

## White Paper on Fishing & Hawaii's Fishing Industry

- I. History of Fishing
  - A. Pre-Contact
    - 1. Sustained 600,000 ~ 800,000 Native Hawaiians
    - 2. Mostly coral reef based fisheries
    - 3. 410,000 acres of productive coral reefs (MHI)
    - 4. Fish Ponds
  - B. Contact ~ WWII
    - 1. Continuation of coral reef based fisheries
    - 2. Start of pole and line, and handline boat fishing
    - 3. Influence of Immigrants to Hawaii's Fisheries
  - C. Post-WWII
    - 1. Introduction of low-cost vessels (military surplus)
    - 2. Refrigeration and market economy
    - 3. More Pelagic fisheries
    - 4. Evolution of fisheries participation – Sampans to trailered boats
    - 5. Ciguatera toxin invades coral reefs
    - 6. Evolving consumer tastes toward pelagic species
  - D. Modern Days
    - 1. Export to mainland – “Hawaiian Ahi”
    - 2. Small boat fisheries (Non-Commercial), Long-line fisheries (Industrialized Commercial), subsistence & recreational fisheries
    - 3. Closure of NWHI
    - 4. Pelagics managed by world politics and federal agencies
    - 5. Honolulu is 5<sup>th</sup> large fishing port ranked by Dollar Value Landed
    - 6. Growth of Charter Boat and Big Game Fishing Tournament Industries
    - 7. Hawaii Regional Cuisine – Fish as Focal Point of Cuisine
    - 8. Rise of Environmental Groups and Marine Protected Areas
    - 9. Return to Community Based Subsistence Fishing Areas
- II. Current Demographics, Size, and Growth
  - 1. Number of participants, by segment
  - 2. Hawaii resident participation vs. Tourist industry participation
  - 3. Growth and Carrying Capacity
- III. Economic & Social Impacts
  - 1. Food Security
  - 2. Income & Economic contribution
  - 3. Social and Cultural Impacts of Fishing Opportunities
- IV. Challenges & Risks to Fishing & Fishing Industry
  - 1. Changing Demographics Leading to Conflicts

2. Lack of Scientific Studies
3. Reliance on Opinion over Fact
4. Movement toward Community-Based Management – pro’s & con’s
5. Endangered Species Act & Marine Mammal Protection Act
6. “Power” Fishermen – Advent of GPS, State FAD Program, etc.

V. Examples of Legislation, Rules, and Restrictions in recent history

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The white paper will describe the history of commercial, non-commercial, and recreational fishing, as well as the marine tourism activity in Hawaii.

The paper will focus on socio-economic and socio-cultural aspects of these activities so that the paper can be a primer to legislative and administrative policy makers. We hope to find and utilize existing state studies, academic studies, and any popular literature that may help in our work.

In the process of doing our research and review of literature, we hope to identify gaps in information and data. We hope that information and data gaps that are identified will be addressed by policy makers in the future.

We need to develop data and information sources on basic socio-economic data such as size of these industries and activities, eg. number of participants, employment, total revenue, total payroll, number of customers, etc.

Potential information sources include NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, DLNR, UHERO, and DBEDT.

As a first step, we need to develop a well rounded group of individuals who can serve on the working group. These people may include people who have a long history within the industry being studied, people who may have authored articles relevant to this white paper, and people in government who manage marine resources.