

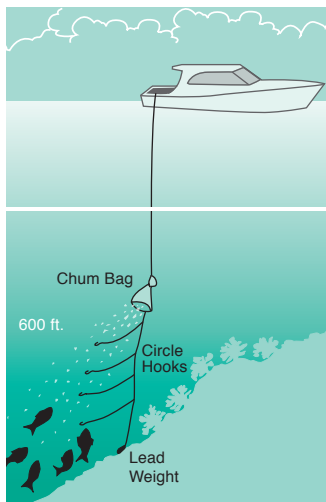


Bottomfish Fisheries

in the Hawaii Archipelago

Species

The Hawaii bottomfish fishery targets snappers and groupers inhabiting reef slopes, seamounts and banks at depths down to 1,200 feet. The most desired are seven deepwater species, known as the *Deep 7*—opakapaka, onaga, hapuupuu, ehu, kalekale, gindai and lehi. Other important federally managed species are uku, butaguchi, kahala, black and white ulua, yellowtail kalekale and taape.



Fishing Gear and Methods

Fishermen in this boat-based fishery use mechanical line haulers from which individual handlines are deployed. The handlines are attached to terminal tackle that have multiple circle hooks and a weight at the end. Chum bags are often used to attract the fish. Pre-contact Native Hawaiians harvested the same deep-sea bottomfish species and used some of the same specialized gear and techniques as today's fishermen.

Fleet Size

Prior to 2009, nine vessels in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) and more than 325 vessels in the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) fished commercially for bottomfish. At the end of 2009, the NWHI bottomfish fishery stopped as a result of the area being proclaimed a marine national monument. The effort is now concentrated in the MHI. As of March 31, 2010, there were 58 non-commercial federal bottomfish permits and more than 450 commercial bottomfish licenses held in MHI. Vessels in this fishery range from 15 to 70 feet in length.

Annual Catch and Value

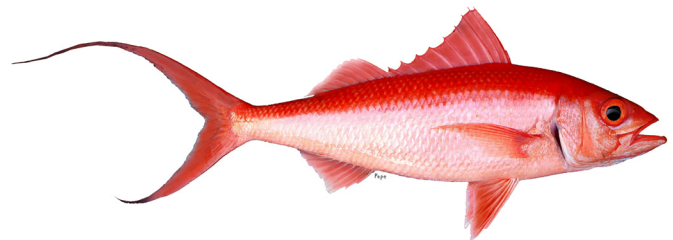
The 2008 commercial harvest was approximately 422,000 pounds, with the MHI accounting for 237,000 pounds and the NWHI, 185,000 pounds. The *Deep 7* species made up 54 percent of the 2008 commercial catch by weight; uku, about 34 percent; and the other major species, about 12 percent. The ex-vessel value of the bottomfish catch was approximately \$1,856,000, with 70 percent of the value, or \$1,301,000, attributed to the *Deep 7* species. The fish is for the fresh fish market or home consumption. It is landed in ice brine or packed in ice and is rarely processed at sea or frozen.

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Deep 7 Species



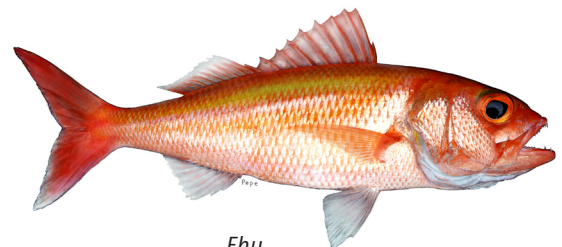
*Opakapaka, Paka
Pink Snapper*



*Onaga, Ulaula Koae
Scarlet, Red or Longtail Snapper*



*Hapuupuu
Hawaiian Grouper, Sea Bass*



*Ehu
Squirelfish Snapper*



*Kalekale
Von Siebold's Snapper*

Management

The bottomfish regulations below apply to federal waters (3 to 200 miles from shore) around the main Hawaiian Islands. Regulations for state waters (0 to 3 miles from shore) can be found on the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources website at www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/fishing_bottom.html.

All fishermen

- Prohibited gears include bottom trawls, bottom set gillnets, poisons, explosives, intoxicating substances

Commercial fishermen

- State of Hawaii commercial marine license and monthly reports
- Total annual catch (TAC) limit for Deep 7 species (i.e., opakapaka, onaga, hapuupuu, ehu, kalekale, gindai and lehi). The fishing year begins September 1 and runs through August 31. When the commercial TAC is reached, the commercial and non-commercial bottomfish fishery for Hawaii closes in both federal and state waters. For updates, go to www.hawaiibottomfish.info.

Non-commercial fishermen

- Federal permit and reporting
- Bag limit of no more than five opakapaka, onaga, hapuupuu, ehu, kalekale, gindai and lehi or any combination of these
- Seasonal closure if commercial fishery reaches its TAC before the end of the fishing year which runs September 1 through August 31 the following calendar year. For updates, go to www.hawaiibottomfish.info.

Market Supply

In Hawaii, bottomfish are an important part of the local culture especially during holidays and on special occasions. Despite these strong traditions, locally caught bottomfish make up a decreasing portion of the market. During the past decade imports of fresh snapper and grouper into Hawaii have increased dramatically. More than 460,000 pounds were imported from Tonga, New Zealand, Indonesia, Fiji and Australia in 2008 accounting for more than 50 percent of the Hawaii bottomfish market. Over 90 percent of the imported fresh grouper came from New Zealand. The increase in imports is likely the combined result of continued high demand, closure of the NWHI and management changes to the MHI fishery including the establishment of an annual TAC which began in the 2007-2008 fishing year.

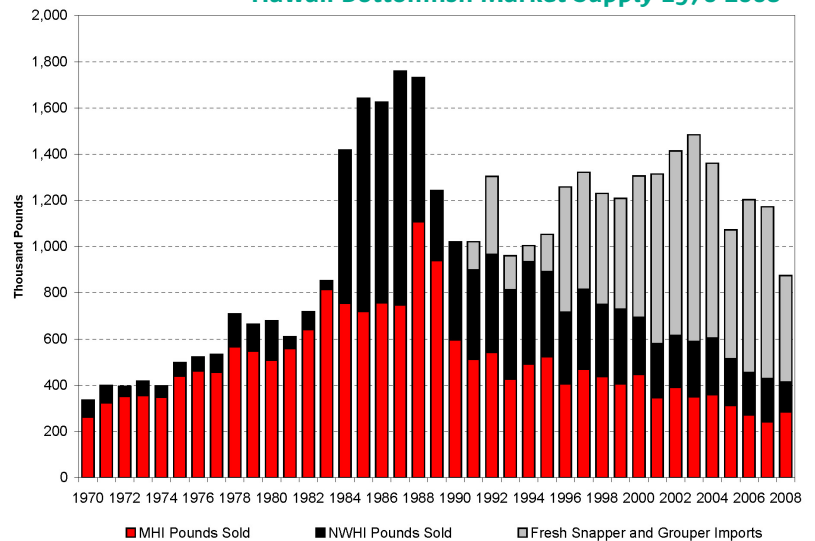


Gindai
Flower or Brigham's Snapper

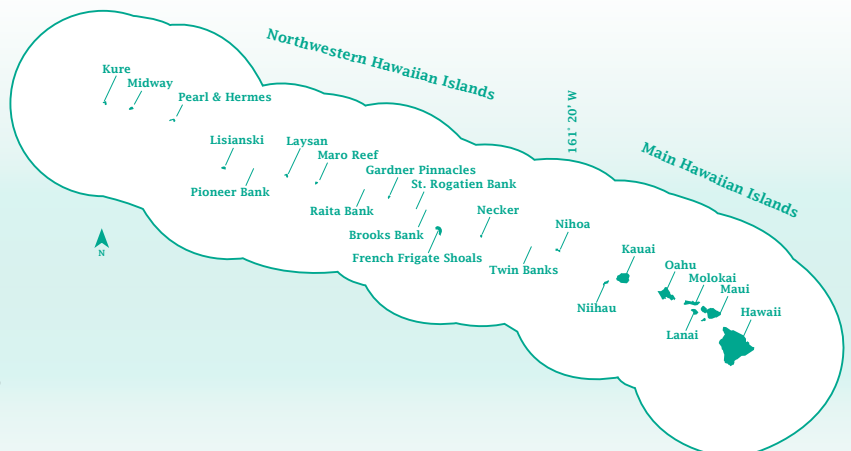


Lehi
Ironjaw or Sliverjaw Snapper

Hawaii Bottomfish Market Supply 1970-2008



Data: Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, US Census Bureau Foreign Trade Division



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