

Hawaii Pelagic Longline Fishery

PORT OF HONOLULU RANKING 2013

- 32nd in US Ports in terms of landed volume (29 million lbs)
- 6th in US Ports in terms of landed value (\$100 million)

BRIEF HISTORY OF HAWAII LONGLINE FISHERY

1917 Hawaii Longline Fishery started by Japanese immigrant fishermen.

1940s After WW II, Hawaii Longline fleet rose to 42 vessels.

1970s Hawaii Longline fleet declined to 14 vessels.

1988 Hawaii Longline Fishery had just 35 vessels.

1991 Hawaii Longline Fishery capped at 164 permits (average since is about 125 active vessels).

2014 About 110 Hawaii Longline vessels fish year-round for Bigeye Tuna using Deep-set longline gear.

About 20 Hawaii Longline vessels fish for Swordfish using Shallow-set longline gear. These switch over to deep-set longline bigeye tuna fishing after swordfish season (January to June).

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF LONGLINE FISHERIES IN HAWAII

Deep-set Tuna LL Gear:

25-30 miles mainline,
2500-3000 circle hooks (14/0-16/0),
saury and sardines bait,
light sticks not permitted,
25 hooks between floats,
hook depth from 50 to 350 m.

Shallow-set Swordfish LL Gear:

45 miles mainline,
850-880 circle hooks (18/0 ≤10%
offset),
mackerel bait, light sticks permitted,
4 hooks between floats, hook depth
from 25 to 75 m.

Where do Hawaii longliners catch their fish? (between 2007 to 2011)

- 64% Outside US Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ >200 miles from shore) in international waters.
- 36% Within EEZ (50 to 200 miles from shore) in federally-managed waters.

TRACK RECORD OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES THAT HAVE KEPT THIS FISHERY SUSTAINABLE

- 1991** First US pelagic fishery with limited entry. Fishery is capped at 164 vessel permits.
- 1991** Mandatory Daily Logbooks are required.
- 1992** Longline Exclusion Zone out to 50 miles offshore. Prevented gear conflict with smaller boats.
- 1993** Federal observers placed on Hawaii longline vessels.
- 1994** First US Fishery to require satellite tracking (24:7) using Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).
- 2000** Shark finning was prohibited.
- 2001** Federal observer coverage minimum of 20% of deep-set tuna longline fishing trips required.
- 2004** Federal observer coverage of 100% for shallow-set swordfish longline fishing trips required.

Measures to mitigate Sea Turtle interactions required. Circle hooks and mackerel bait replaced J-hooks and squid bait. 90% reduction in turtle catch rate achieved in the shallow-set swordfish fishery.

Shallow-set swordfish fishery adopts hard cap on the annual number of Sea Turtle interactions allowed. Enforcement in real time is made possible with 100% federal observer coverage.

Measures to reduce Seabird interactions are required and achieve 90% reduction.

Pacific Bigeye tuna catch quota established. Hawaii has the only longline fishery in Pacific capable of real time management and compliance with bigeye quota. Bigeye overfishing in Hawaii is eliminated.

1993–2015

Overfishing of Pacific Bigeye tuna begins in about 1993 in the Western and Central Pacific equatorial region by tuna purse seiners using drifting fish aggregating devices that aggregate juvenile bigeye tuna. Hawaii's fishery operates in a distinct region far away from where overfishing is occurring.

ECONOMIC “SNAP SHOT” OF THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF HAWAII FISHERIES 2002 TO 2012

FISHERY	HAWAII LONGLINE	HAWAII TROLL	HAWAII HANDLINE (MHI)	HAWAII HANDLINE (OFFSHORE)	TOTAL (INCLUDES OTHER SMALL FISHERIES)
\$ Revenue	\$68,602,700	\$6,542,100	\$2,478,000	\$957,700	\$80,080,400
% of Revenue	85.67%	8.17%	3.09%	1.20%	100%
Weight in lbs	22,395,800	2,899,900	1,155,400	533,100	27,876,100
% by Weight	80.30%	10.40%	4.14%	1.91%	100%

HAWAII CONTRIBUTION TO TOTAL US CATCH LANDED IN US PORTS IN 2012

SPECIES	TOTAL US (LB ROUND WT)	TOTAL HI (LB ROUND WT)	HI % OF US (TOTAL WT)	TOTAL US \$	TOTAL HI \$	HI % OF US (TOTAL \$)
Swordfish	8,952,000 lb	3,094,000 lb	34.56%	\$26,862,000	\$6,699,000	24.9%
Bigeye tuna	15,232,000 lb	14,022,000 lb	92.05%	\$70,682,000	\$63,814,000	90.28%
Yellowfin tuna	8,438,000 lb	4,098,000 lb	48.56%	\$30,292,000	\$13,173,000	43.48%
Albacore tuna	33,099,000 lb	2,009,000 lb	6.07%	\$50,452,000	\$4,114,000	8.15%

Sources for the Tables:

2012 Annual Report Pelagic Fisheries of the Western Pacific Region. West Pac Region Fishery Mgt Council. Honolulu, Hawaii, October 2014.

http://www.wpcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/2012-Pelagics-Annual-Report_9-21-2014.pdf accessed March 25, 2015

NOAA, 2014. Fisheries of the United States 2013

<https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/commercial-fisheries/fus/fus13/index>

Prepared by John Kaneko MS, DVM, Hawaii Seafood Council, Honolulu, Hawaii. July 2015. With support from the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation.