

187th WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

September 21-23, 2021

STATE OF HAWAII, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES

REPORTING PERIOD: MAY 2021 – JULY 2021

1. FISHERIES

DEEP-7

As of the end of July 2021, 311 CML holders reported a total of 1,941 trips, and caught a total of 151,735 lbs. of mixed Deep-7 species during the 2021 fishing year (Figure 1).

Total catch as of the end of July remained below the previous five seasons.

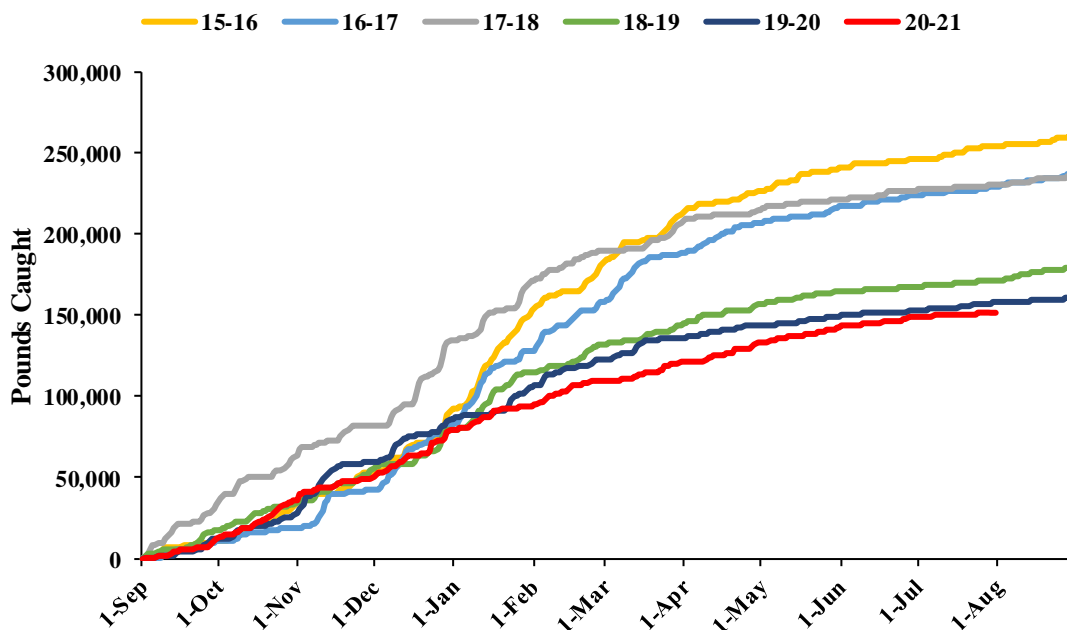


Figure 1. Cumulative Deep-7 catch, Fishing Years 2016-2021.

‘Ōpakapaka catch so far in the 2021 fishing year remains particularly low in terms of both pounds landed and percent species contribution (Figures 2&3). Whereas ‘ōpakapaka typically make up approximately 50% of all Deep-7 landings, in the current fishing year they make up just 35% of the total catch. With one more month left in the season, onaga catch is also falling below the 10-year average, though not the degree seen

in 'ōpakapaka. Catch of ehu, the third most commonly targeted species, was at the end of the reporting period slightly above its ten-year average total annual catch.

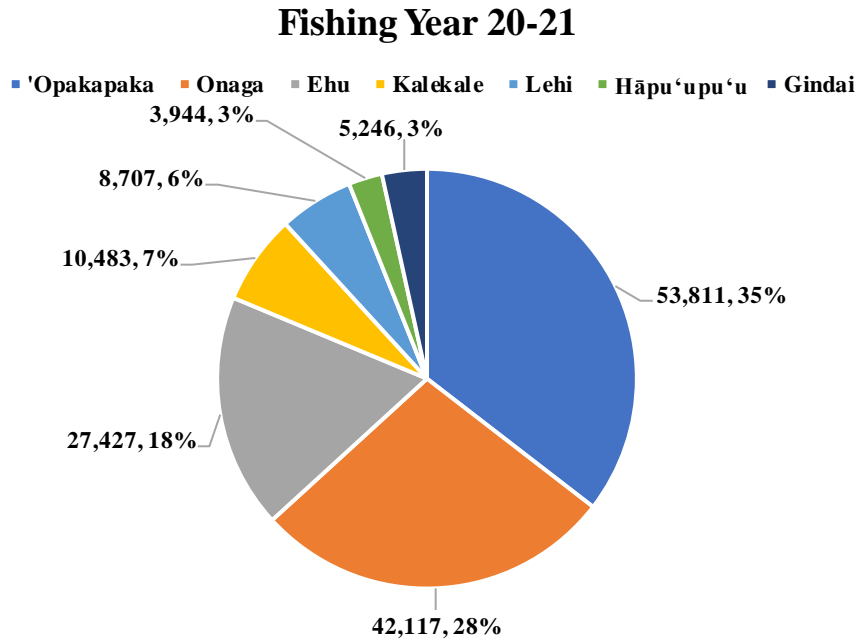


Figure 2. Species composition of Deep-7 catch during the 2021 fishing year, September-July.

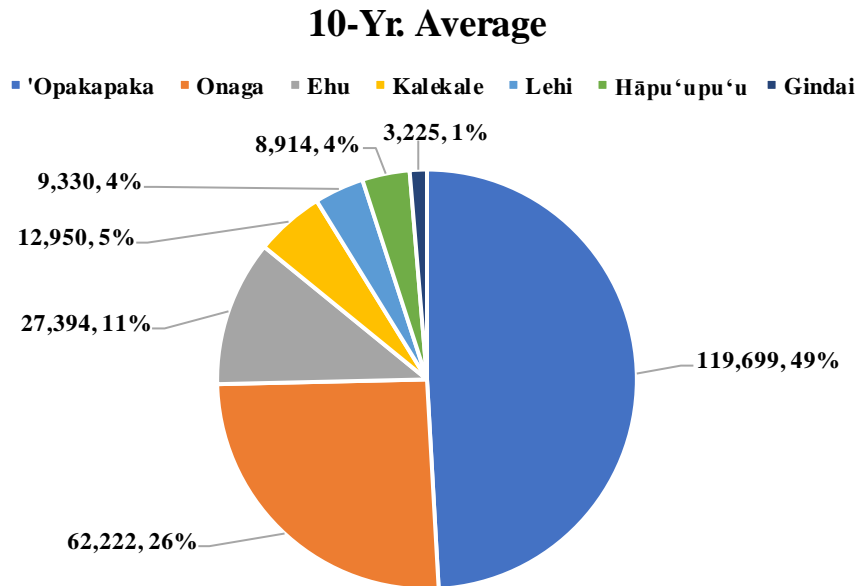


Figure 3. 10-yr. average species composition for the Deep-7 fishery, Fishing Years 2011–2020.

KONA CRAB

In the first four months of the 2021 Kona crab fishing season, 14 CML holders reported a total of 41 trips, and caught a total of 2,853 lbs. of Kona crab (Figure 4). Pounds caught so far in 2021 are relatively high in comparison to the past five seasons. However, in comparison to historic levels, recent catch for this fishery remains quite low. The statewide Kona crab fishery was re-opened to both commercial and non-commercial fishing on September 1.

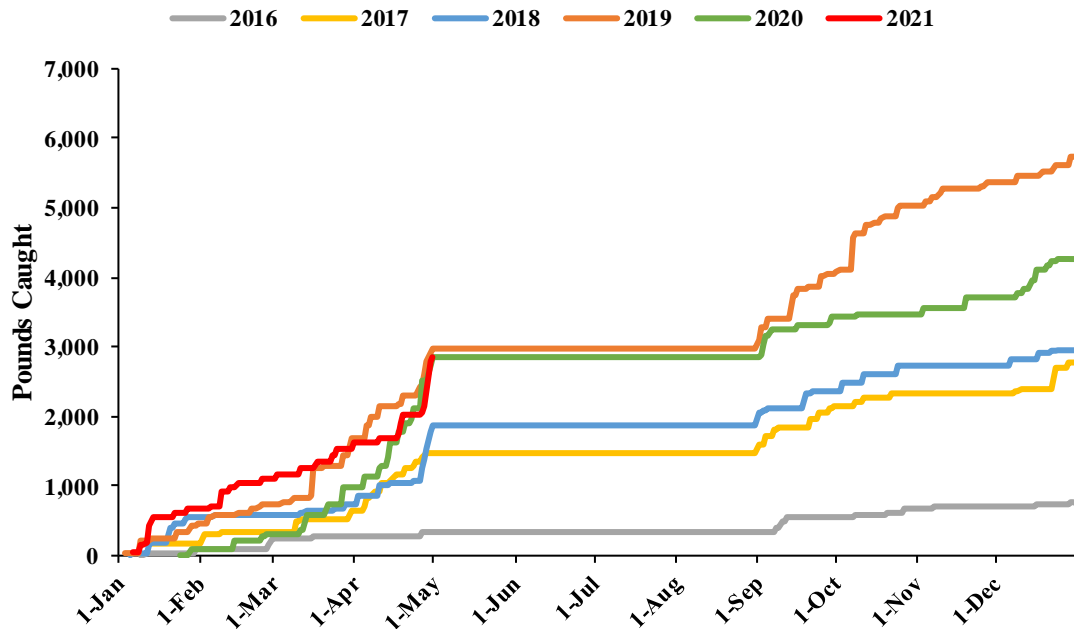


Figure 4. Cumulative MHI Kona crab catch, 2016-2021

UKU

In the first seven months of the 2021 uku fishing season, 148 CML holders reported a total of 542 trips, and caught a total of 32,654 lbs. of uku (Figure 5). Uku catch saw an uptick in late April through May, largely due to the seasonal increase in fishing pressure in area 331 (Penguin Bank). At the end of this reporting period, 2021 catch remains below the 2016-2019 season for the same period, yet approximately 4,300 lbs. greater than what was caught in 2020.

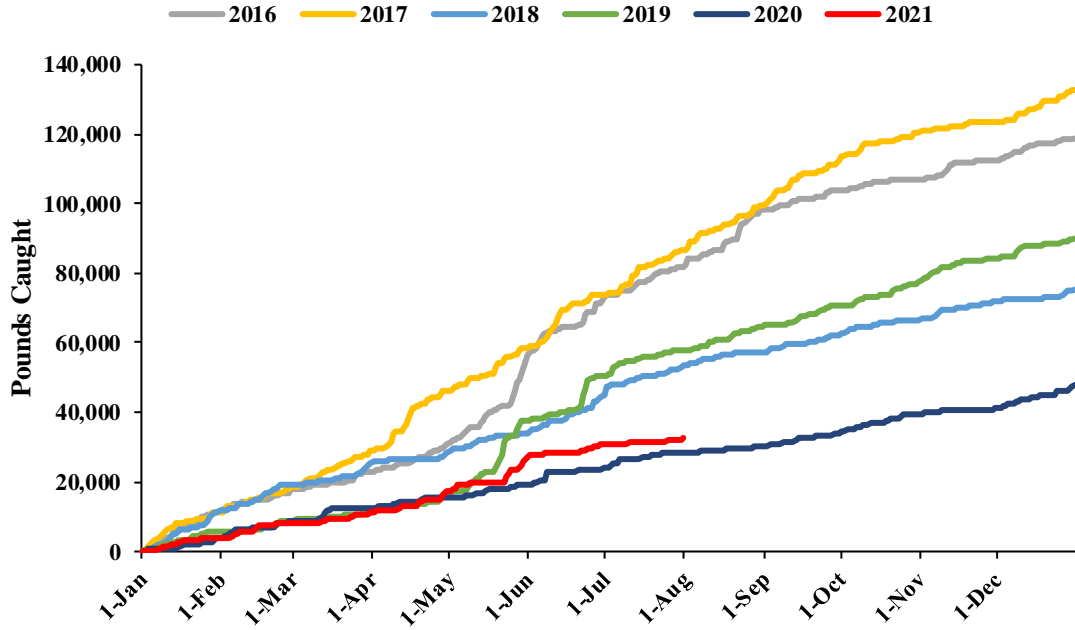


Figure 5. Cumulative MHI uku catch, 2016 - 2021.

LICENSE AND REPORTING

As of the end of July, DAR has issued a total of 2,036 CMLs in the year 2021 for a total revenue of \$202,340. The total 2021 January through July CML's granted is below the ten-year average of 2,187 licenses for the same seven-month period.

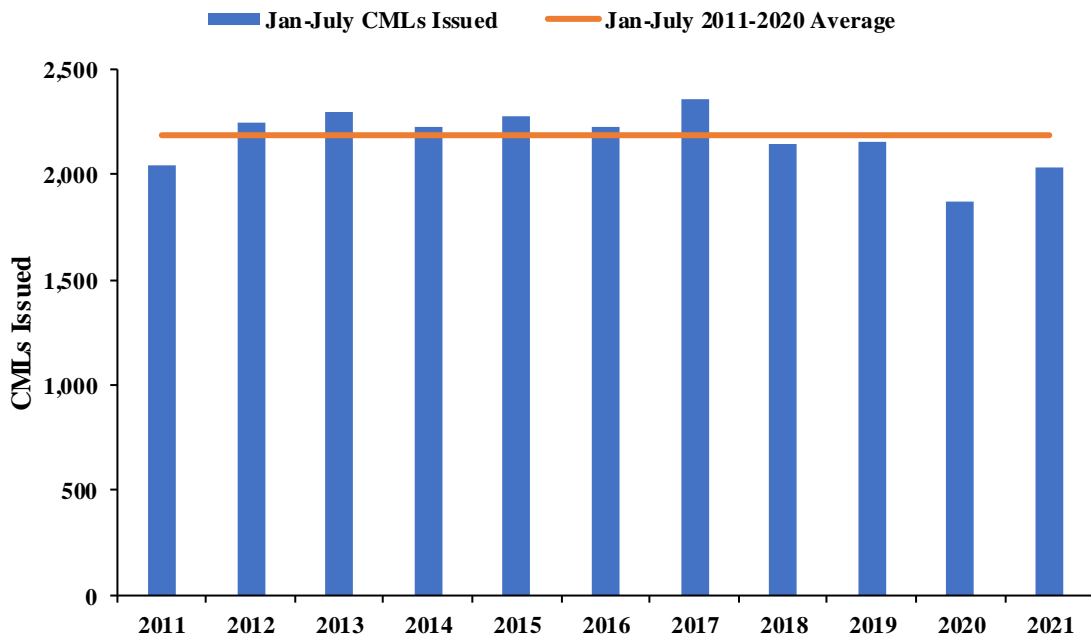


Figure 6. Total CMLs issued between January and July, 2011-2021.

2. RESOURCE PROTECTION

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT (PMNM)

Between May 1 and July 31, 2021, a total of 21 valid PMNM access permits were held. They include four PMNM Conservation and Management permits, four PMNM Special Ocean Use permits, eight PMNM Research permits, four PMNM Native Hawaiian Practices permits, and one PMNM Education permit.

Permit applications currently under review and their corresponding research, conservation, management, educational, cultural, or special use objectives or activities can be found here on the PMNM website:

(<https://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/permit/applicationrev.html>). A summary of a sample of activities permitted for each year can be found here (2020 is in the process of being updated): (<https://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/permit/annualrep.html>).

3. ECOSYSTEM & HABITAT

FISH AGGREGATION DEVICES (FADs)

During the period of May 2021 to April 2021 activity was light for the FAD Program.

During May and June 2021, there was no activity.

During July 2021, eight FADs were reported missing as detailed below:

KH – Kehena, Hawaii (missing on 7/6)
HK – Hakalau, Hawaii (missing on 7/6)
F – Kailua-Kona, Hawaii (missing on 7/6)
CC – Kaena Pt., Lanai (missing on 7/6)
Q – Pauwela Pt., Maui (missing on 7/6)
PP – Koloa, Kauai (missing on 7/6)
KK – Kekaha, Kauai (missing on 7/6)
XX – Puako, Hawaii (missing on 7/20)

The 7/6 missing date is a culmination of confirmations on reports over a 3-week period. The program waits for multiple reports over varying weather conditions before posting a FADs status.

4. OTHER

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) MANAGEMENT

The EPA has begun consultation meetings with states regarding the vessel incidental discharge national standards of performance proposed on October 26, 2020 (85 Federal Register 67818) under the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act of 2018, also known as VIDA. Meetings are topic based and cover ballast water BMPs, biofouling, in-water cleaning, and state petitions.

RULEMAKING

On August 27, Hawaii amended its administrative rules to increase the non-resident Commercial Marine License fee from \$100 to \$250. The fee increase will take effect beginning October 1, 2021. DAR has sent letters notifying non-resident CML holders about this fee increase.

DAR is in the process of drafting Administrative Rules to implement a Commercial Marine Vessel License and a Nonresident Recreational Marine License. We also plan to establish a Commercial Marine Dealer License, raise fees for other specialized licenses, and move to a fixed license year that begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. We will be seeking input from stakeholders on these proposed rules in coming months.

CARES ACT

The application period for Round 2 CARES Act funding is currently open to eligible fishery participants. Applications were first made available on August 16, and the deadline to submit applications is September 30. More information, including Hawaii's approved spend plan, can be found on the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission website, <https://relief.psmfc.org/hawaii-cares-act-information/>.