

**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Your Fishing Counts!

Hawai'i Non-Commercial Fisheries Data Collection



GOT FISH?

Saltwater fishers play a major role in Hawai'i culture, nutrition and food security, and the economy. Sustainable fishing is a shared responsibility, and it starts with information from fishers.

Please consider responding to our two voluntary non-commercial fishing activity surveys when requested—all it takes is a few minutes. Together, with NOAA Fisheries and our Hawai'i partners, we can work toward the successful protection and management of our marine fisheries resources.



Kaua'i



Ni'i'hau



**Mail
survey**

Fishing Effort Survey

- Used to estimate the number of non-commercial fishing trips taken from shore and private boats during specified time periods
- Mailed on a recurring schedule to a portion of all Hawai'i residential addresses
- Uses a new address list for each mailing
- Received by about 25,000 Hawai'i households annually
- Collects both fishing and non-fishing information as part of a larger weather and outdoor activity survey



O'ahu



Moloka'i



Lāna'i

Maui

Kaho'olawe



Hawai'i



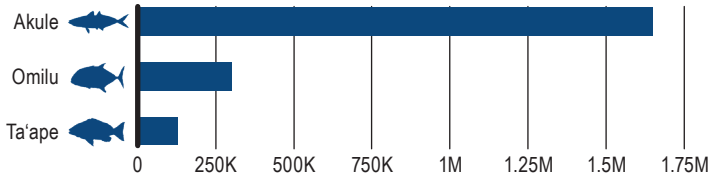
**In-person
survey**

Access Point Angler Intercept Survey

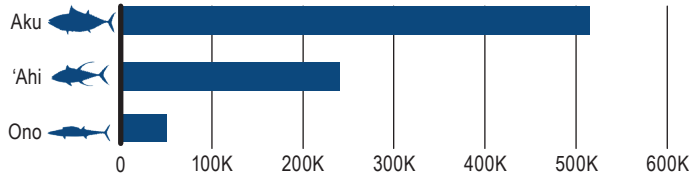
- Used to estimate catch-per-trip information for important species
- Conducted by trained interviewers working for the State of Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources at the conclusion of a fisher's trip from shore and landing sites for private watercraft, such as power boats, kayaks, canoes, jet skis, and standup paddleboards
- Occurs year-round at sites on Hawai'i Island, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu, and Kaua'i
- Includes fishing by rod and reel, spear, net, or other fishing gear
- Requests valuable biological data like fish length and weight that helps to assess fish stocks
- **Please note: Interviewers play no role in law enforcement;** we value your participation and privacy, and any personal information collected is kept confidential

What's biting in Hawai'i?

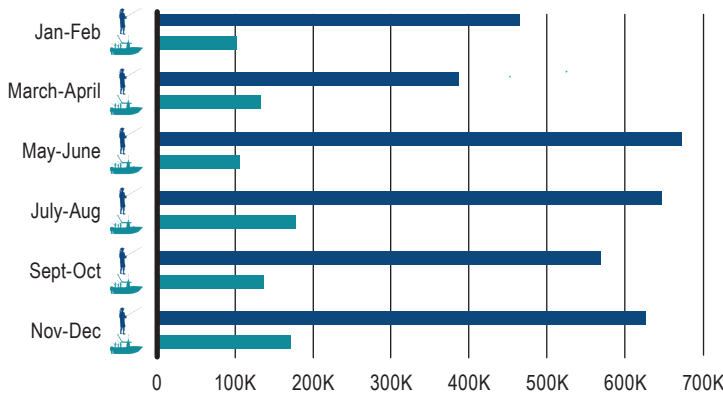
State Waters



Federal Exclusive Economic Zone



How many trips are non-commercial fishers taking?



2023 estimates. Total catch and trips by shore and private boat fishers. Source for both charts: NOAA Fisheries.



Credit: NOAA Fisheries

How is Total Non-Commercial Catch Estimated?



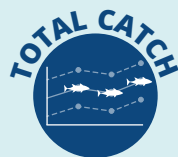
Estimated number of fish caught per angler trip

X



Estimated number of angler trips

=



Estimated total number of fish caught

Non-commercial catch and effort estimates are broken out by fishing mode (shore or private boat) and fish species. Estimates are made available on our website.

How is survey information used?

Your data is your voice! The Access Point Angler Intercept Survey and the Fishing Effort Survey collect non-commercial fishing data, which is combined with separate commercial, biological (age, growth, reproduction), and direct observer data, to help inform fish stock assessments and plans for sustainable fisheries management.

The intent of fisheries management is to provide the greatest access possible to fisheries, while acknowledging that the resources are not unlimited.

Fisheries managers also use the data to monitor fish aggregating devices and other essential fishing programs. The information you provide documents the importance of fishing to your community and helps protect your fisheries and inform optimal fishing access.

Why don't you collect information from all fishers?

Given the dynamic nature and magnitude of non-commercial fishing activity across Hawai'i, it would not be possible or practical to conduct a complete census of all fish caught and fishing trips taken. Therefore, we survey a portion of fishers that represents the larger fishing population, which allows us to draw reasonable conclusions about non-commercial fishing activity across Hawai'i. This is why it's critical that we receive complete information from those we survey to aid in the quality of the catch and effort estimates we produce.

Why do interviewers work at sites where fishing activity is low and interview fishers who didn't catch fish?

The information we collect is intended to represent all types of non-commercial saltwater fishing trips. Interviewers are assigned at different times at different sites based on the number of fishers we expect to be at the site on a given day or time. We send interviewers to high-activity fishing sites more frequently, but also include low-activity sites. If we only conduct interviews at sites with high fishing activity or only interview fishers who catch fish, our estimates would likely be too high.

How is vessel registration information used?

Households with registered boats generally respond at a higher rate to the Fishing Effort Survey and are more likely to report fishing activity. We use survey data from households with a registered vessel (based on the vessel registry) to help us better understand fishing activity of other households with registered vessels who did not respond to the survey. We also work to assure there is not an over-representation of data from vessel registrants, which could result in estimates of fishing effort that are too high.

LEARN MORE:



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