

Summary of Rule Changes

Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Fishery

- Trip report requirement for commercial bottomfish fishermen.
 - Commercial fishermen must report all ‘Deep 7’ bottomfish catches within five days after the end of a trip.
 - Other non-bottomfish catches from fishing trip in which ‘Deep 7’ bottomfish was not caught would continue to be reported on the “pink” monthly report form, which is due no later than the 10th day of the following month.
 - Trip reporting was requested by the Federal partners as a means to obtain timely catch data necessary for monitoring the Federal ‘Deep 7’ bottomfish fishing limit set at the beginning of each fishing year.

- Exemption for Kona crab nets
 - Makes it no longer unlawful to possess Kona crab nets on a boat with bottomfish (fishermen requested the exemption for Kona crab nets so they could catch Kona crabs while on a bottomfish trip).

- Amend the daily bag limit for non-commercial/recreational bottomfish fishermen
 - Change the State’s non-commercial bag limit from five ehu or onaga or a combination of five of these 2 species to five of any of the Deep-7 bottomfish species. The amendment makes state law the same and consistent with the existing federal law for non-commercial bag limits for Deep 7 bottomfish.

- Amend the requirement for identifying/registering bottomfishing vessels
 - Change the one-time bottomfish vessel I.D. registration to an annually renewable vessel I.D. registration. This change was needed to update the database of registered bottomfish vessels and to help ensure that the list is kept current.

- Provide the Department authorization to declare a bottomfish closed season (to fishing and sale).
 - This change was necessary and enables the State to implement seasonal closures to coordinate with the federal seasonal closures. It also describes what is prohibited during the closed season for bottomfish.

- Provide for exemptions that allow possession and/or sale of imported bottomfish of the same species as the regulated species during the closed season. This would include bottomfish from the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIAs, e.g. Howland, Baker, Wake Island), other territories under the Council’s jurisdiction, or foreign countries.
 - The exemptions provide a means to be lawfully exempted from possessing and selling regulated bottomfish species during the closed season.