-commercial bag limit would enable more fish to be caught by non-commercial fishers. We know that some non-commercial fishers got commercial licenses to avoid the non-commercial bag limit. Increasing the bag limit would encourage some fishers to not get the commercial license and stop reporting the “commercial” catch. Losing this data would mean that less fish would be reported and added to the annual catch limit. The current proposal is to increase the non-commercial bag limit from five to ten fish per person. The discussion will seek to see how much community support there is to raise the bottomfish non-commercial bag limit and if yes, how much should that limit be.

6) Bottomfish non-commercial reporting

Since there would be some loss of the bottomfish catch information being reported from those commercial fishers that switch to non-commercial status, the idea that non-commercial bottomfishers should also be reporting is being considered. Currently, non-commercial bottomfishers are not required to submit reports of their fishing activity but commercial fishers are. The discussion will seek to find out the community’s thoughts on if non-commercial bottomfish reporting should remain as is, (reporting not asked for), voluntary, or mandatory.

7) Bottomfish restricted fishing area 2014 plan revisions

In January 2014, the Department Chair announced his plan for the bottomfish restricted fishing areas (BRFAs). The plan involved opening six of the twelve BRFAs and keeping the remaining six closed. The six that would remain closed are the Niihau, Makapuu,

Penguin Banks, Pailolo, Kalaupapa, and Kohala BRFA's. The Kaula Rock, Poipu (Kauai), Kaena Point (Oahu), Keanae (Maui), Hilo, and South Point (Hawaii) BRFA's would open. The process for opening these areas would involve a rule change that normally takes about a year to effect the change. The discussion will seek to find out the community's thoughts on the proposed BRFA changes.

8) Aku minimum size

During the 1990 Legislature when the ahi statute was being discussed, the aku minimum size was also a subject of discussion. While the ahi measure was approved, the aku measure was not, resulting in no regulations for aku. Recently, fishers have asked if we would consider establishing a minimum size for aku. We do not have the same level of information on aku as we do for YFT. However, the large numbers of small aku being sold may have the same concerns as exists with the large numbers of small ahi being sold. The discussion will seek to gather the community's thoughts on if there is the same concern for aku as there are for the ahi, should there be an aku minimum size limit, and if yes, how much should that size limit be.

9) Aku bag limits

The same concern that large numbers of aku are being taken prompts us to ask if a bag limit should also be considered for aku. The discussion will seek to gather the community's thoughts on if there should be a bag limit for aku under the minimum size and if yes, how much should that bag limit be.

10) Fishing effort

The 2014 bottomfish stock assessment released by the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) in June 2014 included a revision of the fishing effort metric to try and improve the assessment. This revision resulted in a significant reduction to the annual catch limit that is still being discussed at the time of this report. In an effort to more fully understand how fishing effort is used by the PIFSC in the stock assessment (SA), DAR staff met with stock assessment program staff to discuss what information is needed to produce a better SA. Fishing effort in terms of line hours was identified as the information needed. Line hours is the number of hours each line is soaking in the water. This represented a compromise in how fine a resolution in fishing effort could be expected from fishermen in their required reporting of fishing activity to the State. More resolution, such as hook per line hour, while better for the SA, was considered too onerous for the fisherman, while less resolution, such as fishing days or trips, resulted in a higher uncertainty in the SA. However, even at this level, line hours may be too much of a reporting burden to be accepted by the fishermen. If the majority of fishers do not accept this metric, they may tend to provide inaccurate estimates of effort, which would be worse than the current situation. Because we make certain assumptions on the effort information, if the base information is inaccurate, then the effort would be inaccurate, and the model would be inaccurate. The more inaccurate the model, the less useful the model becomes for management purposes. The discussion will seek to gather from State licensed commercial fishers their thoughts on how willing they might be in reporting line hour effort information.

## Notice of the Public Meetings

Information and notice of the Statewide public meetings were sent out in a variety of ways. Directed mailings were sent November 25 & 26, 2014 to State commercial marine licensees,

State registered Main Hawaiian Islands bottomfishers, and State identified local dealers. To reduce costs, emails were also sent to those whom addresses were available. Those whose emails were no longer valid, direct mailings were sent upon notification of invalid addresses. Those whose mailing addresses were no longer valid were updated in our database.

The public notice appeared in the Federal Register, Vol. 79, No. 221 on Monday, November 17, 2014 (Appendix 1). A poster of the notice is attached in Appendix 2.

The Mike Buck's Go Fish! Show, radio interview was aired on November 25, 26, & 27<sup>th</sup>. The interview discussed the upcoming public meetings, the issues that were going to be discussed, and how the public's input would be considered. A quick poll of those attending the meetings indicated that most of them found out about the meetings through the directed mailings and emails, followed by word of mouth.

#### Public meeting attendance

Location: Attendees signed in: 179                      Surveys turned in: 160

Kauai	27	24
Molokai	2	2
Aiea, Oahu	26	25
Maui	38	32
Honolulu, Oahu	27	24
Hilo	31	29
Kailua-Kona	28	24

At the Aiea, Oahu meeting we received an additional petition with 326 signatures demanding that the current three pound commercial size limit be maintained and that longlining for big eye and yellowfin tunas be stopped during May through August.

Two individuals provided written testimonies at other meetings.

Mark showed a short (10 min) video and provided some background on the ahi minimum size issue. He also discussed the bottomfish market delay issue and the community Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) project.

Alton provided some information on the State's changes to the bottomfish restricted fishing areas (BRFAs), non-commercial bag limits and non-commercial reporting (Appendix 3). Also discussed were proposed aku changes and reporting of commercial fishing effort in line hours.

#### **General Comments:**

##### Ahi discussions

- There was strong support for including both big eye and yellowfin species in the ahi regulation and regulating them the same

- Regarding the ahi commercial minimum size, there was good support for raising the commercial minimum size to either five or ten pounds with more supporting a ten pound limit
- Regarding the ahi non-commercial minimum size, there was some support for a three to five pound limit
- Regarding the ahi non-commercial bag limit, there was some support for a five to ten per person limit

#### Bottomfish discussions

- Regarding raising the bottomfish non-commercial bag limit, there was some support for keeping the limit at five per person
- Regarding bottomfish non-commercial reporting, there was strong support for requiring mandatory reporting
- Regarding the market delay, there was a recognition that different levels of the market may need more time to sell their inventory; primary dealers should have a five day delay, secondary dealers should have a ten day delay, and restaurants and retailers should have a fourteen day delay but there was not a consensus on what that delay should be
- Regarding the BRFA's, there was strong agreement that all BRFA's should be opened. But given the alternative of the proposal, there were mixed comments, depending on the island asked; Kauai was supportive of the proposed opening of the Kauai BRFA's; Oahu was not supportive of the continued closures of the Makapuu and Penguin Banks BRFA's but asked for consideration of a rotating opening to allow some fishing in these BRFA's otherwise the knowledge of fishing these grounds would be lost; Hilo was supportive of the Hilo BRFA opening; Kona asked for a partial opening of the northern half of the Kohala BRFA
- Regarding the reporting of line hours by commercial fishers, less than half supported reporting line hours in their fishing effort; fishers that tend to use multiple fishing lines and methods were less inclined to provide line hour information
- Regarding the aku commercial size limit, there was general support for establishing a minimum size of three to five pounds but there was a good number of people who did not support a limit
- Regarding a non-commercial aku bag limit, most did not support this

#### **Survey Results**

Note: The percentages given are the responses for each question asked. They represent the percentage of those responding to each question and not to the total responses received for all questions. These results do not include the numbers in the petition.

- 1) Ahi rule changes
  - a. 86% agreed or strongly agreed that the term ahi should include both species; 61% disagreed or strongly disagreed that ahi should include only big eye; 63% disagreed or strongly disagreed that ahi should include only yellowfin;
  - b. 64% agreed or strongly agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to ten pounds; 52% agreed or strongly agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to five pounds;

- c. While there was support for an ahi non-commercial minimum size, there was no majority suggesting what that size should be; there was some support for a three to five pound minimum size
  - d. While there was support for an ahi non-commercial bag limit, there was no majority suggesting what that bag limit should be; there was some support for a five to ten ahi non-commercial bag limit
- 2) Bottomfish
- a. 65% agreed or strongly agreed that the current non-commercial bag limit should be kept as is at 5 per person
  - b. 78% agreed or strongly agreed that non-commercial reporting should be mandatory
  - c. 56% agreed or strongly agreed that the market delay should be five days; 54% agreed or strongly agreed that the market delay should be ten days; dealers felt that the delay should be longer, fourteen days, to allow the restaurants to sell their inventory
  - d. 70% agreed or strongly agreed that all BRFA's should be opened
- 3) Reporting of line hours
- a. 48% agreed or strongly agreed that they would be willing to provide line hour information

## Discussion

### 1) Should ahi include both species

A clear majority of respondents (53%) strongly agreed that the term ahi should include both the big eye and yellowfin tunas. An additional 33% agreed to include both species for a total of 86% agree or strongly agree.

### 2) Ahi commercial minimum size

Comments received indicate that there is a market for the small ahi as these fish are easy to sell due to their affordable price range. These smaller ahi provide a safety net for commercial fishers when they do not catch the larger ahi, since the small ahi are easier to catch around FADs and easier to sell because of their cheaper price. Some fishers have said that although they don't prefer the smaller ahi, they resort to this to cover expenses and to continue commercial fishing during the lean times. Some information indicates that small YFT under ten pounds may make up about 23% of the numbers of YFT sold. This would suggest that fish in this size range are a significant part of the catch and prohibiting the sale of these fish would have a significant economic and social impact on the fishery. How much of an impact appears to vary with each island. For example, on Molokai, because there is no market for the smaller ahi, these ahi tend to be shared and exchanged within the community, so an increase in the commercial size limit would have minimal impact. On Oahu, where a larger percentage of the community either does not fish or does not know someone who fishes, the loss of the more affordable smaller ahi would appear to have larger economic and social impacts. On Kauai, the major markets already have an unofficial ten-pound minimum size limit because they are processing the fish into poke or fillets. A raise in the commercial minimum size to ten

pounds would have little to no impact on the Kauai major markets but would impact the roadside vendors who sell most of the smaller ahi.

A clear majority of respondents (87%) either disagreed or strongly disagreed that there should be no commercial minimum size. This indicates that fishers largely support an ahi commercial minimum size of some kind and that it should be raised from the current three-pound limit. The largest agreement (64%) came at a suggested increase to ten-pounds with significantly decreasing support for any size larger than this. There was also support for a five-pound limit increase from 52% of respondents.

3) Ahi bag limit for undersized fish

Currently there is no bag limit for ahi under three pounds if not sold. Nearly half (48%) of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that there should not be a bag limit on ahi under the minimum size. The other half (44%) felt that a bag limit was needed. Attendees felt that should a bag limit for undersized ahi be established, that the bag limit should apply to all fishers, including both commercial and non-commercial. A bag limit would prevent the excessive take of undersized ahi and discourage commercial fishers from taking large numbers of undersized ahi and claiming they are not selling them.

There were concerns that a bag limit would need to be enforced on the water or at the shoreline. If there were a lack of enforcement, fishers would ignore such a measure.

4) Bottomfish market delay

Most respondents (61%) supported a market delay of some kind and generally supported a delay of five to ten days. Attendees recognized that retailers and restaurants needed more time to sell their inventory than would the fishers. While some dealers did attend, their numbers were very small compared to fishers so their preference for a longer delay, in the range of 10 to 14 days, may not be accurately reflected in the survey.

There was some discussion of frozen bottomfish and extending the delay to up to thirty days for these fish. The majority of the market is in fresh fish but there is a small number of frozen local fish in the market. Fresh imports are also in the market and they replace the local fresh bottomfish during the seasonal closures when the local fish are not in supply.

5) Bottomfish non-commercial bag limit

The majority of respondents (65%) and a petition with 213 signatures supported the current five fish bag limit for non-commercial fishers. A majority (75%) felt that there should be a non-commercial bag limit but believed that five was sufficient despite arguments from non-commercial fishers to the contrary. It was noted that most respondents were commercial fishers (63%) vs non-commercial fishers (31%) so this may partially explain the opposition to raising the limit. Attendees also mentioned their concerns about the potential loss of the catch information from fishers switching from commercial to non-commercial status and the potential for more “non-commercial” fishers unlawfully selling their higher bag limit.

6) Bottomfish non-commercial reporting



Most respondents (78%) agreed or strongly agreed that non-commercial reporting should be mandatory. A majority (54%) did not feel that non-commercial bottomfishers should be allowed to continue to not report their catches. A majority (52%) did not agree that non-commercial reporting should be voluntary. To implement this requirement, the State would have to first obtain legislative authorization to require a non-commercial bottomfish license. Then, we would need to adopt an administrative rule that would require non-commercial licensees to file fishing reports, similar to what is authorized for commercial fishers. This process would take at least two years to implement.

7) Bottomfish restricted fishing area 2014 plan revisions

Most (70%) respondents agreed or strongly agreed that all BRFAs should be opened. Attendees argued that the existing federal annual catch limits (ACLs) managing the fishery is sufficient and the additional restrictions of the BRFAs are causing unnecessary economic and social hardships. These sentiments are a continuation of the feelings we have been hearing since the start of the BRFAs in 1998.

The planned revisions are an attempt at reducing those hardships by opening half of the BRFAs. The proposal will impact fishers differently on each island and not all fishers were opposed to the plan. Kauai attendees in particular, supported the proposed plan to open the Kaula Rock and Poipu BRFAs and to continue the closure of the Niihau BRFA. For Oahu fishers, the continued closures of both the Makapuu and Penguin Banks BRFAs will not provide any relief as these two areas close the most productive grounds on East Oahu. Attendees argued that at least one of these areas should be opened or that they should be opened and closed periodically. The Kona attendees were disappointed in the continued closure of the Kohala BRFA and asked for consideration that the northern half of the BRFA be opened. This BRFA is the largest in the system of closed areas and while it may have good habitat, it is hard to fish most of the time due to rough sea conditions. They argued that because the area is so large, opening half would not detract from future research in the area. Maui attendees argued that because Kahoolawe is a *de facto* closed area, and the Penguin Banks & Pailolo BRFAs continue to be closed, this combination puts an unfair burden on Maui fishers who asked for a re-opening of the Pailolo BRFA.

8) Aku minimum size

There was no clear majority on the question of if there should be a commercial minimum size for aku. Of those persons indicating support for a size limit, 54% agreed or strongly agreed with a three-pound limit and 52% supported a five-pound limit. Of those persons who responded to the ten-pound minimum size limit, 55% were opposed and 27% supported.

9) Aku bag limits

Most respondents (62%) agreed or strongly agreed that there should be no bag limit on aku. Of those persons indicating support for a bag limit, 34% agreed or strongly agreed with a five fish bag limit and 46% supported a ten fish bag limit.

For most attendees, it appears that there is not the same concern about aku as there are for ahi. Aku is not fished as heavily as ahi, large numbers of small aku are not being sold, and there seems to be enough aku that there is no concern at this time.

#### 10) Fishing effort

Almost half of respondents (48%) agreed or strongly agreed to provide line hour fishing effort information in their commercial activity reports. We expected more opposition to this request as it may involve considerably more complex reporting and time. Attendees noted that how much more time would be required depends on the kind of fishing being conducted. Those fishers who consistently use multiple fishing methods would have a harder time complying while those using fewer methods did not see line hours as that much more of a burden. They also noted that if the data was more useful, it made sense to provide better data than spend the time providing data that was less useful. Some suggested that this was a question that should be asked of all commercial fishers and not just those who attended a meeting.

Division of Aquatic Resources  
Discussions On Bottomfish & Ahi Size and Bag Limits  
Public Meeting Survey  
December 2014

The Division of Aquatic Resources thanks you for taking the time to provide your opinions. We recommend that you listen to the discussion on each item before answering. Please check the box that best applies to you. This survey is being provided only to those persons who attend a meeting. It will be used to quantify the opinions of persons attending. Opinions with the most votes may **not** necessarily become the preferred management option.

- 1) Do you live on the same island where this meeting is being held? Yes 165 (100%) No 0
- 2) Do you consider yourself primarily to be a: Commercial fisher 101 (63%) Non-commercial fisher 50 (31%) Don't fish 9 (6%)  
a) Are you a local seafood dealer? Yes 17 (11%) No 143 (89%)
- 3) On average, how often do you fish? Don't fish 10 (6%) Less than once a month 25 (16%) Once a month 30 (19%) More than twice a month 93 (59%)
- 4) Where do you live? Oahu 52 (32%) Maui 32 (20%) Hawaii 53 (33%) Molokai 2 (1%) Kauai 24 (15%) Lanai 0 Non-resident 1

Do you STRONGLY DISAGREE, DISAGREE, NO OPINION, AGREE, STRONGLY AGREE with the following:

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<b>Bottomfish Non-Commercial provisions</b>					
5) The bottomfish non-commercial bag limit should be:					
a) 5 (keep as is)	17 (13%)	17 (13%)	13 (10%)	35 (26%)	52 (39%)
b) 10	27 (28%)	17 (18%)	13 (14%)	21 (22%)	18 (19%)
c) 15	34 (37%)	20 (22%)	12 (13%)	13 (14%)	13 (14%)
d) No limit (unlimited)	48 (57%)	15 (18%)	8 (10%)	7 (8%)	6 (7%)
e) Other _____					
6) State non-commercial bottomfish reporting should be:					
a) Keep as is (no reporting required)	38 (35%)	21 (19%)	10 (9%)	19 (17%)	22 (20%)
b) Voluntary	30 (31%)	21 (21%)	8 (8%)	24 (24%)	15 (15%)
c) Mandatory	8 (7%)	6 (5%)	12 (10%)	30 (25%)	62 (53%)

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<b>Market Delay</b>					
7) The market delay should be:					
a) No market delay	42 (44%)	20 (21%)	15 (16%)	9 (9%)	9 (9%)
b) 5 days	16 (16%)	21 (22%)	6 (6%)	26 (27%)	28 (29%)
c) 10 days	18 (17%)	19 (18%)	13 (12%)	25 (23%)	33 (31%)
d) 14 days	19 (23%)	23 (27%)	12 (14%)	9 (11%)	21 (25%)
e) Other? _____					

**Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs)**

8) Open all 12 BRFAs	11 (8%)	15 (11%)	16 (11%)	19 (14%)	79 (56%)
9) Keep all 12 BRFAs closed	68 (64%)	22 (21%)	12 (11%)	5 (5%)	0 (0%)
10) Open six and close six BRFAs as proposed	27 (23%)	16 (14%)	20 (17%)	25 (22%)	27 (23%)
11) If you did not answer 8 or 9, or support some closures, which BRFA(s) should be kept closed?					
a) A (Kaula Rock)	7				
b) B (Niihau)	17				
c) C (Poipu, Kauai)	3				
d) D (Kaena Point, Oahu)	5				
e) E (Makapuu, Oahu)	10				
f) F (Penguin Banks)	15				
g) G (Kalaupapa, Molokai)	11				
h) H (Pailolo Channel, Maui)	9				
i) J (Keanae, Maui)	4				
j) K (Kohala, Hawaii)	9				
k) L (Hilo, Hawaii)	5				
l) M (South Point, Hawaii)	8				

## Ahi Commercial Size

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
12) Ahi should include					
a) Both yellowfin and big eye tunas	12 (8%)	5 (3%)	4 (3%)	48 (33%)	77 (53%)
b) Only big eye tuna	33 (39%)	19 (22%)	12 (14%)	7 (8%)	14 (16%)
c) Only yellowfin tuna	33 (39%)	20 (24%)	11 (13%)	8 (9%)	13 (15%)
13) The commercial minimum size limit should be:					
a) No commercial minimum size	56 (67%)	17 (20%)	3 (4%)	5 (6%)	3 (4%)
b) 3 pounds (current commercial minimum size)	39 (43%)	22 (24%)	3 (3%)	12 (13%)	15 (16%)
c) 5 pounds	30 (29%)	19 (18%)	1 (1%)	24 (23%)	30 (29%)
d) 10 pounds	26 (25%)	8 (8%)	4 (4%)	32 (30%)	36 (34%)
e) 15 pounds	30 (35%)	18 (21%)	8 (9%)	13 (15%)	17 (20%)
f) 20 pounds	28 (39%)	11 (15%)	12 (17%)	6 (8%)	15 (21%)
g) Other? _____					

## Non-commercial ahi limits

14) The non-commercial ahi minimum size limit should be:					
a) No non-commercial minimum size limit	35 (38%)	17 (19%)	6 (7%)	8 (9%)	25 (27%)
b) 3 pounds	30 (31%)	16 (17%)	5 (5%)	22 (23%)	23 (24%)
c) 5 pounds	29 (30%)	15 (16%)	9 (9%)	28 (29%)	15 (16%)
d) 10 pounds	26 (30%)	15 (17%)	9 (10%)	11 (13%)	27 (31%)
e) Other? _____					
15) The non-commercial ahi daily bag limit should be:					
a) No bag limit (unlimited)	34 (35%)	9 (9%)	8 (8%)	18 (19%)	28 (29%)
b) 5 per person	28 (26%)	21 (20%)	11 (10%)	17 (16%)	30 (28%)
c) 10 per person	24 (27%)	16 (18%)	10 (11%)	18 (20%)	20 (23%)
d) 15 per person	32 (43%)	20 (27%)	9 (12%)	7 (9%)	7 (9%)
e) Other? _____					

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<b>Aku limits</b>					
16) The aku commercial minimum size limit should be:					
a) No commercial minimum size limit	33 (31%)	18 (17%)	7 (7%)	11 (10%)	37 (35%)
b) 3 pounds	18 (18%)	17 (17%)	10 (10%)	24 (24%)	29 (30%)
c) 5 pounds	24 (24%)	15 (15%)	9 (9%)	25 (26%)	25 (26%)
d) 10 pounds	28 (35%)	16 (20%)	14 (18%)	9 (11%)	13 (16%)
e) Other? _____					
17) The non-commercial aku daily bag limit should be:					
a) No bag limit (unlimited)	23 (20%)	12 (11%)	7 (6%)	23 (20%)	48 (42%)
b) 5 per person	27 (29%)	26 (28%)	8 (9%)	13 (14%)	19 (20%)
c) 10 per person	23 (25%)	17 (19%)	9 (10%)	19 (21%)	23 (25%)
d) 20 per person	30 (38%)	19 (24%)	14 (18%)	10 (13%)	7 (9%)
e) Other? _____					
<b>Fishing Effort Information</b>					
18) I would be willing to provide line/hours in my monthly or trip catch reports	29 (20%)	16 (11%)	33 (22%)	35 (24%)	35 (24%)

# PUBLIC MEETINGS DECEMBER 2014

## MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS BOTTOMFISH and AHI MANAGEMENT

Kauai  
Chiefess Kamakahahelei Middle School Cafeteria  
6:00PM-9:00PM  
December 2, 2014

### STAFF:

DAR: Alton Miyasaka  
Jo-Anne Kushima  
Jessica Miller  
Katie Nalesere  
Christine Garcia  
WESPAC: Mark Mitsuyasu

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC) and the Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agreed to work cooperatively to hold a series of statewide public meetings where different issues in the main Hawaiian islands bottomfish fishery, results from some of the tagging studies with ahi and the kind of information obtained from fishermen that would help fishery biologists with stock assessments were presented. Attendees would be able to ask questions and to provide their opinions of the different issues.

Public Attendance: 27          Surveys collected: 24

Kauai meeting started at 6:20PM

Mark provided some background on the ahi minimum size issue. A short (10 min) video was shown to the attendees.

### **General Comments:**

I (commercial fisherman) was on a committee to change the minimum size (3 lbs) to a larger size. The move was shot down by the non-commercial fishermen.

Could not agree on how much to increase the size. 20 lbs is too big. 20 lb ahi is a money maker.

Would like to see the data of the tagging study (the study that was mentioned in the video).

I (commercial fisherman) participated with researchers tagging paka. We found that the paka did travel across the islands. They do move out of the protected areas. He said that the BRFA was good because it served as a refuge where the fish would be safe.

The impacts to the fishery are dependent on the size of the vessel. When rules/regulations are proposed it has to be based on the size of the vessel.

Also the issue of commercial vs non-commercial needs to be addressed.

One attendee had concerns about changing current 3 lb. minimum size for ahi for sale.

Minimum size should be changed to 8 lbs.

Small tunas can be taken off the hook and thrown back. If they are alive they can survive.

Currently the law says you cannot sell any ahi less than 3 lbs.

In the past (I) was on a task force to change the minimum size of ahi for sale to something larger, 8 to 10 lbs., but the non-commercial fishermen petitioned against it and stopped the regulation from passing.

(Alton) stated that since that time, the department (DLNR) has the authority to create rules/regulations for managing our resources. DLNR already has the legislative authority to changes these rules.

(Alton) asked the attendees to provide comments on how we should proceed.

Some felt that information about the markets, size of the fish fishermen are targeting, the size of fish that the consumers want needs to be obtained. This information might be different for each island, each island is diverse.

“Who catches 1,000 lbs of 3lb. fish to sell?”

Small ahi are plentiful at the buoys. That’s where the non-commercial fishermen catch all the small fish

Kauai does not have a market for 3lb ahi

Regulations should be made for the non-commercial fishermen too

Commercial fishermen want/target the big fish, not the small ones

**Enforcement:**



15 years ago the law stated that enforcement was supposed to see/inspect the fish & CML before fishermen could take their fish to the market

Currently we have the Civil Resource Violation (CRV) system. (Alton) is meeting with DOCARE to educate the DOCARE officers in hopes of making them more comfortable with the Provisions of the civil resources violation (CRV) system. The system is similar to the traffic violation system. The officer issues a violation ticket and it can be paid. The person in violation does not need to go to court. DLNR implemented the CRV system in hopes of getting better compliance.

There should be bag limits for con-commercial and commercial fishermen.

It should be a 10 lb. limit on ahi for sale

One fisherman asked whether it was legal to fish with “damashi” to catch 3 lb ahi and to sell those fish

### **Market Delay (grace period):**

Recently there has not been a problem.

During the early years of the management plan, the fishery closed BEFORE the August 31<sup>st</sup> fishing year end date. It was a violation to possess BF after the fishery closed. Because of that, the markets stopped buying BF several days before the day that they thought the fishery would be closed.

The fishermen, would fish until the last day, but there was no one willing/wanting to buy their catch.

What should the grace period be?

3-7 days?

The idea for a market delay makes sense.

The deep 7 bottomfish can keep fresh on ice if the fish is iced well. Up to 10 days when fish is iced well.

There should be a requirement to show that the BF have been legally purchased.

(Alton) The market delay provides the wholesaler time to sell his fish to other dealers, retailers

The amount of time needed to sell the fish should be left to the fisherman... dealer

It takes about a month to close the fishery

**BRFAs:**

State feels that the BRFAs offer another layer of protection for the deep 7 BF. The Federal ACL management scheme is too risky. The State does not want to put all their “eggs” in one basket when it comes to managing the deep 7 BF

Six (6) BRFAs will remain closed.

1) Niihau (B) – reason is that this is a relatively intact BRFA since 1998. The benefit is that it would be ideal for long-term studies. BF are long lived

2) Makapuu (E) – East side of Oahu. Important fishing grounds for fishermen, but State wants to protect onaga and juvenile paka grounds.

3) Penguin Banks (F) – (small portion of Penguin Banks) this area has good habitat and is good for research. It is the most productive area. State would like more studies done in this area to understand WHY the area is so productive.

If Penguin Banks is the most productive, keeping it closed will put more pressure on the less productive areas

4) Kalaupapa (G) – has good quality habitat and would be ideal for future BF studies

5) Pailolo Channel (H) – difficult to fish in this area, but has good habitat and is good paka grounds

6) Kohala (K) – Has good BF habitat and current low fishing pressure. It is on the rough side of the Big Island. The area is hard to access due to weather and ocean conditions (natural closure to the area). There would be minimal impact to the fishermen

One fisherman (Nikol Keating?) felt that he should not/could not answer the questions on the questionnaire that do not impact him. He would only answer questions on the issues that impact him and his fishing. He felt that by answering something that did not impact him, he might indirectly impact the outcome for a fisherman who IS impacted by the question

Suggestion was made to produce a video like the one that was done for ahi. The video should explain the reasons for the BRFAs. Present how the research was planned and the results of the BRFA research (BotCam). Explain the benefits of the BRFAs. Right now people have questions about the BotCam research because fishing is so variable.

Present the other research being done with the deep 7 bottomfish, like the acoustic tagging studies that have been done with BF that shows that BF do move in and out of the BRFAs.

The resource managers need to do a better job at informing and educating the public about the research and work that is being done to study and understand the deep 7 BF and the BRFAs.

Maybe plan workshops for fishermen, need to do a better job at outreach to inform and educate fishermen and public about the fishery and the work/research being done.

(I) participated in a study and worked with the researcher. I feel that the research was valuable and I support keeping the Niihau BRFA closed. I feel that the BF in that BFRA are being protected.

I want people to know that in Hawaii we are Hawaiian hook & line fishermen, we fish hook and line, not like other places.

I don't want Aila to remain the Chair for DLNR. I hope Governor Ige does not appoint Aila for DLNR Chair.

### **Data Reported on the Catch Reports:**

(Jessica's presentation)

Question was asked if there were plans for an App for the Catch Reports.

(Jessica) right now the on-line system will work a little better on your I-phone.

We do not have the resources (money) to develop an app specifically for use on the I-phone yet

Clarified what the stock assessment biologists need in terms of data from the catch reports.

Fishermen were told to report "soak time", the time that the gear is IN the water.

Do not report time spent getting to the fishing grounds.

Do not report time spent looking/searching for fish.

Report EVERYTHING that is caught.

It is difficult to report what the stock assessment biologists want because of the way fishermen fish.

They use multiple gears set up in different locations on the boat and that is targeting different kinds of fish. The fishermen moves from one gear to the other gear depending on where the fish are biting.

Should be a way to standardize effort; keep track of when the hook was dropped (time), or when the line hit the bottom, or start from when the boat left the dock.

Discussion on what is meant by "take" of dolphins. What you think is an "encounter" is interpreted as "take" by the Federal managers.

One fisherman stated that the behavior of the whales and the dolphins have changed through the years. In the past fishermen would look for whales because they could count on catching fish. Now days, the whales take the catch from the fishermen. Fishermen are left with just the heads of the fish on the hooks.

There needs to be fishery independent research and data collected.

Additional comments:

- Need bag limit on undersized fish
- Need 5 bag limit on ahi under 10 pounds
- Non-commercial daily ahi bag limit should be 100
- Non-commercial ahi minimum size should be 15-20 pounds
- Commercial and non-commercial minimum sizes for ahi and aku should be the same
- All rules for commercial and non-commercial should be the same
- Too hard for fishers to report daily (line hours)
- Non-commercial daily bottomfish bag limit should be raised to 15
- Need non-commercial reporting to get good catch data
- People not going to stop fishing for bottomfish even if season closes

### **Survey Results**

Note: The percentages given are the responses for each question asked. They represent the percentage of those responding to each question and not to the total responses received for all questions. These results do not include the numbers in the petition.

- 1) Ahi rule changes
  - a. 86% agreed or strongly agreed that the term ahi should include both species
  - b. 82% agreed or strongly agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to ten pounds; 91% agreed or strongly agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to fifteen pounds; 83% agreed or strongly agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to twenty pounds
  - c. 89% agreed or strongly agreed that the ahi non-commercial minimum size should be raised to ten pounds
  - d. 60% agreed or strongly agreed that the ahi non-commercial bag limit should be five per person

2) Bottomfish

- a. 57% agreed or strongly agreed that the current non-commercial bag limit should be kept as is
- b. 88% agreed or strongly agreed that non-commercial reporting should be mandatory
- c. While 58% disagreed or strongly disagreed that there should be no market delay there was no majority for a proposed time for the delay
- d. 85% agreed or strongly agreed that all BRFA's should be opened;

3) Reporting of line hours

- a. There was no majority for or against a willingness to provide line hour information

Division of Aquatic Resources  
Discussions On Bottomfish & Ahi Size and Bag Limits  
Public Meeting Survey  
December 2, 2014

The Division of Aquatic Resources thanks you for taking the time to provide your opinions. We recommend that you listen to the discussion on each item before answering. Please check the box that best applies to you. This survey is being provided only to those persons who attend a meeting. It will be used to quantify the opinions of persons attending. Opinions with the most votes may **not** necessarily become the preferred management option.

- 1) Do you live on the same island where this meeting is being held?    Yes 25 (100%)    No 0
- 2) Do you consider yourself primarily to be a:    Commercial fisher 12 (50%)    Non-commercial fisher 12 (50%)    Don't fish 0 (0%)
  - a) Are you a local seafood dealer?    Yes 3 (13%)    No 20 (87%)
- 3) On average, how often do you fish?    Don't fish 0 (0%)    Less than once a month 4 (18%)    Once a month 4 (18%)    More than twice a month 14 (64%)
- 4) Where do you live?    Oahu 0 (0%)    Maui 0 (0%)    Hawaii 0 (0%)    Molokai 0 (0%)    Kauai 24 (100%)    Lanai 0    Non-resident 0

Do you STRONGLY DISAGREE, DISAGREE, NO OPINION, AGREE, STRONGLY AGREE with the following:

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<b>Bottomfish Non-Commercial provisions</b>					
5) The bottomfish non-commercial bag limit should be:					
a) 5 (keep as is)	0 (0%)	6 (38%)	1 (6%)	3 (19%)	6 (38%)
b) 10	2 (18%)	1 (9%)	2 (18%)	5 (45%)	1 (9%)
c) 15	3 (23%)	1 (8%)	3 (23%)	1 (8%)	5 (38%)
d) No limit (unlimited)	6 (46%)	3 (23%)	0 (0%)	2 (15%)	2 (15%)
e) Other _____					
6) State non-commercial bottomfish reporting should be:					
a) Keep as is (no reporting required)	6 (40%)	3 (20%)	0 (0%)	3 (20%)	3 (20%)
b) Voluntary	2 (14%)	6 (43%)	0 (0%)	3 (21%)	3 (21%)
c) Mandatory	0 (0%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)	4 (25%)	10 (63%)

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
--	----------------------	----------	---------------	-------	-------------------

**Market Delay**

7) The market delay should be:

a) No market delay	4 (33%)	3 (25%)	2 (17%)	0 (0%)	3 (25%)
b) 5 days	1 (8%)	5 (38%)	1 (8%)	3 (23%)	3 (23%)
c) 10 days	3 (20%)	3 (20%)	3 (20%)	1 (7%)	5 (33%)
d) 14 days	3 (23%)	1 (8%)	3 (23%)	1 (8%)	5 (38%)
e) Other? _____					

**Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs)**

8) Open all 12 BRFAs	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	0 (0%)	5 (25%)	12 (60%)
9) Keep all 12 BRFAs closed	12 (80%)	3 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
10) Open six and close six BRFAs as proposed	4 (27%)	1 (7%)	4 (27%)	4 (27%)	2 (13 %)
11) If you did not answer 8 or 9, or support some closures, which BRFA(s) should be kept closed?					
a) A (Kaula Rock)					
b) B (Niihau)	2				
c) C (Poipu, Kauai)					
d) D (Kaena Point, Oahu)					
e) E (Makapuu, Oahu)	2				
f) F (Penguin Banks)	1				
g) G (Kalaupapa, Molokai)	2				
h) H (Pailolo Channel, Maui)	2				
i) J (Keanae, Maui)	1				
j) K (Kohala, Hawaii)	2				
k) L (Hilo, Hawaii)					
l) M (South Point, Hawaii)					

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
--	----------------------	----------	---------------	-------	-------------------

**Ahi Commercial Size**

12) Ahi should include

a) Both yellowfin and big eye tunas	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	2 (10%)	5 (24%)	13 (62%)
b) Only big eye tuna	2 (18%)	2 (18%)	5 (45%)	0 (0%)	2 (18%)
c) Only yellowfin tuna	2 (18%)	2 (18%)	5 (45%)	1 (9%)	1 (9%)

13) The commercial minimum size limit should be:

a) No commercial minimum size	9 (90%)	0 (0%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
b) 3 pounds (current commercial minimum size)	8 (80%)	2 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
c) 5 pounds	4 (33%)	5 (42%)	0 (0%)	1 (8%)	2 (17%)
d) 10 pounds	1 (6%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)	6 (35%)	8 (47%)
e) 15 pounds	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (8%)	4 (33%)	7 (58%)
f) 20 pounds	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (17%)	3 (25%)	7 (58%)
g) Other? _____					

**Non-commercial ahi limits**

14) The non-commercial ahi minimum size limit should be:

a) No non-commercial minimum size limit	6 (86%)	1 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
b) 3 pounds	5 (63%)	2 (25%)	1 (13%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
c) 5 pounds	2 (18%)	1 (9%)	3 (27%)	2 (18%)	3 (27%)
d) 10 pounds	0 (0%)	2 (12%)	0 (0%)	4 (24%)	11 (65%)
e) Other? _____					

15) The non-commercial ahi daily bag limit should be:

a) No bag limit (unlimited)	7 (70%)	2 (20%)	0 (0%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)
b) 5 per person	2 (13%)	3 (20%)	1 (7%)	2 (13%)	7 (47%)
c) 10 per person	3 (30%)	1 (10%)	1 (17%)	2 (20%)	3 (33%)
d) 15 per person	4 (40%)	2 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (40%)
e) Other? _____					



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
--	----------------------	----------	---------------	-------	-------------------

**Aku limits**

16) The aku commercial minimum size limit should be:

a) No commercial minimum size limit	2 (12%)	5 (29%)	3 (18%)	0 (0%)	7 (41%)
b) 3 pounds	2 (20%)	4 (40%)	3 (30%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)
c) 5 pounds	0 (0%)	1 (7%)	3 (20%)	6 (40%)	5 (33%)
d) 10 pounds	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (9%)	5 (45%)	5 (45%)
e) Other? _____					

17) The non-commercial aku daily bag limit should be:

a) No bag limit (unlimited)	1 (6%)	3 (19%)	3 (19%)	3 (19%)	6 (38%)
b) 5 per person	1 (8%)	7 (58%)	2 (17%)	0 (0%)	2 (17%)
c) 10 per person	0 (0%)	3 (27%)	1(9%)	5 (45%)	2 (18%)
d) 20 per person	0 (0%)	2 (17%)	2 (17%)	4 (33%)	4 (33%)
e) Other? _____					

**Fishing Effort Information**18) I would be willing to provide line/hours  
in my monthly or trip catch reports

	4 (17%)	3 (13%)	7 (30%)	5 (22%)	4 (17%)
--	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

Bottomfish and Ahi size Changes  
Public Scoping Meeting Notes  
Kaunakakai Elementary School  
December 3, 2014

Staff Attendance: Mark Mitsuyasu, Alton Miyasaka

Public Attendance: 2                      Surveys submitted: 2

Additional comments:

- Although I'm a commercial fisher, I don't fish as often anymore; trailer broke; have day job
- People on Molokai fish bottomfish and ahi mostly for own use and sharing; not for sale
- Molokai people need to fish for subsistence to eat and not for money or recreation
- Roadside vendors not a concern
- Market will not buy whole ahi; comes in fillets or cut fish
- Not much bottomfish in markets
- Two persons, 1 dealer Jeff (Friendly Market) and 1 PT com Fisher
- People would buy small ahi but don't want to sell them or catch them
- Shallow waters on south Mo don't have ahi runs like other places
- 3 pounds is too small, would like to see get bigger
- public wants a smaller fish but can cut fish in half
- Molokai loves aku, don't support regulations for aku
- Support vessel license and different fees for full-time and part time
- On Mo not that much fishers doing bottomfish; each fish too expensive for local market, will send to Oahu
- Fisher would be willing to provide line/hours info

## Issue discussions

- Both agree with 5 day market delay
- Both agree with proposed BRFA's
- Non-commercial bag limit can stay as is or raise to 10
- No opinion on non-commercial reporting
- Ahi should include both YF & BET
- Both agree raising commercial minimum size to 5 to 15 pounds
- Both agree with a 3 to 5 pounds commercial minimum size for aku
- Both agree with no non-commercial bag limit (unlimited)
- Both agree to provide line hours in fishing reports

## **Survey Results**

Note: The percentages given are the responses for each question asked. They represent the percentage of those responding to each question and not to the total responses received for all questions. These results do not include the numbers in the petition.

- 1) Ahi rule changes
  - a. 100% agreed that the term ahi should include both species;
  - b. One agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to 5 to 10 pounds; one strongly agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to 15 pounds
  - c. 100% agreed that the ahi non-commercial minimum size should remain at three pounds
  - d. There was no opinion on what the ahi non-commercial bag limit should be
- 2) Bottomfish
  - a. One agreed that the current non-commercial bag limit should be kept at 5 pounds or raised to 10 pounds
  - b. There was no opinion on if the non-commercial reporting should be voluntary or mandatory
  - c. One each agreed or strongly agreed that the market delay should be five days; bottomfish not usually sold in the markets
  - d. Both agreed with the BRFA plan as proposed
- 3) Reporting of line hours
  - a. Both agreed that they would be willing to provide line hour information

Division of Aquatic Resources  
 Discussions On Bottomfish & Ahi Size and Bag Limits  
 Public Meeting Survey  
 December 3, 2014

The Division of Aquatic Resources thanks you for taking the time to provide your opinions. We recommend that you listen to the discussion on each item before answering. Please check the box that best applies to you. This survey is being provided only to those persons who attend a meeting. It will be used to quantify the opinions of persons attending. Opinions with the most votes may **not** necessarily become the preferred management option.

- 1) Do you live on the same island where this meeting is being held? Yes 2 No
- 2) Do you consider yourself primarily to be a: Commercial fisher 1 Non-commercial fisher 1 Don't fish
- a) Are you a local seafood dealer? Yes 1 No 1
- 3) On average, how often do you fish? Don't fish  Less than once a month 1 Once a month  More than twice a month 1
- 4) Where do you live? Oahu  Maui  Hawaii  Molokai 2 Kauai  Lanai  Non-resident

Do you STRONGLY DISAGREE, DISAGREE, NO OPINION, AGREE, STRONGLY AGREE with the following:

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<b>Bottomfish Non-Commercial provisions</b>					
5) The bottomfish non-commercial bag limit should be:					
a) 5 (keep as is)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) No limit (unlimited)	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other _____					
6) State non-commercial bottomfish reporting should be:					
a) Keep as is (no reporting required)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Voluntary	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NO OPINION      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

**Market Delay**

7) The market delay should be:

- a) No market delay            1
- b) 5 days                        1      1
- c) 10 days            1
- d) 14 days            1
- e) Other? \_\_\_\_\_

**Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs)**

- 8) Open all 12 BRFAs            1
- 9) Keep all 12 BRFAs closed            1
- 10) Open six and close six BRFAs as proposed                        2
- 11) If you did not answer 8 or 9, or support some closures, which BRFA(s) should be kept closed?
  - a) A (Kaula Rock)      1
  - b) B (Niihau)      2
  - c) C (Poipu, Kauai)
  - d) D (Kaena Point, Oahu)      1
  - e) E (Makapuu, Oahu)      1
  - f) F (Penguin Banks)      1
  - g) G (Kalaupapa, Molokai)      1
  - h) H (Pailolo Channel, Maui)      2
  - i) J (Keanae, Maui)      1
  - j) K (Kohala, Hawaii)
  - k) L (Hilo, Hawaii)      1
  - l) M (South Point, Hawaii)      1

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NO OPINION      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

**Ahi Commercial Size**

- 12) Ahi should include
- a) Both yellowfin and big eye tunas                        2
  - b) Only big eye tuna                  1
  - c) Only yellowfin tuna                  1
- 13) The commercial minimum size limit should be:
- a) No commercial minimum size      1      1
  - b) 3 pounds (current commercial minimum size)            1
  - c) 5 pounds                        1
  - d) 10 pounds                        1
  - e) 15 pounds                              1
  - f) 20 pounds            1
  - g) Other? \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-commercial ahi limits**

- 14) The non-commercial ahi minimum size limit should be:
- a) No non-commercial minimum size limit            1            1
  - b) 3 pounds                        2
  - c) 5 pounds            1
  - d) 10 pounds            1
  - e) Other? \_\_\_\_\_
- 15) The non-commercial ahi daily bag limit should be:
- a) No bag limit (unlimited)                  1
  - b) 5 per person                  1
  - c) 10 per person                  1
  - d) 15 per person                  1
  - e) Other? \_\_\_\_\_

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NO OPINION      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

**Aku limits**

16) The aku commercial minimum size limit should be:

- a) No commercial minimum size limit                  1
- b) 3 pounds                        1
- c) 5 pounds            1            1
- d) 10 pounds            1
- e) Other? \_\_\_\_\_

17) The non-commercial aku daily bag limit should be:

- a) No bag limit (unlimited)                        2
- b) 5 per person            1
- c) 10 per person            1
- d) 20 per person                  1
- e) Other? \_\_\_\_\_

**Fishing Effort Information**

18) I would be willing to provide line/hours in my monthly or trip catch reports

- 2

**PUBLIC MEETINGS  
DECEMBER 2014**

**MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS BOTTOMFISH  
and  
AHI MANAGEMENT**

Oahu  
Waimalu Elementary School Cafeteria  
6:00PM -9:00PM  
December 4, 2014

**STAFF:**

**DAR:** Alton Miyasaka  
Reginald Kokubun  
Eric Yokomori

**WESPAC:** Mark Mitsuyasu  
Asuka Ishizaki  
Joshua DeMello  
Marlowe Sabater  
Dr. Chris Hawkins  
Asuka Ishizaki  
Rebecca Walker

**PIRO:** Walter Ikehara  
Justin Hospital

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC) and the Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agreed to work cooperatively to hold a series of statewide public meetings where different issues in the main Hawaiian islands bottomfish fishery, results from some of the tagging studies with ahi and the kind of information obtained from fishermen that would help fishery biologists with stock assessments were presented. Attendees would be able to ask questions and to provide their opinions of the different issues.

Attendees Signed in: 26                      Surveys submitted: 25

An additional petition was received with 213 signatures demanding that the current three pound commercial size limit be maintained and that longlining for big eye and yellowfin tunas be stopped during May through August.

Mark showed a short (10 min) video and provided some background on the ahi minimum size issue.



## **General Comments:**

The stock is subject to overfishing and all fishermen (including non-commercial) should be required to report their catches

The market delay should include the time the end users (restaurants) need to consume product

The ahi commercial minimum size limit should include both big eye and yellowfin because of the difficulty in distinguishing between the two species

The commercial minimum size should be set at the size the science defines as the effective size; the non-commercial minimum size should also be set at the size science says

Aku should not have a minimum size due to short life span

The minimum size limit should be set as a length rather than a weight

Need more information before making decisions on the bottomfish non-commercial bag limit

The BRFA's should be alternating open and closed every 2 -4 years; the data should be known by now

The ahi commercial minimum size limit should be 18 pounds

The ahi non-commercial minimum size limit should be 6 pounds

The ahi non-commercial bag limit should be 12 per person

The aku commercial minimum size limit should be 2.5 pounds

The market delay should be 30 days

## **Survey Results**

Note: The percentages given are the responses for each question asked. They represent the percentage of those responding to each question and not to the total responses received for all questions. These results do not include the numbers in the petition.

- 1) Ahi rule changes
  - a. 87% agreed or strongly agreed that the term ahi should include both species; 61% disagreed or strongly disagreed that ahi should include only big eye; 92% disagreed or strongly disagreed that ahi should include only yellowfin
  - b. 85% disagreed or strongly disagreed that there should be no commercial minimum size; 60% disagreed or strongly disagreed that the current commercial minimum size should be kept at three pounds; 53% agreed or strongly agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to 10 pounds

- c. 42% agreed or strongly agreed while 42% disagreed or strongly disagreed that the ahi non-commercial minimum size should be ten pounds
  - d. 80% agreed or strongly agreed that the ahi non-commercial bag limit should be 10 per person per day
- 2) Bottomfish
- a. 64% agreed or strongly agreed that the current non-commercial bag limit should be kept as is
  - b. 85% agreed or strongly agreed that non-commercial reporting should be mandatory
  - c. 73% agreed or strongly agreed that the market delay should be five days; 58% agreed or strongly agreed that the market delay should be ten days
  - d. 71% agreed or strongly agreed that all BRFAs should be opened
- 3) Reporting of line hours
- a. 68% agreed or strongly agreed that they would be willing to provide line hour information

Division of Aquatic Resources  
 Discussions On Bottomfish & Ahi Size and Bag Limits  
 Public Meeting Survey  
 December 4, 2014

The Division of Aquatic Resources thanks you for taking the time to provide your opinions. We recommend that you listen to the discussion on each item before answering. Please check the box that best applies to you. This survey is being provided only to those persons who attend a meeting. It will be used to quantify the opinions of persons attending. Opinions with the most votes may **not** necessarily become the preferred management option.

- 1) Do you live on the same island where this meeting is being held? Yes 25 (100%) No 0
- 2) Do you consider yourself primarily to be a: Commercial fisher 16 (67%) Non-commercial fisher 7 (29%) Don't fish 1 (4%)  
 a) Are you a local seafood dealer? Yes 0 (0%) No 24 (100%)
- 3) On average, how often do you fish? Don't fish 1 (4%) Less than once a month 2 (9%) Once a month 4 (17%) More than twice a month 16 (70%)
- 4) Where do you live? Oahu 25 (100%) Maui 0 (0%) Hawaii 0 (0%) Molokai 0 (0%) Kauai 0 (0%) Lanai 0 Non-resident 0

Do you STRONGLY DISAGREE, DISAGREE, NO OPINION, AGREE, STRONGLY AGREE with the following:

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<b>Bottomfish Non-Commercial provisions</b>					
5) The bottomfish non-commercial bag limit should be:					
a) 5 (keep as is)	3 (14%)	1 (5%)	4 (18%)	7 (32%)	7 (32%)
b) 10	5 (31%)	3 (19%)	1 (6%)	4 (25%)	3 (19%)
c) 15	7 (50%)	3 (21%)	1 (7%)	3 (21%)	0 (0%)
d) No limit (unlimited)	10 (67%)	3 (20%)	1 (7%)	0 (0%)	1 (7%)
e) Other _____					
6) State non-commercial bottomfish reporting should be:					
a) Keep as is (no reporting required)	9 (47%)	5 (26%)	3 (16%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
b) Voluntary	9 (50%)	0 (0%)	4 (22%)	2 (11%)	3 (17%)
c) Mandatory	0 (0%)	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	7 (35%)	10 (50%)

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NO OPINION      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

**Market Delay**

7) The market delay should be:					
a) No market delay	9 (47%)	4 (21%)	2 (11%)	4 (21%)	0 (0%)
b) 5 days	2 (13%)	2 (13%)	0 (0%)	9 (60%)	2 (13%)
c) 10 days	2 (11%)	3 (16%)	3 (16%)	6 (32%)	5 (26%)
d) 14 days	2 (20%)	5 (50%)	1 (10%)	1 (10%)	1 (10%)
e) Other? _____					

**Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs)**

8) Open all 12 BRFAs	2 (0%)	0 (17%)	3 (13%)	3 (17%)	16 (54%)
9) Keep all 12 BRFAs closed	15 (65%)	1 (25%)	3 (10%)	1 (0%)	0 (0%)
10) Open six and close six BRFAs as proposed	8 (10%)	3 (19%)	4 (24%)	4 (19%)	3 (29%)
11) If you did not answer 8 or 9, or support some closures, which BRFA(s) should be kept closed?					
a) A (Kaula Rock)	0				
b) B (Niihau)	0				
c) C (Poipu, Kauai)	0				
d) D (Kaena Point, Oahu)	1				
e) E (Makapuu, Oahu)	1				
f) F (Penguin Banks)	1				
g) G (Kalaupapa, Molokai)	0				
h) H (Pailolo Channel, Maui)	1				
i) J (Keanae, Maui)	0				
j) K (Kohala, Hawaii)	0				
k) L (Hilo, Hawaii)	0				
l) M (South Point, Hawaii)	0				

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NO OPINION      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

**Ahi Commercial Size**

12) Ahi should include					
a) Both yellowfin and big eye tunas	3 (13%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (30%)	13 (57%)
b) Only big eye tuna	6 (46%)	2 (15%)	1 (8%)	1 (8%)	3 (23%)
c) Only yellowfin tuna	8 (67%)	3 (25%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
13) The commercial minimum size limit should be:					
a) No commercial minimum size	7 (54%)	4 (31%)	0 (0%)	1 (8%)	1 (8%)
b) 3 pounds (current commercial minimum size)	5 (33%)	4 (27%)	0 (0%)	3 (20%)	3 (20%)
c) 5 pounds	6 (46%)	3 (23%)	1 (8%)	2 (15%)	1 (8%)
d) 10 pounds	5 (33%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)	5 (33%)	3 (20%)
e) 15 pounds	5 (36%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)	2 (14%)	4 (29%)
f) 20 pounds	4 (40%)	2 (20%)	1 (10%)	1 (10%)	2 (20%)
g) Other? _____					

**Non-commercial ahi limits**

14) The non-commercial ahi minimum size limit should be:					
a) No non-commercial minimum size limit	7 (54%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)	4 (31%)	1 (8%)
b) 3 pounds	5 (29%)	2 (12%)	2 (12%)	2 (12%)	6 (35%)
c) 5 pounds	6 (43%)	4 (29%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)
d) 10 pounds	3 (25%)	2 (17%)	2 (17%)	0 (0%)	5 (42%)
e) Other? _____					
15) The non-commercial ahi daily bag limit should be:					
a) No bag limit (unlimited)	6 (40%)	2 (13%)	1 (7%)	3 (20%)	3 (20%)
b) 5 per person	5 (29%)	1 (6%)	2 (12%)	3 (18%)	6 (35%)
c) 10 per person	2 (13%)	0 (0%)	1 (7%)	6 (40%)	6 (40%)
d) 15 per person	5 (45%)	3 (27%)	1 (9%)	2 (18%)	0 (0%)
e) Other? _____					

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NO OPINION      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

**Aku limits**

16) The aku commercial minimum size limit should be:

a) No commercial minimum size limit	8 (42%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	3 (16%)	7 (37%)
b) 3 pounds	2 (13%)	4 (25%)	1 (6%)	4 (25%)	5 (31%)
c) 5 pounds	5 (31%)	2 (13%)	1 (6%)	6 (38%)	2 (13%)
d) 10 pounds	5 (36%)	4 (29%)	2 (14%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)
e) Other? _____					

17) The non-commercial aku daily bag limit should be:

a) No bag limit (unlimited)	4 (22%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	5 (28%)	7 (39%)
b) 5 per person	4 (29%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)	4 (29%)	3 (21%)
c) 10 per person	3 (21%)	1 (7%)	1(7%)	4 (29%)	5 (36%)
d) 20 per person	5 (45%)	5 (45%)	0 (0%)	1 (9%)	0 (0%)
e) Other? _____					

**Fishing Effort Information**

18) I would be willing to provide line/hours  
in my monthly or trip catch reports

2 (9%)	2 (9%)	3 (14%)	8 (36%)	7 (32%)
--------	--------	---------	---------	---------

PUBLIC MEETINGS  
DECEMBER 2014

MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS BOTTOMFISH  
and  
AHI MANAGEMENT

Maui  
Paia Community Center Social Hall  
6:00PM – 9:00PM  
December 9, 2014

STAFF:

DAR: Alton Miyasaka  
Jessica Miller  
Jo-Anne Kushima  
Skippy Hau

WESPAC: Josh DeMello

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC) and the Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agreed to work cooperatively to hold a series of statewide public meetings where different issues in the main Hawaiian islands bottomfish fishery, results from some of the tagging studies with ahi and the kind of information obtained from fishermen that would help fishery biologists with stock assessments were presented. Attendees would be able to ask questions and to provide their opinions of the different issues.

Maui meeting started at 6:12PM

Attendees signing in: 38                      Surveys turned in: 32

Josh provided some background on the ahi minimum size issue. A short (10 min) video was shown to the attendees.

**General Comments:**

Maui has different rules for reef fish. Maybe have different rules for ahi.

Is the minimum size going to be by length? Easier to keep track of length. Easier to measure than weighing the fish. It will be hard for the fishermen to weigh each fish to be sure that they are not in violation of the minimum size rule.

\*Note: Alton explained that if the rule is adopted, the minimum size will be length based.

(Charter boat) Some days only have 2-5 lb ahi on the buoys. South side of Maui don't have 20 lb ahi. Fishermen here cannot afford to have a larger minimum size. If the scientists say that the ahi population is sustainable, why are we proposing the change now?

Fishermen do not want to destroy the resource. That's our livelihood.

How did the 3 lb minimum get passed for ahi. The issue was in the legislature.

Originally, the 3 lbs was proposed for aku, but by the time the discussions ended, it was decided that there would be no minimum size for akuy and a 3 lbs. minimum for ahi

In other areas, the commercial purse seiners cause problems.

10 lbs seems large. Hard to sell the whole fish. Have to cut it up to sell it.

Rules should be dependent on each island location. One rule might not be good everywhere.

Fishermen rely on all the fish they catch to pay their bills

Why there's not many big ahi on Maui, we don't know.

Are there stats on the number of longliners fishing each year... month... week?

Need to protect local stocks.

Fish prices going up

Marine habitat is different

Not enough boats to find the ahi koa

### **MHI BF Market Delay**

Maui water condition, water depth different than other parts of the state

What about a month delay for selling fish

Regarding data, the more information you ask for, you may not get information, or the information you get might not be truthful

Leave it up to the market – how long they need to sell the fish

Why ask for wind speed on the catch report? I got my report sent back to me asking for wind speed. (Speaker explained that the wind speed might affect fishing and that's why it is asked for on the catch report)



## **Revised BF Management Plan**

Currently the bag limit for non-commercial BF catches is 5 of any deep-7 BF per person per day. It is the same for State and Federal.

Suggestion was made to create a vessel license. The owner of the vessel determines how many licenses he would purchase for his vessel.

Relating to whether there should be voluntary or mandatory catch reporting for the non-commercial catches. Anyone catching fish should turn in a report of what was caught.

Is there going to be enough enforcement for these new proposed rules?

## **BRFAs**

Six (6) BRFAs will be opened

Can the public get the data to prove that the BRFAs are working?

Five years is a long time to keep an area closed. 3 years is sufficient. Stocks should be replenished by then.

Pailolo Channel is rough. Only accessible a few times of the year. When will this BRFA be done... and opened?

Need to conduct the study on an area where there is a large number of vessels. Niiahu, there is only a small number of vessels fishing there

DEALERS:

Billy Jackson

Mack Sylvester

NOTE: Could not hear the speakers (presenters).

Need to bring or arrange to have an **audio system**...

Also shooting the video in the wall was not a good idea. The walls had paint chipped off so the quality of the image was BAD. Need to arrange for or bring a **screen**.

Need to set ground rules... too many side conversations in the audience.

## **Survey Results**

Note: The percentages given are the responses for each question asked. They represent the percentage of those responding to each question and not to the total responses received for all questions. These results do not include the numbers in the petition.

- 1) Ahi rule changes
  - a. 85% agreed or strongly agreed that the term ahi should include both species
  - b. 75% agreed or strongly agreed that the current commercial minimum size should be kept at three pounds; 78% agreed or strongly agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to five pounds; there was little support for raising above five pounds
  - c. 77% agreed or strongly agreed that the ahi non-commercial minimum size should be kept at three pounds; 71% disagreed or strongly disagreed that the ahi non-commercial minimum size should be five pounds
  - d. 61% agreed or strongly agreed that the ahi non-commercial bag limit should be unlimited
  
- 2) Bottomfish
  - a. 86% agreed or strongly agreed that the current non-commercial bag limit should be kept as is
  - b. 71% agreed or strongly agreed that non-commercial reporting should be mandatory
  - c. 63% agreed or strongly agreed that the market delay should be five days; 63% agreed or strongly agreed that the market delay should be ten days; 61% agreed or strongly agreed that the market delay should be fourteen days
  - d. 76% agreed or strongly agreed that all BRFA's should be opened;
  
- 3) Reporting of line hours
  - a. 55% disagreed or strongly disagreed that they would be willing to provide line hour information

Division of Aquatic Resources  
Discussions On Bottomfish & Ahi Size and Bag Limits  
Public Meeting Survey  
December 9, 2014

The Division of Aquatic Resources thanks you for taking the time to provide your opinions. We recommend that you listen to the discussion on each item before answering. Please check the box that best applies to you. This survey is being provided only to those persons who attend a meeting. It will be used to quantify the opinions of persons attending. Opinions with the most votes may **not** necessarily become the preferred management option.

- 1) Do you live on the same island where this meeting is being held?    Yes 33 (100%)    No 0
- 2) Do you consider yourself primarily to be a:    Commercial fisher 25 (78%)    Non-commercial fisher 4 (13%)    Don't fish 3 (9%)
- a) Are you a local seafood dealer?    Yes 7 (21%)    No 26 (79%)
- 3) On average, how often do you fish?    Don't fish 4 (13%)    Less than once a month 9 (28%)    Once a month 5 (16%)    More than twice a month 14 (44%)
- 4) Where do you live?    Oahu 0 (0%) Maui 32 (100%)    Hawaii 0 (0%)    Molokai 0 (0%)    Kauai 0 (0%)    Lanai 0    Non-resident 1

Do you STRONGLY DISAGREE, DISAGREE, NO OPINION, AGREE, STRONGLY AGREE with the following:

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<b>Bottomfish Non-Commercial provisions</b>					
5) The bottomfish non-commercial bag limit should be:					
a) 5 (keep as is)	3 (11%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	7 (25%)	17 (61%)
b) 10	6 (33%)	4 (22%)	1 (6%)	2 (11%)	5 (28%)
c) 15	6 (38%)	4 (25%)	2 (13%)	1 (6%)	3 (19%)
d) No limit (unlimited)	8 (57%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)
e) Other _____					
6) State non-commercial bottomfish reporting should be:					
a) Keep as is (no reporting required)	4 (19%)	2 (10%)	2 (11%)	6 (29%)	7 (33%)
b) Voluntary	4 (29%)	3 (21%)	2 (0%)	2 (14%)	3 (21%)
c) Mandatory	3 (13%)	1 (4%)	3 (15%)	2 (8%)	15 (63%)

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NO OPINION      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

**Market Delay**

7) The market delay should be:

a) No market delay	7 (47%)	1 (7%)	3 (20%)	2 (13%)	2 (13%)
b) 5 days	4 (22%)	5 (28%)	0 (0%)	3 (17%)	6 (33%)
c) 10 days	3 (16%)	2 (11%)	2(11%)	4 (21%)	8 (42%)
d) 14 days	3 (17%)	3 (17%)	1 (6%)	3 (17%)	8 (44%)
e) Other? _____					

**Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs)**

8) Open all 12 BRFAs	2 (7%)	4 (14%)	1 (3%)	2 (7%)	20 (69%)
9) Keep all 12 BRFAs closed	12 (60%)	4 (20%)	2 (10%)	2 (10%)	0 (0%)
10) Open six and close six BRFAs as proposed	4 (21%)	2 (11%)	4 (21%)	4 (21%)	5 (26%)
11) If you did not answer 8 or 9, or support some closures, which BRFA(s) should be kept closed?					
a) A (Kaula Rock)	3				
b) B (Niihau)	4				
c) C (Poipu, Kauai)	0				
d) D (Kaena Point, Oahu)	1				
e) E (Makapuu, Oahu)	2				
f) F (Penguin Banks)	4				
g) G (Kalaupapa, Molokai)	5				
h) H (Pailolo Channel, Maui)	0				
i) J (Keanae, Maui)	1				
j) K (Kohala, Hawaii)	3				
k) L (Hilo, Hawaii)	1				
l) M (South Point, Hawaii)	4				

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
--	----------------------	----------	---------------	-------	-------------------

**Ahi Commercial Size**

12) Ahi should include					
a) Both yellowfin and big eye tunas	3 (12%)	1 (4%)	0 (0%)	7 (27%)	15 (58%)
b) Only big eye tuna	6 (33%)	4 (22%)	1 (6%)	3 (17%)	4 (22%)
c) Only yellowfin tuna	4 (25%)	6 (38%)	0 (0%)	3 (19%)	3 (19%)
13) The commercial minimum size limit should be:					
a) No commercial minimum size	10 (71%)	2 (14%)	0 (0%)	2 (14%)	0 (0%)
b) 3 pounds (current commercial minimum size)	3 (15%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	6 (30%)	9 (45%)
c) 5 pounds	4 (18%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	5 (23%)	12 (55%)
d) 10 pounds	6 (38%)	3 (19%)	0 (0%)	4 (25%)	3 (19%)
e) 15 pounds	6 (43%)	5 (36%)	1 (7%)	2 (14%)	0 (0%)
f) 20 pounds	7 (54%)	2 (15%)	2 (15%)	1 (8%)	1 (8%)
g) Other? _____					

**Non-commercial ahi limits**

14) The non-commercial ahi minimum size limit should be:					
a) No non-commercial minimum size limit	6 (40%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)	6 (40%)
b) 3 pounds	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	6 (33%)	8 (44%)
c) 5 pounds	3 (18%)	2 (12%)	0 (0%)	9 (53%)	3 (18%)
d) 10 pounds	6 (43%)	2 (14%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)	3 (21%)
e) Other? _____					
15) The non-commercial ahi daily bag limit should be:					
a) No bag limit (unlimited)	4 (22%)	1 (6%)	2 (11%)	5 (28%)	6 (33%)
b) 5 per person	4 (22%)	4 (22%)	1 (6%)	4 (22%)	5 (28%)
c) 10 per person	3 (21%)	4 (29%)	1 (7%)	3 (21%)	3 (21%)
d) 15 per person	4 (40%)	2 (20%)	2 (20%)	1 (10%)	1 (10%)
e) Other? _____					

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NO OPINION      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

**Aku limits**

16) The aku commercial minimum size limit should be:

a) No commercial minimum size limit	3 (17%)	3 (17%)	0 (0%)	5 (28%)	7 (39%)
b) 3 pounds	3 (19%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (38%)	7 (44%)
c) 5 pounds	4 (31%)	3 (23%)	0 (0%)	3 (23%)	3(23%)
d) 10 pounds	4 (36%)	3 (27%)	2 (18%)	0 (0%)	2 (18%)
e) Other? _____					

17) The non-commercial aku daily bag limit should be:

a) No bag limit (unlimited)	5 (28%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	6 (33%)	6 (33%)
b) 5 per person	4 (22%)	4 (22%)	0 (0%)	3 (17%)	7(39%)
c) 10 per person	3 (21%)	3 (21%)	1(7%)	3 (21%)	4 (29%)
d) 20 per person	5 (45%)	2 (18%)	1 (9%)	2 (18%)	1 (9%)
e) Other? _____					

**Fishing Effort Information**

18) I would be willing to provide line/hours in my monthly or trip catch reports

	9 (38%)	4 (17%)	10 (21%)	4 (17%)	2 (8%)
--	---------	---------	----------	---------	--------

PUBLIC MEETINGS  
DECEMBER 2014

MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS BOTTOMFISH  
and  
AHI MANAGEMENT

Oahu  
Washington Middle School Cafeteria  
6:00PM -9:00PM  
December 10, 2014

STAFF:

DAR: Alton Miyasaka  
Reginald Kokubun  
Jo-Anne Kushima  
(Cathy Gewecke DAR staff in attendance)

WESPAC: Mark Mitsuyasu  
Asuka Ishizaki

PIRO: Walter Ikehara

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC) and the Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agreed to work cooperatively to hold a series of statewide public meetings where different issues in the main Hawaiian islands bottomfish fishery, results from some of the tagging studies with ahi and the kind of information obtained from fishermen that would help fishery biologists with stock assessments were presented. Attendees would be able to ask questions and to provide their opinions of the different issues.

Attendees Signed in: Surveys submitted:

Mark started off the meeting presenting some information on WESPAC's "Community FADs" program.

Mark provided some background on the ahi minimum size issue. A short (10 min) video was shown to the attendees.

**General Comments:**

Is this meeting going to be followed by another public meeting with the proposed action before it is presented to the BLNR? Will there be Public Hearings?

This meeting is a place for the public to speak their "piece"

Implement a 15 lb minimum size?

Where is enforcement going to be done? At the market? Will need to do outreach and education with the markets

At sea enforcement is highly unlikely.

90% of the smaller fish are NOT sold in the market. Lot of small fish sold “road side,” so going to the market to enforce the regulation is not going to be helpful or effective

DLNR/DAR is looking at fines (civil fine) not criminal violation. To pursue the violation through as a criminal violation is a time consuming and costly process

The minimum size recommended by the scientists is 10 lbs

(I) Suggest that in the new regulation/rule, “ahi” should include both yellowfin and big eye because at the small sizes it is hard to differentiate yellowfin from big eye ahi and vice versa

Just because the minimum size for sale is increased does not mean that the population will increase

Are there going to be socio economic studies done to see what the effects of the change would be?

### **BF Market Grace Period**

BF bag limit for non-commercial fishermen is currently 5 deep-7 bottomfish. The bag limit is the same for both State and Federal

The ACL for 2014-2015 TBD

Market delay for BF, 5 days is reasonable (Guy Tamashiro)

Regarding the non-commercial bag limit for BF the State is considering the increase in bag limit because fishermen at public meetings would ask the division to look into it. The BF fishermen explained that it is costly to go bottomfishing and they would want to be able to catch more than just 5 deep-7 bottomfish per person.

In order for mandatory reporting, there needs to be mandatory licensing

If the State’s goal is to manage the fishery better, then there should be mandatory reporting

BRFA is getting out of control. If areas are going to remain closed then there needs to be reporting on what is being caught



The closed BRFAs are Niihau, Makapuu, Penguin Banks, Kalaupapa, Pailolo Channel and Kohala

The State and Federal government need to work better together. Monies and tax payers are being penalized

Keeping the BRFAs closed, we are just relying on one scientist's view

If BRFAs remain closed, there needs to be enforcement. Stricter enforcement even if it is costly. If you don't enforce, you don't know for sure if the BRFAs are not being fished. You are just assuming that they are NOT being fished. If they are being fished... then you don't really know the effects of keeping the area closed to fishing.

The BRFAs should be opened one (1) month out of the year. Like the month of December, open the BRFAs to fishing.

Could there be consideration to open either Makapuu or Penguin Banks BRFAs?

What is the opportunity for studies to be done at Kahoolawe? Habitat is good and the area has been closed for a long time

Why is the BRFA so large on Oahu pinnacle & Makapuu?

### **Reporting on Commercial Catch Reports**

Fishing effort – Stock assessment fishery scientists would like fishermen to report their “line hours.” That is the time that their lines are in the water. Do not report the transiting time or searching time.

Division of Aquatic Resources  
 Discussions On Bottomfish & Ahi Size and Bag Limits  
 Public Meeting Survey  
 December 10, 2014

The Division of Aquatic Resources thanks you for taking the time to provide your opinions. We recommend that you listen to the discussion on each item before answering. Please check the box that best applies to you. This survey is being provided only to those persons who attend a meeting. It will be used to quantify the opinions of persons attending. Opinions with the most votes may **not** necessarily become the preferred management option.

- 1) Do you live on the same island where this meeting is being held?      Yes 27 (100%)      No 0
- 2) Do you consider yourself primarily to be a:      Commercial fisher 16 (59%)      Non-commercial fisher 8 (30%)      Don't fish 3 (11%)
  - a) Are you a local seafood dealer?      Yes 2 (7%) No 25 (93%)
- 3) On average, how often do you fish?      Don't fish 3 (11%)      Less than once a month 4 (15%)      Once a month 7 (26%)      More than twice a month 13 (48%)
- 4) Where do you live?      Oahu 27 (100%)      Maui 0 (0%)      Hawaii 0 (0%)      Molokai 0 (0%)      Kauai 0 (0%)      Lanai 0      Non-resident 0

Do you STRONGLY DISAGREE, DISAGREE, NO OPINION, AGREE, STRONGLY AGREE with the following:

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<b>Bottomfish Non-Commercial provisions</b>					
5) The bottomfish non-commercial bag limit should be:					
a) 5 (keep as is)	3 (13%)	5 (21%)	3 (13%)	4 (17%)	9 (38%)
b) 10	5 (25%)	2 (10%)	2 (10%)	6 (30%)	5 (25%)
c) 15	7 (39%)	5 (28%)	1 (6%)	4 (22%)	1 (6%)
d) No limit (unlimited)	11 (61%)	4 (22%)	1 (6%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)
e) Other _____					
6) State non-commercial bottomfish reporting should be:					
a) Keep as is (no reporting required)	9 (47%)	4 (21%)	3 (16%)	1 (5%)	2 (11%)
b) Voluntary	8 (38%)	5 (24%)	1 (5%)	6 (29%)	1 (5%)
c) Mandatory	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	1 (5%)	9 (43%)	10 (48%)

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NO OPINION      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

**Market Delay**

7) The market delay should be:

a) No market delay	10 (63%)	4 (25%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	1 (6%)
b) 5 days	4 (21%)	3 (16%)	1 (5%)	3 (16%)	8 (42%)
c) 10 days	5 (24%)	5 (24%)	0 (0%)	5 (24%)	6 (29%)
d) 14 days	3 (19%)	6 (38%)	1 (6%)	3 (19%)	3 (19%)
e) Other? _____					

**Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs)**

8) Open all 12 BRFAs	0 (0%)	4 (17%)	3 (13%)	4 (17%)	13 (54%)
9) Keep all 12 BRFAs closed	13 (65%)	5 (25%)	2 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
10) Open six and close six BRFAs as proposed	2 (10%)	4 (19%)	5 (24%)	4 (19%)	6 (29%)
11) If you did not answer 8 or 9, or support some closures, which BRFA(s) should be kept closed?					
a) A (Kaula Rock)	0				
b) B (Niihau)	2				
c) C (Poipu, Kauai)	0				
d) D (Kaena Point, Oahu)	0				
e) E (Makapuu, Oahu)	2				
f) F (Penguin Banks)	1				
g) G (Kalaupapa, Molokai)	2				
h) H (Pailolo Channel, Maui)	2				
i) J (Keanae, Maui)	1				
j) K (Kohala, Hawaii)	2				
k) L (Hilo, Hawaii)	0				
l) M (South Point, Hawaii)	0				

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NO OPINION      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

**Ahi Commercial Size**

12) Ahi should include					
a) Both yellowfin and big eye tunas	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	10 (37%)	15 (56%)
b) Only big eye tuna	9 (47%)	4 (21%)	4 (21%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
c) Only yellowfin tuna	9 (47%)	4 (21%)	4 (21%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)
13) The commercial minimum size limit should be:					
a) No commercial minimum size	12 (75%)	3 (19%)	0 (0%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)
b) 3 pounds (current commercial minimum size)	9 (53%)	3 (18%)	2 (12%)	3 (18%)	0 (0%)
c) 5 pounds	6 (35%)	2 (12%)	0 (0%)	7 (41%)	2 (12%)
d) 10 pounds	4 (19%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	6 (29%)	8 (38%)
e) 15 pounds	7 (41%)	4 (24%)	0 (0%)	4 (24%)	2 (12%)
f) 20 pounds	4 (40%)	2 (20%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	3 (30%)
g) Other? _____					

**Non-commercial ahi limits**

14) The non-commercial ahi minimum size limit should be:					
a) No non-commercial minimum size limit	4 (21%)	6 (32%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	7 (37%)
b) 3 pounds	5 (28%)	3 (17%)	1 (6%)	7 (39%)	2 (11%)
c) 5 pounds	5 (29%)	2 (20%)	1 (6%)	5 (29%)	4 (24%)
d) 10 pounds	4 (29%)	3 (38%)	1 (7%)	3 (21%)	3 (21%)
e) Other? _____					
15) The non-commercial ahi daily bag limit should be:					
a) No bag limit (unlimited)	6 (33%)	3 (17%)	2 (11%)	2 (1%)	5 (28%)
b) 5 per person	4 (21%)	3 (16%)	3 (16%)	4 (21%)	5 (26%)
c) 10 per person	2 (13%)	3 (20%)	2 (13%)	3 (20%)	5 (33%)
d) 15 per person	5 (38%)	5 (38%)	1 (8%)	1 (8%)	1 (8%)
e) Other? _____					

STRONGLY DISAGREE      DISAGREE      NO OPINION      AGREE      STRONGLY AGREE

**Aku limits**

16) The aku commercial minimum size limit should be:

a) No commercial minimum size limit	7 (41%)	4 (24%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)	4 (24%)
b) 3 pounds	4 (20%)	3 (15%)	2 (10%)	3 (15%)	8 (40%)
c) 5 pounds	5 (28%)	4 (22%)	3 (17%)	2 (11%)	4 (22%)
d) 10 pounds	5 (33%)	2 (13%)	3 (20%)	1 (7%)	4 (27%)
e) Other? _____					

17) The non-commercial aku daily bag limit should be:

a) No bag limit (unlimited)	5 (28%)	3 (14%)	2 (9%)	3 (14%)	9 (41%)
b) 5 per person	4 (25%)	5 (31%)	2 (13%)	2 (13%)	3 (19%)
c) 10 per person	4 (25%)	4 (25%)	2(13%)	3 (19%)	3 (19%)
d) 20 per person	6 (43%)	4 (29%)	3 (21%)	0 (0%)	1 (7%)
e) Other? _____					

**Fishing Effort Information**

18) I would be willing to provide line/hours in my monthly or trip catch reports

	4 (16%)	1 (4%)	5 (20%)	6 (24%)	9 (36%)
--	---------	--------	---------	---------	---------

PUBLIC MEETINGS  
DECEMBER 2014

MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS BOTTOMFISH  
and  
AHI MANAGEMENT

Hawaii  
Hilo High School Cafeteria  
6:00PM-9:00PM  
December 12, 2014

STAFF:

DAR: Alton Miyasaka  
WESPAC: Mark Mitsuyasu

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC) and the Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agreed to work cooperatively to hold a series of statewide public meetings where different issues in the main Hawaiian islands bottomfish fishery, results from some of the tagging studies with ahi and the kind of information obtained from fishermen that would help fishery biologists with stock assessments were presented. Attendees would be able to ask questions and to provide their opinions of the different issues.

Public Attendance signed in: 31                      Surveys collected: 29

Received one written testimony from Dr. Craig Severance

Hilo meeting started at 6:20PM

Mark provided some background on the ahi minimum size issue. A short (10 min) video was shown to the attendees.

**General Comments:**

Should have no size restrictions for ahi used for bait purposes

Ahi commercial minimum size should be 40 pounds or 44 inches fork length

Ahi non-commercial minimum size should be 20 pounds

Size limit should be length rather than weight based

The Ahi non-commercial minimum size should be the same as the commercial

Need to revise BRFA's

Is it really necessary to change the regulations when there's a quota?  
I don't have enough information to support or not support the BRFA's

Somewhat inaccurate use of the data

Support larger size limits for more sustainable future for the generations to come; need to have more controls now for a more sustainable future

Premature to raise non-commercial bag limits for bottomfish

Support opening the Hilo BRFA but would like to see all BRFA's opened

Should consider opening the Makapuu BRFA since this has the greatest economic impact on Oahu bottomfishers

The State should consider the economic and social impacts of raising the ahi commercial minimum size to 10 pounds, even if you are not required to

Support raising ahi commercial minimum size to 10 pounds

Should consider economic impacts that raising the ahi commercial minimum size to those with fixed or lower incomes that depend heavily on small ahi

Should consider captive breeding programs to restock the reefs and restore reef fish stocks

Support bottomfish non-commercial bag limit of ten each

Support mandatory bottomfish non-commercial reporting

Support ahi commercial minimum size limit of 5 pounds for road-side vendors and ten pounds for brick & mortar stores

Support having same commercial minimum size of ten pounds for everyone

Support letting the markets decide how long the market delay should be (leave as is)

Support requiring bottomfish non-commercial license and mandatory reporting

Support providing line hours for commercial reporting

### **Survey Results**

Note: The percentages given are the responses for each question asked. They represent the percentage of those responding to each question and not to the total responses received for all questions. These results do not include the numbers in the petition.

- 1) Ahi rule changes
  - a. 85% agreed or strongly agreed that the term ahi should include both species
  - b. 60% agreed or strongly agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to ten pounds; there was little support for raising above ten pounds
  - c. 50% agreed or strongly agreed that the ahi non-commercial minimum size should be raised to five pounds
  - d. 53% agreed or strongly agreed that the ahi non-commercial bag limit should be unlimited
  
- 2) Bottomfish
  - a. 65% agreed or strongly agreed that the current non-commercial bag limit should be kept as is
  - b. 69% agreed or strongly agreed that non-commercial reporting should be voluntary; 60% agreed or strongly agreed that non-commercial reporting should be mandatory
  - c. 53% agreed or strongly agreed that there should be a market delay of five days
  - d. 67% agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed BRFA plan for Kauai;
  
- 3) Reporting of line hours
  - a. There was no majority for or against a willingness to provide line hour information



Division of Aquatic Resources  
 Discussions On Bottomfish & Ahi Size and Bag Limits  
 Public Meeting Survey  
 December 12, 2014

The Division of Aquatic Resources thanks you for taking the time to provide your opinions. We recommend that you listen to the discussion on each item before answering. Please check the box that best applies to you. This survey is being provided only to those persons who attend a meeting. It will be used to quantify the opinions of persons attending. Opinions with the most votes may **not** necessarily become the preferred management option.

- 1) Do you live on the same island where this meeting is being held?    Yes 29 (100%)    No 0
- 2) Do you consider yourself primarily to be a:    Commercial fisher 16 (57%)    Non-commercial fisher 10 (36%)    Don't fish 2 (7%)
  - a) Are you a local seafood dealer?    Yes 3 (11%)    No 25 (89%)
- 3) On average, how often do you fish?    Don't fish 2 (7%)    Less than once a month 5 (18%)    Once a month 6 (21%)    More than twice a month 15 (54%)
- 4) Where do you live?    Oahu 0 (0%) Maui 0 (0%)    Hawaii 29 (100%) Molokai 0 (0%)    Kauai 0 (0%)    Lanai 0    Non-resident 0

Do you STRONGLY DISAGREE, DISAGREE, NO OPINION, AGREE, STRONGLY AGREE with the following:

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<b>Bottomfish Non-Commercial provisions</b>					
5) The bottomfish non-commercial bag limit should be:					
a) 5 (keep as is)	3 (12%)	2 (8%)	4 (15%)	10 (38%)	7 (27%)
b) 10	4 (27%)	3 (20%)	6 (40%)	2 (13%)	0 (0%)
c) 15	5 (41%)	2 (12%)	5 (29%)	1 (6%)	2 (12%)
d) No limit (unlimited)	7 (50%)	1 (7%)	4 (29%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)
e) Other _____					
6) State non-commercial bottomfish reporting should be:					
a) Keep as is (no reporting required)	5 (26%)	5 (26%)	2 (11%)	4 (21%)	3 (16%)
b) Voluntary	1 (6%)	4 (25%)	0 (0%)	6 (38%)	5 (31%)
c) Mandatory	3 (15%)	2 (10%)	3 (15%)	4 (20%)	8 (40%)

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
--	----------------------	----------	---------------	-------	-------------------

**Market Delay**

7) The market delay should be:

a) No market delay	8 (42%)	2 (11%)	4 (13%)	3 (16%)	2 (11%)
b) 5 days	3 (18%)	3 (18%)	2 (12%)	3 (18%)	6 (35%)
c) 10 days	5 (31%)	2 (13%)	3 (19%)	3 (19%)	3 (19%)
d) 14 days	8 (57%)	4 (29%)	2 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
e) Other? _____					

**Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs)**

8) Open all 12 BRFAs	4 (18%)	3 (14%)	6 (27%)	2 (9%)	7 (32%)
9) Keep all 12 BRFAs closed	9 (50%)	6 (33%)	2 (11%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)
10) Open six and close six BRFAs as proposed	4 (19%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	4 (19%)	10 (48%)
11) If you did not answer 8 or 9, or support some closures, which BRFA(s) should be kept closed?					
a) A (Kaula Rock)	1				
b) B (Niihau)	6				
c) C (Poipu, Kauai)	1				
d) D (Kaena Point, Oahu)	□				
e) E (Makapuu, Oahu)	2				
f) F (Penguin Banks)	4				
g) G (Kalaupapa, Molokai)	2				
h) H (Pailolo Channel, Maui)	2				
i) J (Keanae, Maui)	1				
j) K (Kohala, Hawaii)	1				
k) L (Hilo, Hawaii)	2				
l) M (South Point, Hawaii)	2				

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
--	----------------------	----------	---------------	-------	-------------------

### Ahi Commercial Size

12) Ahi should include

a) Both yellowfin and big eye tunas	1 (4%)	3 (11%)	0 (0%)	9 (33%)	14 (52%)
b) Only big eye tuna	7 (54%)	3 (23%)	0 (0%)	2 (15%)	1 (8%)
c) Only yellowfin tuna	8 (57%)	2 (14%)	0 (0%)	2 (14%)	2 (14%)

13) The commercial minimum size limit should be:

a) No commercial minimum size	11 (61%)	3 (17%)	2 (11%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)
b) 3 pounds (current commercial minimum size)	10 (56%)	6 (33%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (11%)
c) 5 pounds	8 (35%)	4 (17%)	0 (0%)	5 (22%)	6 (26%)
d) 10 pounds	7 (35%)	0 (0%)	1 (5%)	4 (20%)	8 (40%)
e) 15 pounds	8 (44%)	3 (17%)	4 (22%)	1 (6%)	2 (11%)
f) 20 pounds	9 (53%)	1 (6%)	9 (24%)	1 (6%)	2 (12%)
g) Other? _____					

### Non-commercial ahi limits

14) The non-commercial ahi minimum size limit should be:

a) No non-commercial minimum size limit	7 (35%)	4 (20%)	3 (15%)	0 (0%)	6 (30%)
b) 3 pounds	8 (44%)	5 (28%)	1 (6%)	2 (11%)	2 (11%)
c) 5 pounds	6 (27%)	2 (9%)	3 (14%)	8 (36%)	3 (14%)
d) 10 pounds	7 (37%)	3 (16%)	4 (21%)	1 (5%)	4 (21%)
e) Other? _____					

15) The non-commercial ahi daily bag limit should be:

a) No bag limit (unlimited)	6 (32%)	1 (5%)	2 (11%)	4 (21%)	6 (32%)
b) 5 per person	7 (29%)	6 (25%)	3 (13%)	1 (4%)	7 (29%)
c) 10 per person	8 (40%)	3 (15%)	4 (20%)	4 (20%)	1 (5%)
d) 15 per person	9 (53%)	2 (12%)	4 (24%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)
e) Other? _____					

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
--	----------------------	----------	---------------	-------	-------------------

**Aku limits**

16) The aku commercial minimum size limit should be:

a) No commercial minimum size limit	7 (35%)	3 (15%)	2 (10%)	1(5%)	7 (35%)
b) 3 pounds	5 (24%)	4 (19%)	3 (14%)	4 (19%)	5 (24%)
c) 5 pounds	7 (37%)	2 (11%)	1 (5%)	4 (21%)	5(26%)
d) 10 pounds	10 (56%)	3 (17%)	3 (17%)	1 (6%)	1 (6%)
e) Other? _____					

17) The non-commercial aku daily bag limit should be:

a) No bag limit (unlimited)	6 (32%)	1 (5%)	2 (11%)	1 (5%)	9 (47%)
b) 5 per person	8 (40%)	5 (25%)	2 (10%)	2 (10%)	3(15%)
c) 10 per person	6 (29%)	2 (10%)	3(14%)	4 (19%)	6 (29%)
d) 20 per person	9 (50%)	2 (11%)	6 (33%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)
e) Other? _____					

**Fishing Effort Information**18) I would be willing to provide line/hours  
in my monthly or trip catch reports

	6 (21%)	4 (14%)	10 (36%)	3 (11%)	5 (18%)
--	---------	---------	----------	---------	---------

# PUBLIC MEETINGS DECEMBER 2014

## MAIN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS BOTTOMFISH and AHI MANAGEMENT

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii  
King Kamehameha Conference Room  
10:00AM-1:00PM  
December 13, 2014

### STAFF:

DAR: Alton Miyasaka  
WESPAC: Mark Mitsuyasu

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC) and the Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) agreed to work cooperatively to hold a series of statewide public meetings where different issues in the main Hawaiian islands bottomfish fishery, results from some of the tagging studies with ahi and the kind of information obtained from fishermen that would help fishery biologists with stock assessments were presented. Attendees would be able to ask questions and to provide their opinions of the different issues.

Public Attendance signed in: 28

Surveys collected: 24 (ran out of surveys)

Kona meeting started at 10:00AM

Mark provided some background on the ahi minimum size issue. A short (10 min) video was shown to the attendees. He also discussed the potential for a market delay for those years when the bottomfish fishery closes due to the annual catch limit being reached. The markets need more time to sell their inventory of bottomfish if the fishermen are fishing until the last day before the fishing year ends.

Alton provided some information on the State's changes to the bottomfish restricted fishing areas (BRFAs), non-commercial bag limits and non-commercial reporting. Also discussed were proposed aku changes and reporting of commercial fishing effort in line hours.

### **General Comments:**

Should consider opening at least the northern half of the Kohala BRFA; keeping the whole area closed with no research on-going and the area too large to properly study makes no sense

The ahi size limits should be different for big eyes vs yellowfins

I've been a commercial fisherman for 27 years, that's good data

All BRFAs should be opened

Big eye tuna (BET) commercial minimum size should be fifteen pounds; yellowfin tuna (YFT) should be ten pounds

Should enforce roadside vendors for size limits

Federal government should create (enforcement) jobs for federal mandates; for example, checkers at harbors

Bottomfish non-commercial bag limit should be five for each species of deep-7

Don't understand aku questions; aku is the largest fish targeted in the world, recent catch was 12 million tons, purse seiners catch more in one day than all of Hawaii in a year; aku is migratory unlike YFT

The Board member for each island should be selected by a vote from fishermen

Agree with mandatory reporting but no enforcement

We need some fairness in opening up our BRFA and some management plan

When you catch a small ahi, most of the time it dies anyway; need more enforcement

The BRFAs should be fair to all fishers

The ahi non-commercial bag limit should be 20 per person per day

BRFAs should be opened and closed on a rotating basis according to sustainable levels

Closing Kohala BRFA should be re-evaluated; close Kawaihae to Lapakahi

It is premature to set a minimum weight for ahi; need to look into natural predation by sharks, whales, dolphins, etc. and how their consumption impacts our resources; what sizes are being taken, at what rate?

Keeping Kohala BRFA closed is ridiculous; close Keahole Point

### **Survey Results**

Note: The percentages given are the responses for each question asked. They represent the percentage of those responding to each question and not to the total responses received for all questions. These results do not include the numbers in the petition.

- 1) Ahi rule changes
  - a. 75% agreed or strongly agreed that the term ahi should include both species

- b. 67% agreed or strongly agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to five pounds; 76% agreed or strongly agreed that the commercial minimum size should be raised to ten pounds; there was little support for raising above ten pounds
  - c. 53% agreed or strongly agreed that the ahi non-commercial minimum size should be three pounds
  - d. 69% agreed or strongly agreed that the ahi non-commercial bag limit should be unlimited
- 2) Bottomfish
- a. 53% agreed or strongly agreed that the current non-commercial bag limit should be kept as is
  - b. 78% agreed or strongly agreed that non-commercial reporting should be mandatory
  - c. 70% agreed or strongly agreed that there should be a market delay of ten days
  - d. 70% agreed or strongly agreed that all BRFA's should be opened
- 3) Reporting of line hours
- a. 62% agreed or strongly agreed to provide line hour information

Division of Aquatic Resources  
Discussions On Bottomfish & Ahi Size and Bag Limits  
Public Meeting Survey  
December 13, 2014

The Division of Aquatic Resources thanks you for taking the time to provide your opinions. We recommend that you listen to the discussion on each item before answering. Please check the box that best applies to you. This survey is being provided only to those persons who attend a meeting. It will be used to quantify the opinions of persons attending. Opinions with the most votes may **not** necessarily become the preferred management option.

- 1) Do you live on the same island where this meeting is being held?    Yes 25 (100%)    No 0
- 2) Do you consider yourself primarily to be a:    Commercial fisher 15 (65%)    Non-commercial fisher 8 (35%)    Don't fish 0 (0%)  
a) Are you a local seafood dealer?    Yes 1 (4%) No 22 (96%)
- 3) On average, how often do you fish?    Don't fish 0 (0%)    Less than once a month 0 (0%)    Once a month 4 (17%)    More than twice a month 20 (83%)
- 4) Where do you live?    Oahu 0 (0%) Maui 0 (0%)    Hawaii 24 (100%) Molokai 0 (0%)    Kauai 0 (0%)    Lanai 0    Non-resident 0

Do you STRONGLY DISAGREE, DISAGREE, NO OPINION, AGREE, STRONGLY AGREE with the following:

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<b>Bottomfish Non-Commercial provisions</b>					
5) The bottomfish non-commercial bag limit should be:					
a) 5 (keep as is)	5 (29%)	2 (12%)	1 (6%)	4 (24%)	5 (29%)
b) 10	5 (36%)	4 (29%)	0 (0%)	1 (7%)	4 (29%)
c) 15	4 (31%)	4 (31%)	0 (0%)	3 (23%)	2 (15%)
d) No limit (unlimited)	6 (67%)	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	0 (0%)	1 (11%)
e) Other _____					
6) State non-commercial bottomfish reporting should be:					
a) Keep as is (no reporting required)	5 (31%)	2 (13%)	0 (9%)	3 (17%)	6 (20%)
b) Voluntary	6 (46%)	2 (15%)	1 (8%)	4 (24%)	0 (15%)
c) Mandatory	1 (6%)	1 (6%)	1 (10%)	4 (25%)	9 (53%)



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
--	----------------------	----------	---------------	-------	-------------------

**Market Delay**

7) The market delay should be:

a) No market delay	4 (31%)	5 (38%)	3 (23%)	0 (0%)	1 (8%)
b) 5 days	2 (15%)	3 (23%)	2 (15%)	4 (31%)	2 (15%)
c) 10 days	0 (0%)	3 (18%)	2 (12%)	6 (35%)	6 (35%)
d) 14 days	0 (0%)	3 (25%)	4 (33%)	1 (8%)	4 (33%)
e) Other? _____					

**Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs)**

8) Open all 12 BRFAs	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	3 (15%)	3 (15%)	11 (55%)
9) Keep all 12 BRFAs closed	7 (54%)	2 (15%)	3 (23%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)
10) Open six and close six BRFAs as proposed	5 (33%)	4 (27%)	2 (13%)	3 (20%)	1 (7%)
11) If you did not answer 8 or 9, or support some closures, which BRFA(s) should be kept closed?					
a) A (Kaula Rock)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b) B (Niihau)	1				
c) C (Poipu, Kauai)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d) D (Kaena Point, Oahu)	1				
e) E (Makapuu, Oahu)	1				
f) F (Penguin Banks)	1				
g) G (Kalaupapa, Molokai)	1				
h) H (Pailolo Channel, Maui)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
i) J (Keanae, Maui)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
j) K (Kohala, Hawaii)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
k) L (Hilo, Hawaii)	1				
l) M (South Point, Hawaii)	1				

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
<b>Ahi Commercial Size</b>					
12) Ahi should include					
a) Both yellowfin and big eye tunas	4 (20%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	8 (40%)	7 (35%)
b) Only big eye tuna	3 (30%)	4 (40%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (30%)
c) Only yellowfin tuna	2 (17%)	3 (25%)	0 (0%)	1 (8%)	6 (50%)
13) The commercial minimum size limit should be:					
a) No commercial minimum size	6 (55%)	4 (36%)	0(0%)	0 (0%)	1 (9%)
b) 3 pounds (current commercial minimum size)	4 (40%)	5 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (10%)
c) 5 pounds	2 (13%)	3(20%)	0(0%)	3(20%)	7 (47%)
d) 10 pounds	3 (19%)	1 (6%)	0(0%)	6 (38%)	6 (38%)
e) 15 pounds	4 (40%)	4 (40%)	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	1 (10%)
f) 20 pounds	4 (44%)	3 (33%)	2 (22%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
g) Other? _____					
<b>Non-commercial ahi limits</b>					
14) The non-commercial ahi minimum size limit should be:					
a) No non-commercial minimum size limit	5 (33%)	3 (20%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)	5 (33%)
b) 3 pounds	5 (33%)	2 (13%)	0 (0%)	3 (20%)	5 (33%)
c) 5 pounds	7 (50%)	3 (21%)	0 (0%)	3 (21%)	1 (7%)
d) 10 pounds	6 (55%)	2 (18%)	0 (0%)	2 (18%)	1 (9%)
e) Other? _____					
15) The non-commercial ahi daily bag limit should be:					
a) No bag limit (unlimited)	5 (31%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (19%)	8 (50%)
b) 5 per person	6 (46%)	4 (31%)	0 (0%)	3 (23%)	0 (0%)
c) 10 per person	6 (46%)	5 (38%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (15%)
d) 15 per person	5 (42%)	6 (50%)	0 (0%)	1 (8%)	0 (0%)
e) Other? _____					

	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
--	----------------------	----------	---------------	-------	-------------------

**Aku limits**

16) The aku commercial minimum size limit should be:

a) No commercial minimum size limit	6 (43%)	2 (14%)	0 (0%)	1(7%)	5 (36%)
b) 3 pounds	2 (14%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)	5 (36%)	4 (29%)
c) 5 pounds	3 (20%)	2 (13%)	1 (7%)	3 (20%)	6 (40%)
d) 10 pounds	4 (40%)	3 (30%)	3 (30%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
e) Other? _____					

17) The non-commercial aku daily bag limit should be:

a) No bag limit (unlimited)	2 (11%)	2 (11%)	0 (0%)	3 (17%)	11 (61%)
b) 5 per person	6 (50%)	2 (17%)	1 (8%)	2 (17%)	1 (8%)
c) 10 per person	7 (50%)	3 (21%)	1 (7%)	0 (0%)	3 (21%)
d) 20 per person	5 (38%)	4 (31%)	1 (8%)	2 (15%)	1 (8%)
e) Other? _____					

**Fishing Effort Information**18) I would be willing to provide line/hours  
in my monthly or trip catch reports

	4 (17%)	2 (8%)	3 (13%)	7 (29%)	8 (33%)
--	---------	--------	---------	---------	---------

Appendix 1  
Notice of Public Meetings in  
Federal Register

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XD619

**New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Research Steering Committee on December 3, 2014.

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:**

*Meeting address:* The meeting will be held at the Hotel Providence, 139 Mathewson Street, Providence, RI 02048; telephone: (401) 861–8000; fax: (401) 454–4306.

*Council address:* New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465–0492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Research Steering Committee will: (a) Review the final report for the cooperative research project “Large Mesh [Belly] Panel in Small Mesh Fisheries as a Method to Reduce Yellowtail Flounder Bycatch in Southeast Georges Bank”; (b) review the draft report on the use of Large Mesh Belly Panel to Reduce Yellowtail Flounder and Windowpane Flounder Bycatch in the small mesh fishery on Cultivator Shoal and (c) discuss possible improvements to the research set-aside process. The Committee also may receive an update on the Council-funded collaborative groundfish research project managed by the Northeast Consortium. Other agenda items may also be discussed.

**Special Accommodations**

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, at (978) 465–0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 12, 2014.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2014–27121 Filed 11–14–14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

RIN 0648–XD617

**Western Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings**

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council’s (Council) will hold public meetings to solicit public input on the management of bottomfish and yellowfin tuna in the Main Hawaiian Islands.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held December 2 through December 13, 2014. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific times, dates, and agenda items.

**ADDRESSES:** See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific locations of the meetings.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director; telephone: (808)–522–8220.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Lihue, Kauai public meeting will be held on December 2, 2014, from 6 p.m.–9 p.m.; The Kaunakakai, Molokai public meeting will be held on December 3, 2014, from 6 p.m.–9 p.m.; The Aiea, Oahu public meetings will be held on December 4, 2014, from 6 p.m.–9 p.m.; The Paia, Maui public meetings will be held on December 9, 2014, from 6 p.m.–9 p.m.; The Honolulu, Oahu public meetings will be held on December 10, 2014, from 6 p.m.–9 p.m.; The Hilo, Hawaii public meetings will be held on December 12, 2014, from 6 p.m.–9 p.m.; and the Kailua-Kona, Hawaii public meetings will be held on December 13, 2014, from 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

The Lihue, Kauai public meeting will be held at the Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School Cafeteria, 4431 Nuhou St., Lihue, Kauai, HI 96766; The Kaunakakai, Molokai public meeting will be held at the Kaunakakai Elementary School Cafeteria, 30 Ailoa St., Kaunakakai, Molokai, HI 96748; The Aiea, Oahu public meeting will be held at the Waimalu Elementary School Cafeteria, 98–825 Moanalua Rd., Aiea,

HI 96701; The Paia, Maui public meeting will be held at the Paia Community Center, Social Hall, Hana Hwy., Paia, Maui, HI 96799; The Honolulu, Oahu public meeting will be held at Washington Middle School Cafeteria, 1633 S. King St., Honolulu, HI 96826; The Hilo, Hawaii public meeting will be held at the Hilo High School Cafeteria, 556 Waianuenue Ave., Hilo, HI 96720; and the Kailua-Kona, Hawaii public meeting will be held at the Courtyard King Kamehameha’s Kona Beach Hotel, 75–5660 Palani Rd., Kailua-Kona, HI 96740.

**Agenda for Public Meetings**

- I. Open House Session
  - A. Welcome and Sign-in
  - B. Informational Booths
    - 1. State of Hawaii Bottomfish Reporting Requirements
      - a. Standardizing and Improving Catch and Effort Reporting
      - b. Volunteer Non-Commercial Reporting
    - 2. Federal Non-Commercial Bottomfish Permit and Reporting
    - 3. Yellowfin Tuna (Ahi) Science and Minimum Size Considerations
- II. Presentation and Discussion Session
  - A. Yellowfin Tuna Management Issues
    - 1. Report on the Status of Yellowfin Tuna Science
    - 2. Modification to the Minimum Size Limit for the Sale of Yellowfin Tuna
    - 3. Open Discussion
  - B. Main Hawaiian Islands Deep-7 Bottomfish Management Issues
    - 1. Non-Commercial Bag Limits
    - 2. Creating a Market Grace Period for the Sale of Deep-7 Bottomfish after a Fishery Closure
    - 3. Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs)
      - a. Proposed Changes to the Number of BRFAs
      - b. Modifications to the State Reporting Grids to Improve Reporting if BRFAs are Removed
      - 4. Open Discussion
  - C. Summary and Closing

**Special Accommodations**

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kitty M. Simonds, (808) 522–8220 (voice) or (808) 522–8226 (fax), at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 12, 2014.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2014-27120 Filed 11-14-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XD608**

#### Endangered Species; File No. 19255

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DENREC) [Michael Stangl, Responsible Party], 3002 Bayside Dr., Dover, Delaware 19977, has applied in due form for a permit to take shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) in the Delaware River for purposes of scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before December 17, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the *Features* box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 19255 from the list of available applications.

Documents are also available upon written request or by appointment in the Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13705, Silver Spring, MD 20910; phone (301) 427-8401; fax (301) 713-0376.

Written comments on either application should be submitted to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted by facsimile to (301) 713-0376, or by email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include the File No. in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request to the Chief, Permits and Conservation Division at the address listed above. The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on the application(s) would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Malcolm Mohead or Rosa L. González, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permits are requested under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226).

The applicant is requesting authorization for a scientific research permit for takes of shortnose sturgeon in the Delaware River. The research objectives would be to document nursery areas, individual movement patterns, seasonal movements, home ranges, and habitats of juvenile shortnose sturgeon through the use of telemetry. Annually, up to 50 adult to juvenile shortnose sturgeon would be captured, weighed, measured, examined for tags, marked with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags and Floy tags, and released. Up to 15 juvenile shortnose sturgeon would also be anesthetized and implanted with acoustic transmitters and tracked. One unintentional mortality of a shortnose sturgeon is requested annually during the five year permit.

Dated: November 10, 2014.

**Perry Gayaldo,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2014-27180 Filed 11-14-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Patent and Trademark Resource Centers Metrics

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on this information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before January 16, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- Email: [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include "Patent and Trademark Resource Centers Metrics comment" in the subject line of the message.

- Mail: Marcie Lovett, Records Management Division Director, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

- Federal Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Chris Kitchens, Manager, Patent and Trademark Resource Center Program, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1451, Alexandria, VA 22313-1451, by telephone at 571-272-5750, or by email to [Christine.Kitchens@uspto.gov](mailto:Christine.Kitchens@uspto.gov). Additional information about this collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov> under "Information Collection Review."

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs) are a nationwide network of public, state and academic libraries that are designated by the USPTO to disseminate patent and trademark information and to support the diverse intellectual property needs of the public. Accessing the patent and trademark information at a PTRC with the help of a trained specialist, allows the public to determine if someone else has already patented an invention or obtained a federal registration for a trademark on goods or services.

Recognition as a PTRC is authorized under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 2(a)(2), which provides that the USPTO shall be responsible for disseminating to the public information with respect to patents and trademarks. In order to be designated as a PTRC, libraries must fulfill the following requirements: (1) Assist the public in the efficient use of patent and trademark information resources; (2) provide free access to patent and trademark resources provided by the USPTO; (3) provide metrics on the use of patent and trademark services provided by the member library as stipulated by the USPTO; (4) provide metrics on outreach efforts conducted by the member library as stipulated by the USPTO; and (5) send representatives to attend the USPTO-hosted PTRC training seminars.

Since the PTRC requirements stipulate that the participating libraries must submit metrics in order to be designated as a PTRC, the USPTO is submitting this information collection for review under the PRA. The information collected enables the USPTO to more effectively train the

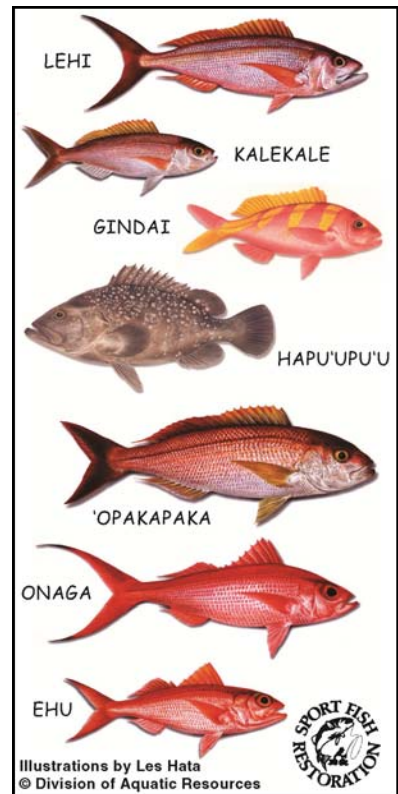
Appendix 2  
Public Meetings Poster



# NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

## Main Hawaiian Islands

### Bottomfish and Ahi Rule Changes



The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, State Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) and Federal NOAA Fisheries Service (NMFS) will hold public meetings to discuss potential changes to MHI Deep-7 bottomfish fishery rules and regulations and changes to minimum size limits for the sale of Ahi.

Potential changes for bottomfish rules and regulation considerations will include:

- Changes to the bottomfish non-commercial bag limits
- Establishing a market grace period to allow the sale of bottomfish after the fishery closure
- Changes to the State bottomfish restricted fishing area closures and reporting grids

Potential changes to the rules for ahi include:

- Changes to the minimum size for ahi for sale
- Establishing a bag limit for undersized ahi taken for non-commercial purposes

Featured at these meetings will also be interactive booths with information on:

- State of Hawaii Bottomfish Reporting Requirements
- Standardizing and improving catch and effort reporting
- Volunteer non-commercial reporting
- Federal non-commercial bottomfish permit and reporting requirements
- Ahi science and minimum size considerations
- Community fish aggregation device voluntary reporting

**FREE ADMISSION ~ FREE VALIDATED PARKING**  
**~PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS~**

<u>City, Island</u>	<u>Date and Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Lihue, Kauai	Dec. 2, Tuesday, 6-9 pm	Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School Cafeteria, 4431 Nuhou St.
Kaunakakai, Molokai	Dec. 3, Wednesday, 6-9 pm	Kaunakakai Elementary School Cafeteria, 30 Ailoa St.
Aiea, Oahu	Dec. 4, Thursday, 6-9 pm	Waimalu Elementary School Cafeteria, 98-825 Moanalua Rd
Paia, Maui	Dec. 9, Tuesday, 6-9 pm	Paia Community Center, Social Hall, Hana Highway
Honolulu, Oahu	Dec. 10, Wednesday, 6-9 pm	Washington Middle School Cafeteria, 1633 S. King St.
Hilo, Hawaii	Dec. 12, Friday, 6-9 pm	Hilo High School Cafeteria, 556 Waiuanue Ave.
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii	Dec. 13, Saturday, 10am-1pm	King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel, 75-5660 Palani Rd.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT**  
**WWW.HAWAIIBOTTOMFISH.INFO OR CALL (808) 522-8220**

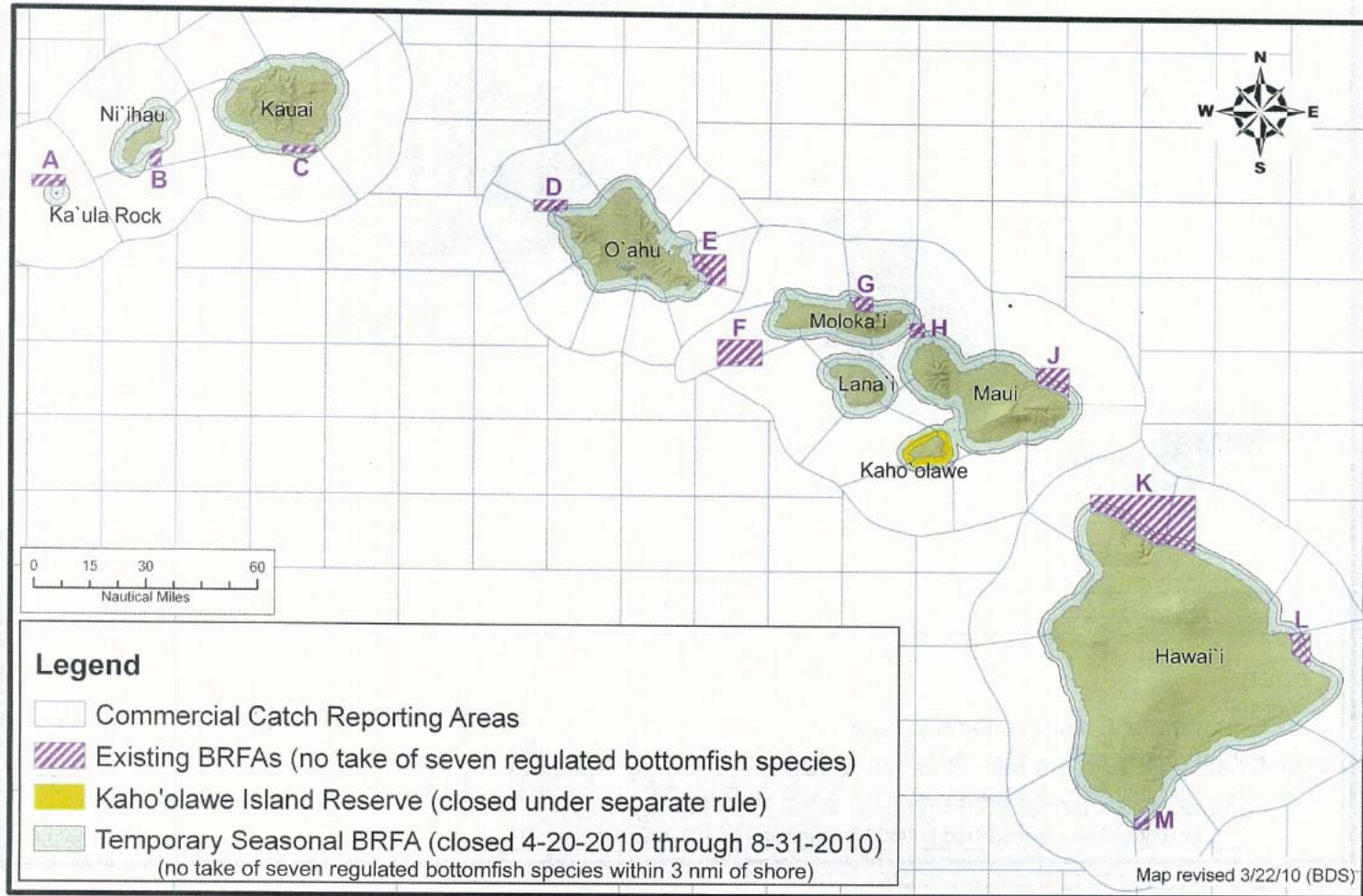


Appendix 3  
Hawaii Bottomfish  
Management Plan  
Proposed 2015 Revisions

State of Hawaii  
Revised  
Bottomfish Management Plan

December 2014

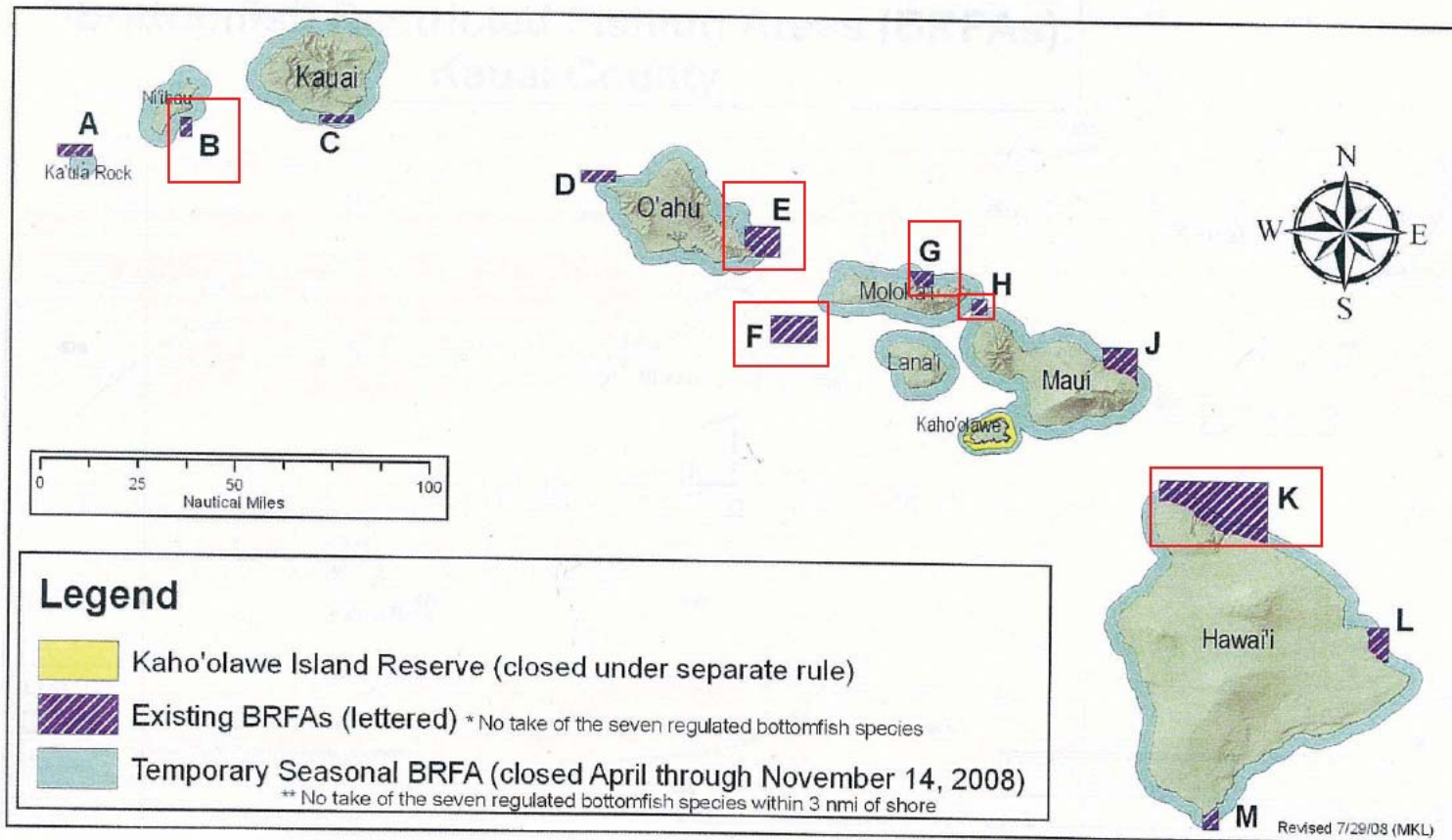
# Current Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas



# Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas

- Currently 12 Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFAs) Statewide
- Six will be opened to all fishing
- Six will remain closed to bottomfishing

# Why Are Six BRFAs to Remain Closed?



# Why Does the State Continue to Have BRFA's?

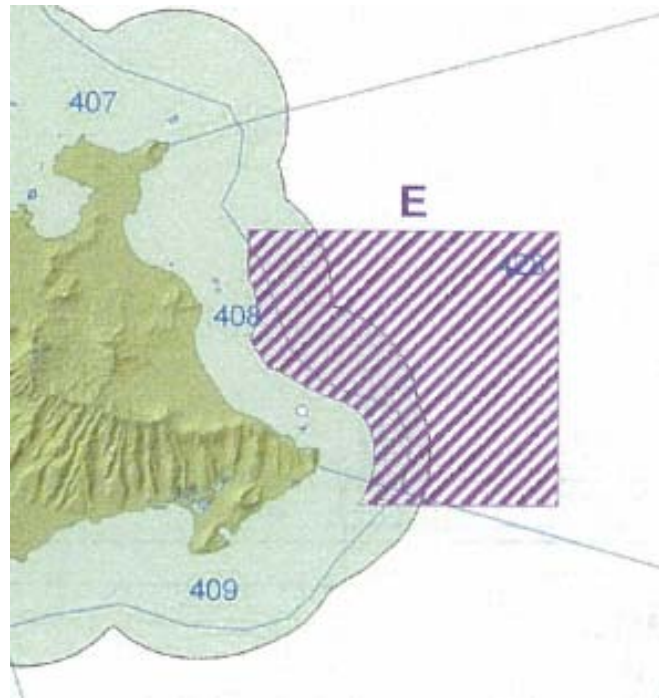
- An area closure is a better ecosystem management tool than the catch limit approach
- Need to have an extra conservation measure in addition to the federal Annual Catch Limit (ACL)
- Depending solely on the federal ACL is too risky

# BRFA B Ni'ihau



BRFA B will remain closed to bottomfishing since this area has been closed the longest (since 1998) and is the only BRFA to remain unchanged in size

# BRFA E Makapuu



BRFA E will remain closed to protect the onaga and juvenile opakapaka

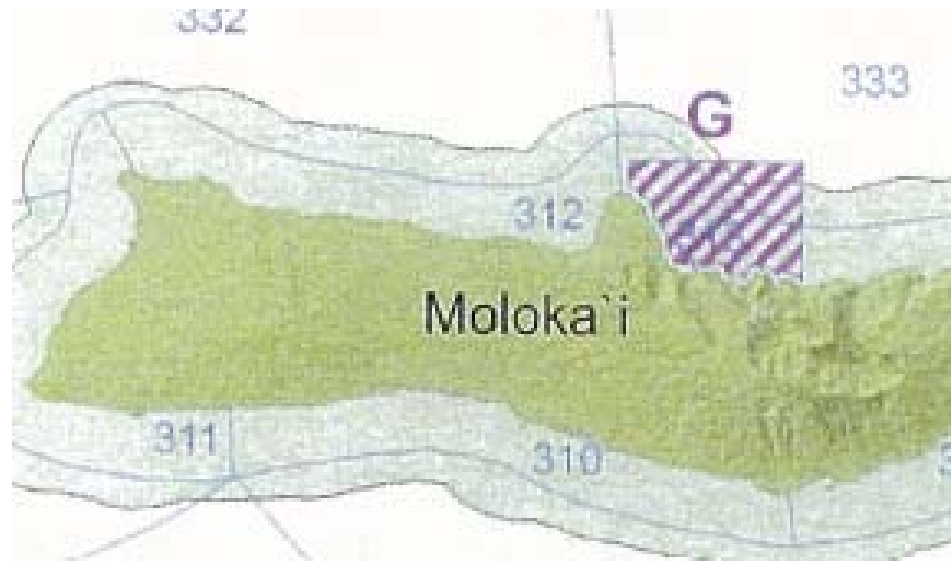


# BRFA F Penguin Banks



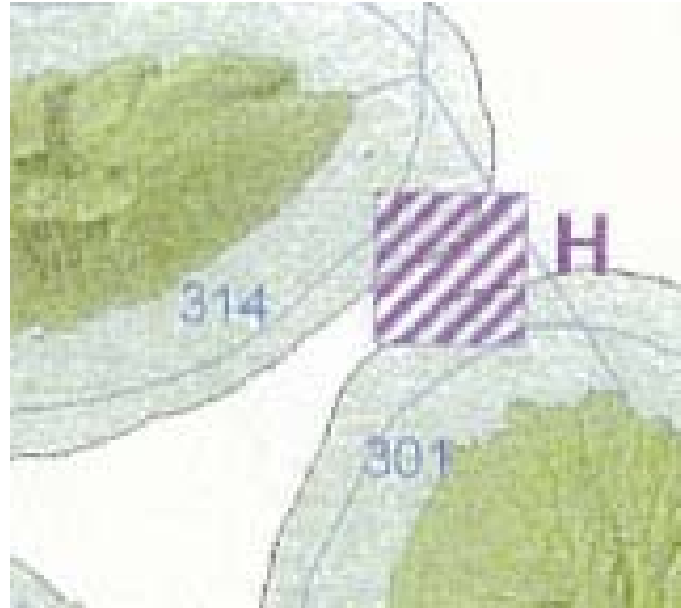
BRFA F will remain closed because these are some of the most productive bottomfish grounds in the Main Hawaii Islands

# BRFA G Kalaupapa



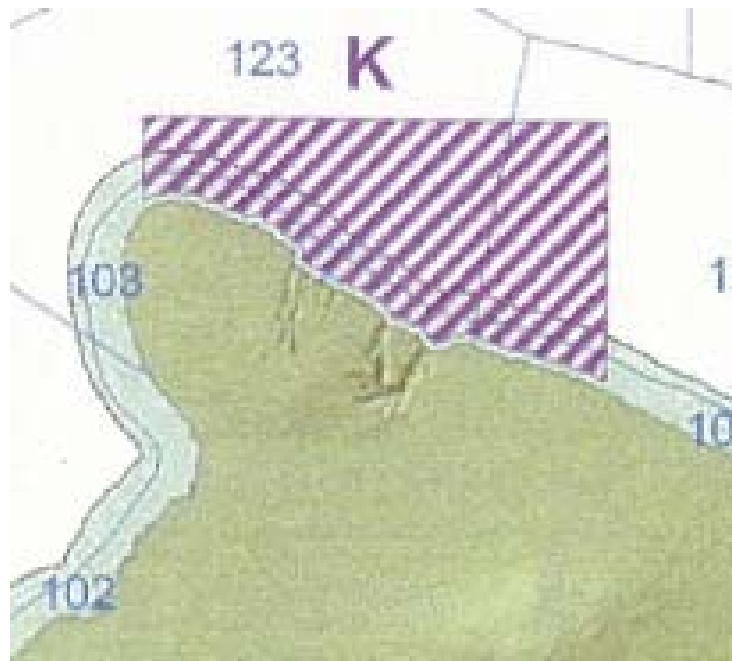
BRFA G will remain closed due to the good bottomfish habitat found there and the potential for future research

# BRFA H Pailolo Channel



BRFA H will remain closed because it has been closed since 2007, is difficult to fish and has good habitat

# BRFA K Kohala



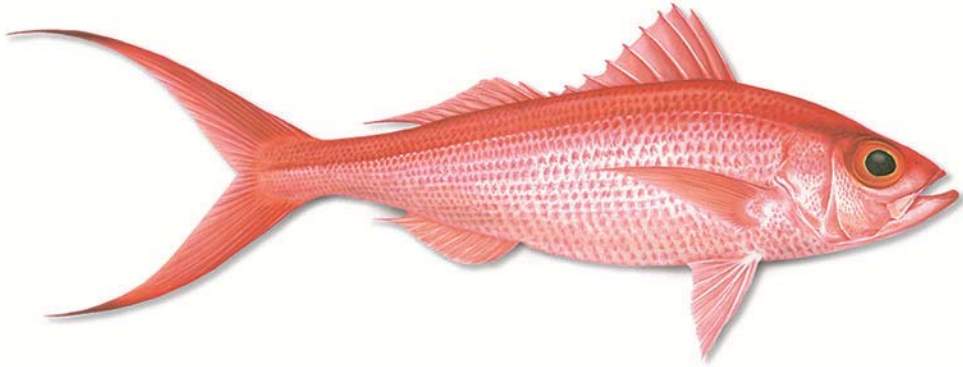
BRFA K will remain closed due to its good bottomfish habitat and current low fishing pressure

# Non-Commercial Bag Limit

- Current limit is five of any deep-7 bottomfish per person per trip
- Will increase to 10 of any deep-7 bottomfish per person per trip
- Increase in bag limit is expected to cause some commercial license holders to switch to non-commercial status

# Voluntary Non-Commercial Reporting

- Currently no reporting of non-commercial catches
- Would like to capture non-commercial catch data to gather more complete information on the bottomfish complex
- Will be voluntary to determine public acceptance of this new reporting option in exchange for the increased bag limit



Comments?

