

Skipjack Tuna



LIFE HISTORY INFORMATION AND HAWAII STATE RECORD

Skipjack Tuna • aku • *Katsuwonus pelamis*

Size - up to 4 ft and >70 lbs. • Age range - 8-12 yrs. • Spawn all year in tropical waters and seasonally in subtropical waters. • Females produce between 100,000-2 million eggs each time they spawn. • Once fertilized, the egg can hatch in ~1 day, depending on temperature.

HAWAII STATE RECORD: 40 lbs 8 oz by David Borgman

FISHERY INFORMATION

Caught using artificial barbless lures and occasionally live bait, such as anchovies, herring, or silversides that are mainly used to attract and hold a school close to the vessel. The aku boat fishery was once the largest commercial fishery in Hawaii, with landings exceeding 5.5 million pounds annually from 1937 to 1973.

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Aku used to be the prized pelagic species "back in the day." Aku boats kept the market and cannery well-stocked. The Japan market helped to sustain this fishery. More recently, there has been a transition from aku to 'ahi, but dried aku is still in high demand.

CURRENT REGULATIONS

FEDERAL: Managed domestically and internationally, but no catch limit
HAWAII STATE: Min size - 3 lbs (commercial)

COUNCIL MANAGEMENT

Currently monitored as a pelagic management unit species.

STOCK STATUS

Not overfished; not experiencing overfishing



Skipjack Fish Burgers

MAKES 4 SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS

½ small onion, chopped
½ cup mushrooms, chopped
oil, for frying
1 lb ground skipjack
½ cup bread crumbs
1 egg
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
salt and pepper, to taste
water chestnuts, chopped (*optional*)

DIRECTIONS

1. Sauté onions and mushrooms in a little oil. Remove from the heat.
2. In a bowl combine all the remaining ingredients and form into patties. Pan fry for approximately 4 minutes, being careful not to overcook.
3. Serve in a hamburger bun or with rice.

*Recipe Courtesy Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association
Bottom Photo: NOAA / Front Bottom Photo: Kapi'olani Community College
Culinary Arts Department*



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