

205th WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETING**December 16-17, 2025****STATE OF HAWAII, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES****REPORTING PERIOD: AUGUST 2025 – OCTOBER 2025****1. COMMERCIAL FISHERIES****DEEP-7 FY2025**

At the end of the 2025 Deep-7 Fishing Year (FY2025), 154,801 pounds of bottomfish were reported as caught by commercial fishers (Figure 1). Commercial landings for the Main Hawaiian Islands Deep-7 fishery continue to remain low with reported harvest in FY2025 being only 31% of the allocated annual catch limit (ACL).

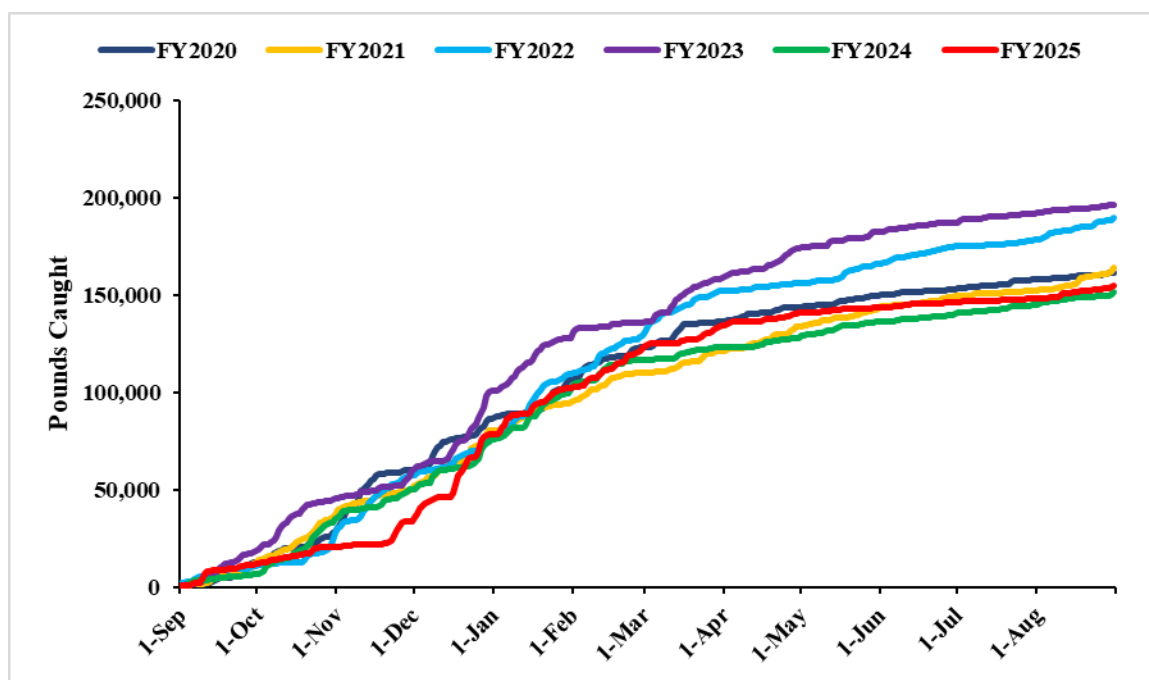


Figure 1. Seasonal trends in commercial Deep 7 catch, FY2020-2025.

DEEP-7 FY2025

At two months into the FY2026 Deep-7 fishing season, licensed commercial fishers reported a total of 28,945 lbs of mixed Deep-7 bottomfish species (Figure 2). The forthcoming holiday season should yield an increase in fishing activity in response to rising market demand.

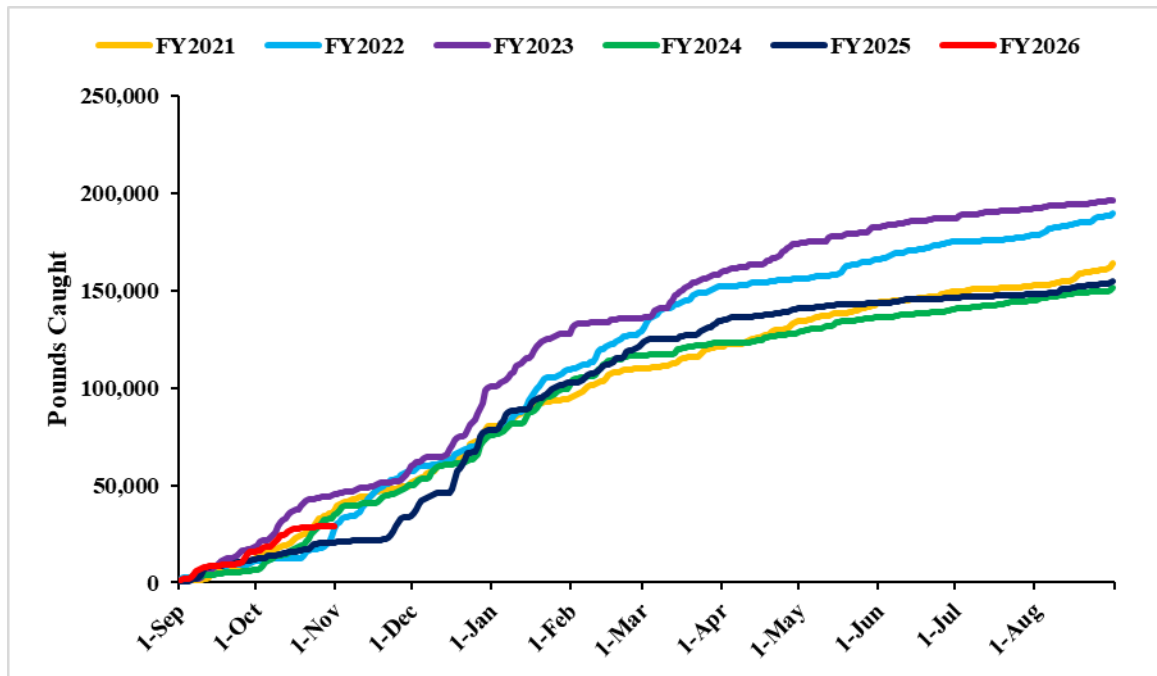


Figure 2. Seasonal trends in commercial Deep 7 catch, FY2021-2026.

UKU

The uku fishery is not tracked in season and ACL tracking includes both commercial and non-commercial catch with the latter being estimated post-season. From January 1st to October 31st, 48,188 lbs of uku were reported caught by commercial fishers (Figure 3). While commercial uku catch is trending higher than the five most recent years, catch is still low compared to years 2011 – 2018.

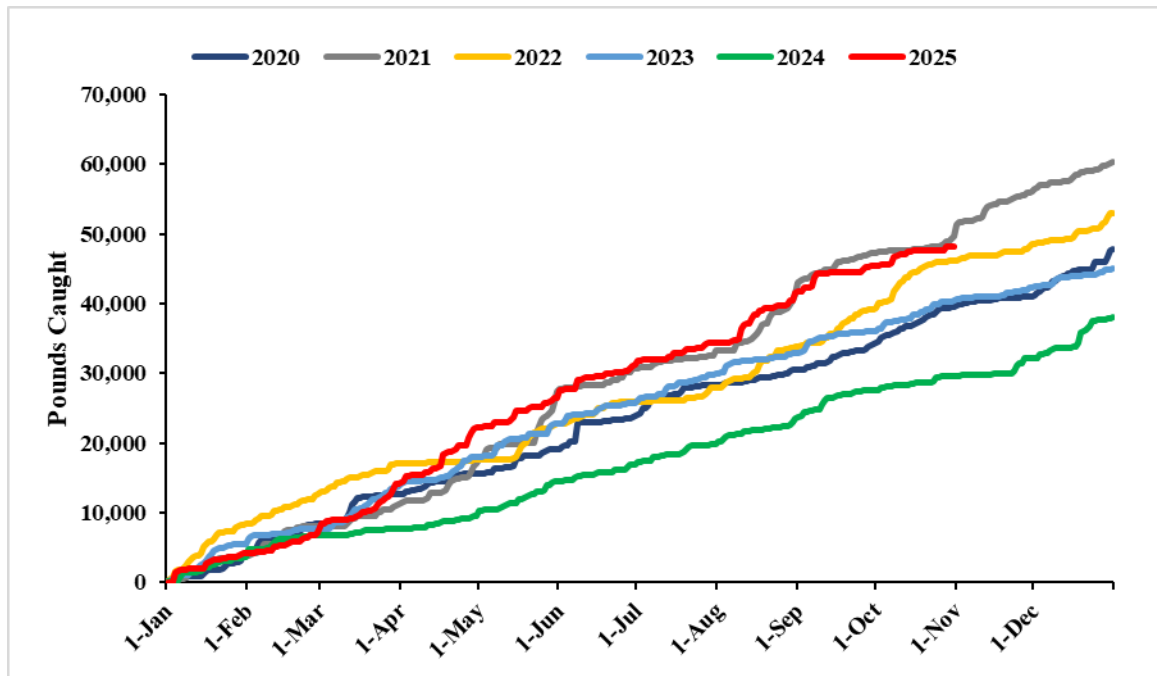


Figure 3. Seasonal trends in commercial Uku catch, 2020-2025.

KONA CRAB

At the end of October, a total of 4,240 lbs of Kona crab were reported by licensed commercial fishers (Figure 4). The Kona crab fishery, though currently much smaller than historic levels, is experiencing what appears to be some renewed interest following the repeal of the no-take of females in early 2024. However, as of October 31, 2025 only 14% of the ACL had been caught.

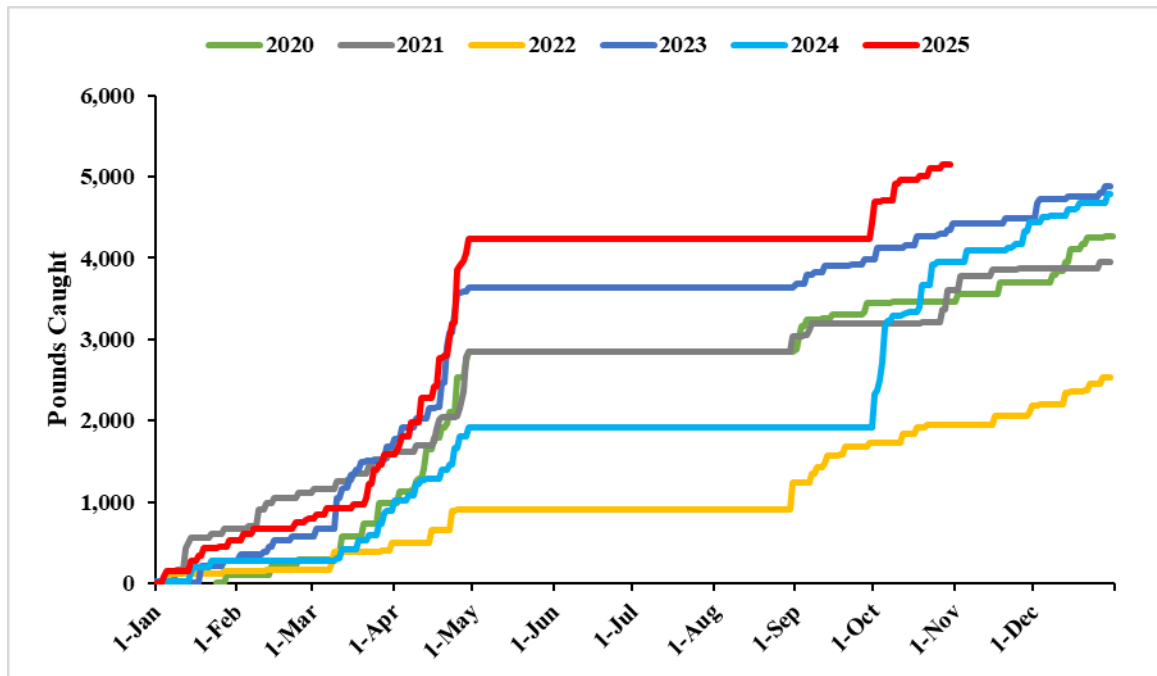


Figure 4. Seasonal trends in commercial Kona crab catch, 2020-2025.

2. LICENSING AND REVENUES

COMMERCIAL MARINE LICENSE

A total of 2,141 Commercial Marine Licenses (CMLs) were issued or renewed between January 1st and October 31st 2025 for a total revenue of \$253,580 (Figures 5&6). Additionally, 154 Commercial Marine Vessel Licenses (CMVLs) were issued for a revenue of \$142,100. Roughly a third of the CML revenue is from the federal longline fleet. Currently, the State does not have the ability to view its CMVL transaction data to provide a breakdown by fishery.

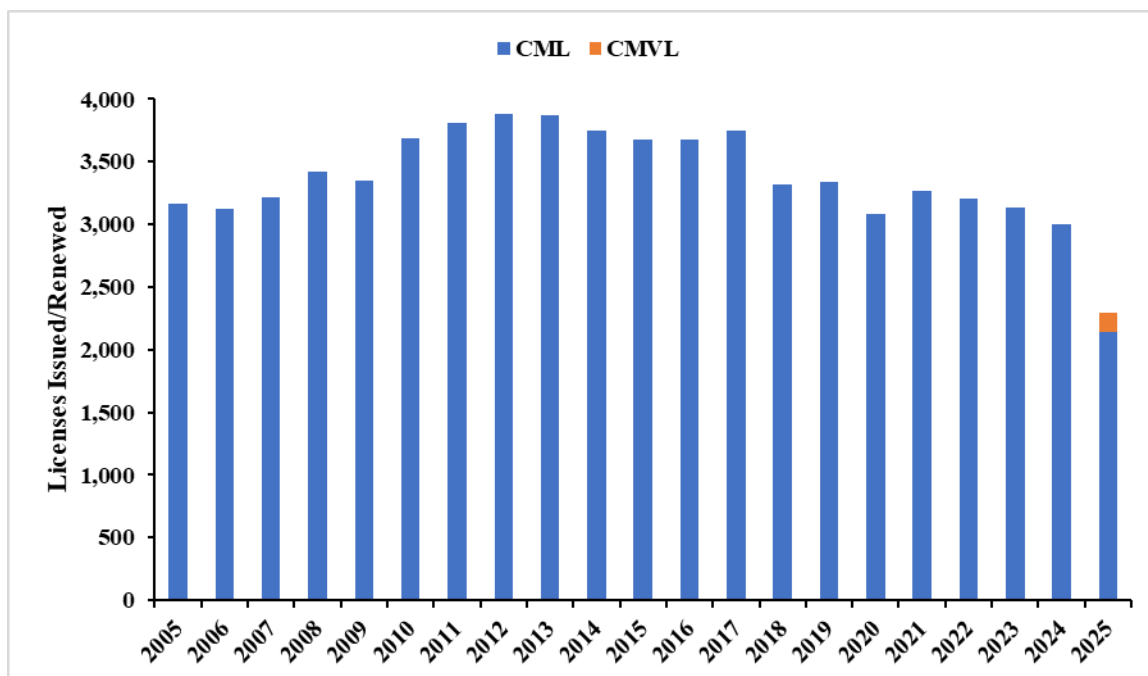


Figure 5. Historical trend of CML and CMVL issuances. Only licenses issued from January 1st to October 31st each year are included.

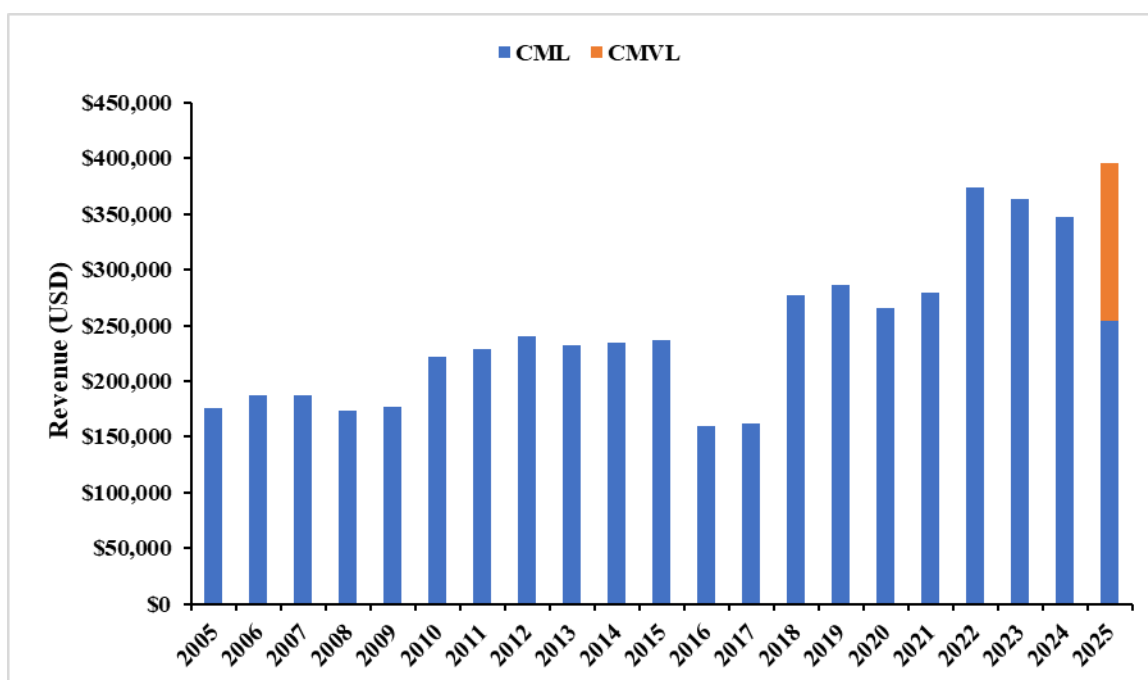


Figure 6. Historical trend of license revenue from CML and CMVL sales. Only sales from January 1st to October 31st each year are included. Values have not been adjusted for inflation.

3. RESOURCE PROTECTION

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL SANCTUARY (PMNS)

Permits Issued:

1. Amendment to a conservation and management permit for a marine debris removal non-profit organization to conduct large-scale marine debris removal operations (July 2025).

Applications in Review / Processing:

1. Conservation and management permit for co-managing agency activities.
2. Special ocean use permit for filming at Kuaihelani.

DLNR-DAR Activity in the Sanctuary

1. DAR AIS conducted research on nuisance alga *Chondria tumulosa* at Kuaihelani in September
2. Two DAR biologists joined the NOAA ONMS PNMS RAMP cruise in August-September
3. One DAR PSP staff member joined NOAA on a short trip to Lalo in September

3. ECOSYSTEM & HABITAT

FISH AGGREGATION DEVICES (FADs)

During the period of August 2025 to October 2025 activity was moderate for the FAD Program.

During August 2025, 4 FADs went missing and was FAD was recovered, as detailed below:

- D – Kumukahi, Hawaii (missing on 8/8)
- E – Leleiwi, Hawaii (missing on 8/8)
- CK – Makahuena Pt., Kauai (missing on 8/11)
- Z – Kipukai, Kauai (missing on 8/11)
- OT – Waikoloa Pt., Hawaii (recovered off Kawaihae, Hawaii on 8/28)

During September 2025, 1 FAD went missing and 6 FADs were replaced, as detailed below:

- UU – Auau Pt., Hawaii (missing on 9/3)
- K – Palaoa, Lanai (replaced on 9/25)
- HS – Halona Pt., Kahoolawe (replaced on 9/25)
- GG – Nakaohu Pt., Maui (replaced on 9/25)
- NL – Nuu Landing, Maui (replaced on 9/25)
- M – Hana Bay, Maui (replaced on 9/26)
- N – Cape Halawa, Molokai (replaced on 9/26)

During October 2025, 3 FADs went missing, as detailed below:

- C – Loa Pt., Hawaii (missing on 10/2)

JJ – Kamohio, Kahoolawe (missing on 10/9)
MC – Palaoa, Lanai (missing on 10/9)

4. **OTHER**

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) MANAGEMENT

Removal of the invasive anemone, *Anemonia manjano*, from a patch reef in Kāneʻohe Bay has been held up due to permitting delays. In the interim, DAR has installed signage on the reef to recommend boaters and other reef visitors stay clear of the area to prevent spread.

A Unomia Learning Exchange was held in August at the Bishop Museum to bring together managers and scientists from US coral reef jurisdictions to discuss the threat of soft coral introductions and exchange knowledge on responses, removal, and emerging science. DAR continues to survey the mouth of Pearl Harbor for signs of spread of the invasive soft coral *Unomia stolonifera* into State waters, but no new populations have been found.

LICENSING UPDATES

On October 1, 2025, the Commercial Marine Dealer License (CMDL) requirement took effect. The cost of the CMDL is \$100/year, and it must be renewed annually. This replaced the free Commercial Marine Dealer Registration requirement. All commercial marine dealers that obtain locally caught marine life from commercial marine licensees are required to have a CMDL.

More information about these and other licenses can be found on the DAR website at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/licenses-permits/>.