

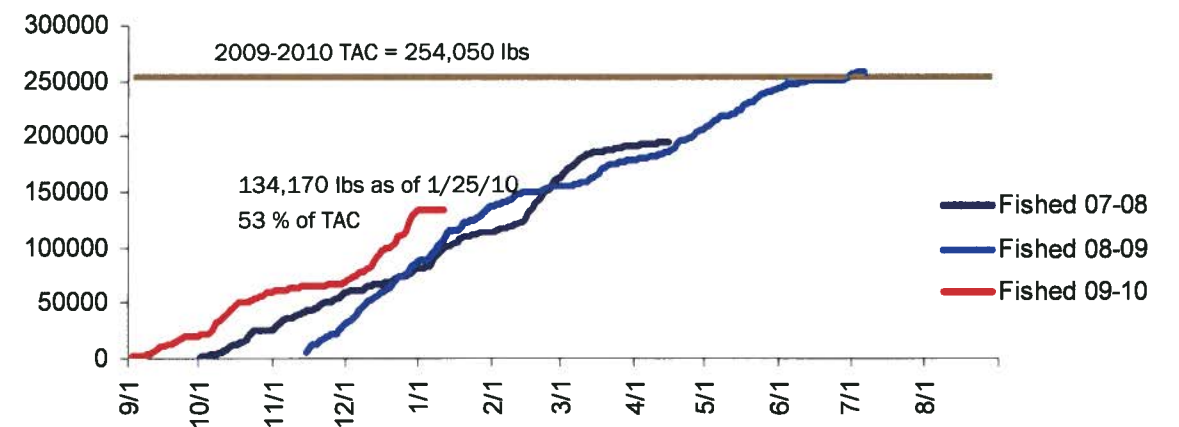
# BOTTOMFISH NEWS



## Comparison of Current 2009-2010 Total Allowable Catch with previous years:

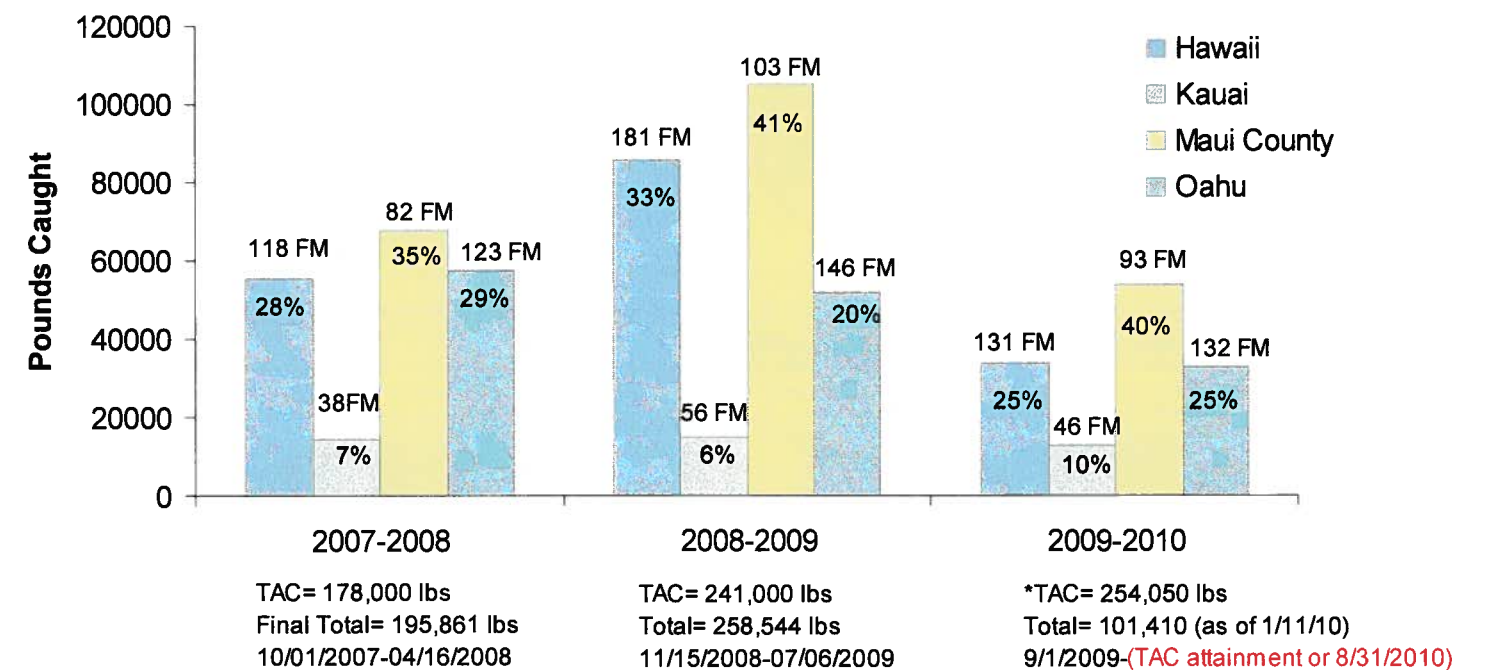
For weekly TAC updates, check [www.hawaiibottomfish.info](http://www.hawaiibottomfish.info)

### MHI Deep 7 Landings by Fishing Years from 2007 to Present



Main Hawaiian Islands Monthly Catch of Bottomfish (Includes ONLY data Received and Processed as of 01/25/2010)

### Total Pounds of Deep 7 Landings by Island by Fishing Year (2007 to Present)



#### Dear Commercial Bottomfish fishers and dealers-

Please let us know what kind of information is useful to you. We welcome your feedback!  
**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS? PLEASE CALL statistical staff member, Jessica Phelps, (808) 587-0594 or e-mail [jessica.phelps@hawaii.gov](mailto:jessica.phelps@hawaii.gov).**  
 Any feedback about the newsletter, positive or negative, is greatly appreciated!

Mahalo!

DAR Statistical Unit

Thank you to everyone for your ideas and assistance in editing the Bottomfish Newsletter Volume 7! A special thanks to: Caitlin Burgess, Lynne Gray, Francis Oishi, Reginald Kokubun, Michael Quach, Dan Polhemus, Justin Hospital, Clay Tam, Kurt Kawamoto, and Mark Mitsuyasu.

Editor: Jessica Phelps



## What are Bottomfish Management Unit Species (BMUS)?

In 1985 the Western Pacific Regional Management Council finalized a Bottomfish Fishery Management Plan. A bottomfish complex of at least 65 species found in Hawaii, American Samoa, and Guam was decided based on habitat and fishing methods. Due to substantial landings, 22 species were designated as Bottomfish Management Unit Species (BMUS). 18 species are still recognized as BMUS. Bottomfish fishers in the Main Hawaiian Islands are familiar with the Deep 7 bottomfish species which include hapu'upu'u (sea bass), onaga (longtail snapper), ehu (squirrelfish snapper), kalekale (snapper), opakapaka (pink snapper), gindai (snapper), and lehi (silver jaw jobfish). The remaining BMUS include uku (gray or green jobfish), ta'ape (blue line snapper), yellowtail kalekale (yellowtail snapper), white ulua (giant trevally), black ulua (black jack), butaguchi (pig ulua, thick lipped trevally), and kahala (amberjack). Presently, there are no management actions in place for the non-Deep 7 BMUS. Although the TAC only includes the Deep 7, federal and state fishery managers decided to encourage all BMUS fishers to submit their fishing reports on time through monthly calls and letters in preparation for future management decisions.

## Non-Deep 7 BMUS:



Uku (Fishbase Trevor, M.)



Butaguchi (Fishbase Randall, J.E.)



Ta'ape (Fishbase Trevor, M.)



Yellowtail kalekale (Fishbase Randall, J.E.)



White ulua (Fishbase Randall, J.E.)



Black ulua, Gunkan (Fishbase Freitas, R.)



Kahala (Fishbase Randall, J.E.)

### Opakapaka vs. Kalekale, some identification hints:

<p><b>Opakapaka</b> * On average opakapakas weigh 3-20 pounds</p>	<p><b>Kalekale</b> * On average kalekales weigh 1-4 pounds</p>
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\*Photos and information courtesy of Kurt Kawamoto

## New study to value bottomfish fishing in the main Hawaiian Islands

Aloha, I am writing to ask for your help in understanding the value of bottomfish fishing in Hawaii. An upcoming study, conducted by NOAA Fisheries, has two primary objectives: *most importantly*, is to explore *your* motivations for bottomfish fishing, *your* attitudes and perceptions towards current management issues in the fishery and *your* suggestions for future management.

Secondly, we wish to collect information on levels of investment, fishing expenditures and costs, as well as fishing activity for the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) bottomfish fleet. This information will be important for estimating the economic contribution that bottomfish fishing provides the State of Hawaii and will also contribute towards future management of the fishery.

As an active MHI bottomfish fisherman, we are hoping that you can help in this study. Your thoughts, opinions, and details of fishing expenditures and activity are important for getting accurate results. We want to best represent bottomfish fishers in Hawaii and we can only do that by hearing from as many fishermen as possible.

You can expect to receive a survey questionnaire in the mail around April 2010. This notice is just a heads up - you will receive another reminder closer to the time of the survey. Your answers will never be associated with your mailing address and all answers will be kept strictly confidential. While your response is voluntary, we hope that you can help us in this research.

If you have any questions or concerns about this survey, please contact Justin Hospital, by telephone at 808-944-2188 or by email at [Justin.Hospital@noaa.gov](mailto:Justin.Hospital@noaa.gov). Your kokua is greatly appreciated.

Justin Hospital  
NOAA Fisheries - Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

### Reminders: When filling out your fishing report...

#### Hours?:

A lot of fishermen get calls regarding discrepancies on their reports. It is our goal to accurately provide your data to the scientists. One of the most common reasons that we call fishers is to clarify the number of hours fished. Things to remember when filling out fishing reports:

If the day fished, area, method, number of fishing lines and port of landing are all the same, the hours fished should be combined, they do not need to be separated for each species of fish caught, see example A.

#### Other reminders and tips:

- Please remember to report all of the fish you catch even if you release or tag and release the fish.
- Please report all fish that you keep and do not sell.
- It is helpful to record your catch shortly after each trip.
- If you lost a fish to a predator and do not know the species, write unknown in species column and the number lost in L/R column. If you know a fish was lost to a predator and do not know what kind of predator, write the number of fish lost to unknown predators in the designated space at the bottom of your fishing report. (see highlighted area in example.)

Example. A fisherman bottomfishes in area 331 for 7 hours and catches opakapaka, lehi, and white ulua.

FISHING EFFORT								SPECIES		CATCH		L/R	
Day Fished	Charter Trips "X"	Buoy or Area Fished	Specific Fishing Method (See Methods List)	Hours Fished Per Method/Area	Number of Net Sets or Throws	Number of Fishing Lines, Traps or Net Length in Feet	No Catch "X"	Port of Landing	Specific Species Name (See Species List)	Number Landed	Pounds Landed	Number of Lost and Released Fish L = Lost to Predator R = Released	
15		331	BF	4		2		Maunaloa Bay	Opakapaka	35	125		
↓		↓	↓	2		↓		↓	Lehi	1	3.5		
↓		↓	↓	1		↓		↓	White ulua	2	28		
<b>CORRECT:</b>													
15		331	BF	7		2		Maunaloa Bay	Opakapaka	35	125		
↓		↓	↓	↓		↓		↓	Lehi	1	3.5		
↓		↓	↓	↓		↓		↓	White ulua	2	28		