

Public Hearing Notice
For Proposed Administrative Rules Amendments for Bottomfishing

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will hold Statewide public hearings to receive testimony on proposed amendments to Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Chapter 13-74, License and Permit Provisions and Fees for Fishing, Fish, and Fish Products, by adding new definitions for bottomfish fishing activity, and trip, requiring fishing reports by trip if needed, and requiring commercial bottomfish fishers to report bottomfish catches by trip, but other non-bottomfish species by monthly report. The proposed changes would also amend Chapter 13-94, Bottomfish Management, by amending/adding definitions for Board and Kona crab net, amend descriptions for affected species, exempt Kona crab nets as being unlawful to possess on a boat with bottomfish, amend the daily bag limit for recreational fishers; remove the requirement for evaluating the effectiveness of closed areas, amend the requirement for identifying bottomfishing vessels to be performed annually, to authorize the Department to declare a bottomfish closed (to fishing and sale) season, to provide for exemptions for possession or sale of imported bottomfish or bottomfish caught in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands federal waters.

The purposes of these proposed rule amendments are to 1) make state laws more consistent with existing federal laws, 2) provide more timely fisheries information, and 3) improve management of the bottomfish fishery in the Main Hawaiian Islands. An informational meeting will be held one half-hour prior to each hearing. The meetings will begin at 6:00 PM and the hearings will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the following dates and locations in March 2010: March 16, Tuesday, at Stevenson Middle School; 1202 Prospect Street; Honolulu, Oahu; March 16, Tuesday, at Kealakehe High School; 74-5000 Puohulihuli Street; Kailua-Kona, Hawaii; March 18th, Thursday, Lana'i High School and Elementary School; 555 Fraser Avenue, Lana'i; March 19, Friday, at Ben Parker Elementary School; 45-259 Waikalua Road; Kaneohe, Oahu; March 22, Monday, at Maui Waena Elementary School; 795 Onehee St.; Kahului; March 22, Monday, at Aupuni Conference Room; 101 Pauahi Street; Hilo, Hawaii; March 23, Tuesday, Mitchell Pauole Center; 90 Ainoa Street; Kaunakakai, Moloka'i; March 23, Tuesday, Wilcox Elementary School; 4319 Hardy Street; Lihue, Kaua'i.

All interested persons are urged to attend the public hearing to present relevant information and individual opinion for the DLNR to consider. Persons unable to attend or wishing to present additional comments, may mail written testimony by Friday, April 9, 2010 to the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 330, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

Anyone with a hearing impairment who desires to attend the public hearing may request assistance of a sign language interpreter. The request may be made in writing (to the DAR address in the preceding paragraph), or by calling 587-0100 (voice or TDD) in Honolulu. The request will need to be received at least 7 days before the hearing is scheduled to start. Additional information or a copy of the proposed rule changes is available at www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dar or will be mailed at no charge upon receipt of verbal or written request to the DAR address.

Laura Thielen, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources