

Survey Summary  
Size Limit Public Meetings  
Oahu  
January & February 2009

During January & February 2009, the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) conducted four public meetings on Oahu to discuss size limits and their use as a fisheries management tool. We asked the public their thoughts about size limits, what support, if any, is there for this, which species should have size limits, should there be separate regulations for commercial and non-commercial fishers, etc. The meetings were held from 6:30-8:30 PM at Castle High School on January 27<sup>th</sup>, Kawananakoa Middle School on February 5<sup>th</sup>, Waimalu Elementary School on February 12<sup>th</sup>, and Waianae Public Library on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Public meetings were also held on the neighbor islands.

A Powerpoint© presentation was given first, followed by a discussion, and lastly, an explanation of the survey form. Attendance records indicate over 100 persons signed in and 108 surveys were returned to us. A summary of the important points follows:

- Survey respondents were 61% recreational fishers and 25% commercial fishers.
- Most respondents said they fish because they enjoy fishing (37%) or fish for food (34%).
- Most respondents felt fishing either got worse (51%) or stayed the same (46%) within the last five years.
- Half of the respondents felt more regulations are needed.
- Most respondents either felt the presentation was informative (43%) or didn't make a difference (45%).
- The majority (67%) of respondents support the concept of minimum sizes but only 38% support maximum sizes.
- Respondents were split on whether there should (46%) or shouldn't (44%) be separate size limits for commercial and non-commercial fishers. More commercial fishers felt separate regulations should be made for them because they fish differently from recreational fishers. Recreational fishers felt the same regulations should apply to all for simplicity.
- There is no clear majority of support for minimum size changes for any of these three groups (goats, parrots, and jacks) among respondents. Of those respondents selecting a preference, goats and parrots are tied (27%).
- Commercial fishers felt that regulations should be focused on specific species rather than groups.
- Recreational fishers felt that regulations should be grouped to make them easier, even if some species didn't need the regulation.
- Most respondents felt the current minimum sizes for goats, parrots, and jacks should stay as they are, although there is some support for raising the min size for white papio.
- There appears to be some support for establishing minimum sizes for moano kali, munu, weke ula, and malu.
- There appears to be some support for establishing min sizes for the sleeping uhus (47-54%) but there is a sizable group that doesn't support this idea (30-34%).

- There appears to be some support (30%) for establishing min sizes for the four unregulated jacks although an equally large group (30%) is opposed to such an idea.

The most common comment offered was the need for more enforcement.

1) Are you a Hawaii resident? Yes  No

Yes	No
102 (99.9%)	1 (0.1%)

Almost all respondents were Hawaii residents.

2) Which island do you reside on?

Oahu <input type="checkbox"/>	Kauai <input type="checkbox"/>	Hawaii <input type="checkbox"/>
Maui <input type="checkbox"/>	Lanai <input type="checkbox"/>	Molokai <input type="checkbox"/>

Oahu	104 (99.9%)
Kauai	1 (0.1%)
Hawaii	0 (0%)
Maui	0 (0%)
Lanai	0 (0%)
Molokai	0 (0%)

Most respondents were Oahu residents.

3) Which of the four Oahu meetings are you completing this survey at?

Castle <input type="checkbox"/>	Kawananakoa <input type="checkbox"/>	Waimalu <input type="checkbox"/>
Waianae <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>	

Castle	50 (48%)
Kawananakoa	22 (21%)
Waimalu	12 (11%)
Waianae	14 (13%)
None	7 (7%)

The Castle HS meeting had the largest attendance.

4) Do you have a copy of the Hawaii Fishing Regulations that is less than one-year old (September 2007 or later)?

Yes  No  Don't know

Yes	84 (80%)
No	18 (17%)
Don't know	3 (3%)

Most respondents had a copy of HFR

5) Which one of the following do you consider yourself? (check only one)

Commercial fisher  Recreational fisher  Subsistence fisher   
Non-fisher

Commercial fisher	29 (25%)
Recreational fisher	70 (61%)
Subsistence fisher	14 (12%)
Non-fisher	3 (3%)

The majority of respondents were recreational fishers. Some respondents checked more than one box.

6) If you checked any of the fishers in #5, please check the reasons why you fish

Enjoy fishing  Food fishing  Make money  Meet friends

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Enjoy fishing	79 (37%)
Food fishing	74 (34%)
Make money	27 (13%)
Meet friends	26 (12%)
Other	9 (4%)

Most respondents said they fish because they enjoy fishing or fish for food.

7) Do you think that fishing has gotten better, worse, or stayed the same over the past five years?

Better       Worse       Same

Better	3 (3%)
Worse	50 (51%)
Same	46 (46%)

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99

Most respondents felt fishing either got worse or stayed the same.

8) Do you think that more or less fishing regulations are needed?

More       Less       Don't know

More	30 (50%)
Less	18 (30%)
Don't know	12 (20%)

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60

Half of the respondents felt more regulations are needed.

9) Do you think that you are now better informed about size limits after the presentation?

Better informed                       More confused                       No change

Better informed	24 (43%)
More confused	7 (13%)
No change	25 (45%)
	<hr/>
	56

Most respondents either felt the presentation was informative or didn't make a difference.

10) What do you think about the concept of minimum size to manage fisheries?

Support                       Oppose                       Don't know

Support	42	(67%)
Oppose	13	(21%)
Don't know	8	(13%)
	<hr/>	
	63	

The majority of respondents support the concept of minimum sizes.

11) What do you think about the concept of maximum sizes to manage fisheries?

Support                       Oppose                       Don't know

Support	23 (38%)
Oppose	22 (37%)
Don't know	15 (25%)
	<hr/>
	60

There is less support for the concept of maximum sizes than minimum sizes among respondents.

12) Do you think that maximum sizes limits should be considered for the following groups?

Goatfishes  Parrotfishes  Jacks  None of these

Goatfishes	13 (16%)
Parrotfishes	17 (21%)
Jacks	11 (14%)
None of these	39 (49%)

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80

Respondents don't believe any of these groups need maximum size limits. The group receiving the most votes was the parrotfishes.

13) Do you think that slot limits should be considered for the following groups?

Goatfishes  Parrotfishes  Jacks  None of these

Goatfishes	14 (16%)
Parrotfishes	13 (15%)
Jacks	15 (18%)
None of these	43 (51%)

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85

Respondents don't believe any of these groups need slot size limits. Of those respondents that selected at least one group, there is no clear group that should be considered for slot limits.

14) Do you think there should be separate or the same size limits for commercial and non-commercial fishers?

Separate  Same  No opinion

Separate 27 (46%)

Same 26 (44%)

No opinion 6 (10%)

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59

Respondents were split on whether there should or shouldn't be separate size limits.

15) If there were only three groups/species that would be considered to change the current minimum size regulations, do you think goatfishes should be one of the three?

Yes  No  Don't know

Yes 30 (50%)

No 20 (33%)

Don't know 10 (17%)

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60

Half of respondents think goatfishes should be considered for minimum size change.

16) If there were only three groups/species that would be considered to change the current minimum size regulations, do you think parrotfishes should be one of the three?

Yes       No       Don't know

Yes	25 (42%)
No	26 (43%)
Don't know	9 (15%)
	<hr/>
	60

There is no clear majority of support for parrotfish minimum size changes among respondents.

17) If there were only three groups/species that would be considered to change the current minimum size regulations, do you think ulua should be one of the three?

Yes       No       Don't know

Yes	25 (42%)
No	28 (47%)
Don't know	7 (12%)
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	60

There is no clear majority of support for ulua minimum size changes among respondents.

18) Of the three groups/species mentioned in questions #7-9, which one group/species do you think should have the highest priority?

Goatfishes  Parrotfishes  Jacks  None of these

Goatfishes	18 (28%)
Parrotfishes	17 (27%)
Jacks	10 (16%)
None of these	19 (30%)

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64

There is no clear majority of support for minimum size changes for any of these three groups among respondents. Of those respondents selecting a preference, goats and parrots are tied.

19) Do you think any current Goatfish minimum size\* should be changed?

	MS*	L <sub>50</sub>	Increase	Decrease	Keep As Is	None	Size
White weke	7	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Kumu	10	10-11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Moano	8	7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

MS = current minimum size; L<sub>50</sub> = half the fish are sexually mature; None = remove current minimum size; Size = your suggested MS

White weke

Increase 12 (22%)

Decrease 0 (0%)

Keep As Is 38 (69%)

None 5 (9%)

Size 8, 12, 8, 8, 8, 8, 8, 9, 8, 9, 8

Size	8	9	12
Number	8	2	1

Kumu

Increase 20 (36%)  
Decrease 1 (2%)  
Keep As Is 30 (54%)  
None 5 (9%)  
Size 13, 7, 12 (x10), 11 (x3)

Size	7	11	12	13
Number	2	3	10	1

Moano

Increase 16 (30%)  
Decrease 0 (0%)  
Keep As Is 33 (62%)  
None 4 (7%)  
Size 12, 9, 9, 8, 10, 8, 10, 10, 9,

Size	8	9	10	12
Number	2	3	3	1

Most respondents felt the current minimum sizes for goats should stay the same.

20) Of those goatfishes that have no minimum size, would you support establishing a minimum size and if yes, what should it be?

	L <sub>50</sub>	Yes	No	If Yes, What Size?	No Opinion
Moano kali	11.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Munu	7.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weke nono	?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moelua	10.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weke ula	7.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Malu	7.9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Striped goat	?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weke pueo	?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

? = minimum size unknown

#### Moano kali a

Yes 35 (63%)

No 14 (25%)

Size 10, 12, 11, 11, 12, 11, 13, 12, 13, 10 (x3), 12, 11, 11, 12 (x11), 11 (x3), 12, 11, 15,  
11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 11, 12, 12

Size	10	11	12	13	15
Number	4	18	18	2	1

No Opinion 7 (13%)

#### Munu b

Yes 33 (60%)

No 15 (27%)

Size 9, 11, 8, 7, 8, 8, 8, 8, 10, 7, 8.5, 10, 8, 9, 10, 8, 10, 8, 8, 8, 8, 12, 8, 7.5, 8, 8, 7, 12,  
9, 8, 8, 8, 12, 11, 11, 7

Size	7	7.5	8	8.5	9	10	11	12
Number	4	1	17	1	3	4	3	3

No Opinion 7 (13%)

Weke nono c

Yes 17 (37%)  
 No 19 (41%)  
 Size 11, 11, 10, 7, 8, 9, 8, 10, 10, 7, 7, 9

No Opinion 10 (22%)

Size	7	8	9	10	11
Number	3	2	2	3	2

Moelua d

Yes 22 (45%)  
 No 17 (35%)  
 Size 12, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 10, 11, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 10, 10, 12, 12, 11, 11,  
 12, 11, 11, 9

Size	9	10	11	12
Number	1	10	5	10

No Opinion 10 (20%)

Weke ula e

Yes 28 (55%)  
 No 16 (31%)  
 Size 7, 8, 12, 11, 11, 12, 8, 11, 12, 8, 9, 10, 8, 7, 7, 12, 10, 10, 9, 10, 8, 7, 10, 7, 7, 7, 7,  
 7, 8, 9, 9

Size	7	8	9	10	11	12
Number	9	6	4	5	3	2

No Opinion 7 (14%)

Malu f

Yes 25 (50%)

No 16 (32%)

Size 9, 7, 7, 8, 8, 8, 8, 10, 8, 9, 8, 9, 10, 10, 8, 8, 8, 12, 8, 7.5, 8, 8, 8, 8, 10, 11, 11, 8, 7

Size	7	7.5	8	9	10	11	12
Number	3	1	15	3	3	2	1

No Opinion 9 (18%)

Striped goat g

Yes 17 (39%)

No 18 (41%)

Size 11, 11, 10, 7, 10, 8, 9, 8, 10, 8, 7, 9

No Opinion 9 (20%)

Size	7	8	9	10	11
Number	2	3	2	3	2

Weke pueo h

Yes 17 (38%)

No 19 (42%)

Size 9, 7, 8, 10, 8, 8, 9, 8, 10, 8, 10, 11, 11

Size	7	8	9	10	11
Number	1	5	2	3	2

No Opinion 9 (20%)

There appears to be some support for establishing minimum sizes for moano kali, munu, weke ula, and malu.

21) Do you think any current Parrotfish minimum size\* should be changed? (see #19)

	MS*	L <sub>50</sub>	Increase	Decrease	Keep As Is	None	Size
Lauia	12	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Palukaluka	12	14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Uliuli	12	14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Bullethead	12	9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Palenose	12	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Lauia a

Increase 7 (13%)  
 Decrease 1 (2%)  
 Keep As Is 37 (72%)  
 None 7 (13%)  
 Size 10, 14, 10, 10, 15, 20,

Size	10	14	15	20
Number	3	1	1	1

Palukaluka b

Increase 11 (22%)  
 Decrease 1 (2%)  
 Keep As Is 33 (65%)  
 None 6 (12%)  
 Size 20, 15, 14, 14, 14, 14, 15, 14, 14, 15

Size	14	15	20
Number	6	3	1

Uliuli c

Increase 12 (23%)  
 Decrease 1 (2%)  
 Keep As Is 33 (63%)  
 None 6 (12%)  
 Size 14, 14, 14, 15, 14, 14, 14, 15, 20,

Size	14	15	20
Number	6	2	1

Bullethead d

Increase 7 (14%)

Decrease 1 (2%)

Keep As Is 36 (71%)

None 7 (14%)

Size 20, 15, 9, 10, 10, 14, 14, 9

Size	9	10	14	15	20
Number	2	2	2	1	1

Palenose e

Increase 7 (13%)

Decrease 3 (6%)

Keep As Is 36 (68%)

None 7 (13%)

Size 10, 6, 14, 14, 10, 10, 6, 15, 20

Size	6	10	14	15	20
Number	2	3	2	1	1

Most respondents felt the current min sizes for parrots should stay the same.

22) Of those Parrotfishes that have no minimum size, would you support establishing a minimum size and if yes, what should it be?

	L <sub>50</sub>	Yes	No	If Yes, What Size?	No Opinion
Ponuhunuhu	12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Panunu	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ponuhunuhu

Yes 25 (47%)

No 18 (34%)

Size 14, 12, 12, 20, 15, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 14, 12, 13, 12, 12, 13, 12, 12, 15, 12, 12, 12, 12, 12, 14

Size	12	13	14	15	20
Number	29	2	3	1	1

No Opinion 10 (19%)

Panunu

Yes 29 (54%)

No 16 (30%)

Size 9, 10, 12, 8, 8, 8, 8, 12, 12, 10, 12, 12, 10, 12, 8, 14, 12, 8, 12, 12, 12, 8, 12, 12, 8, 10, 12, 12, 12, 12, 8, 15, 20, 12, 12,

Size	8	9	10	12	14	15	20
Number	9	1	4	18	1	1	1

No Opinion 9 (17%)

There appears to be some support for establishing min sizes the sleeping uhus but there is a sizable group that doesn't support this idea.

23) Do you think any current Ulua minimum size\* should be changed? (see #19)

	MS*	L <sub>50</sub>	Increase	Decrease	Keep As Is	None	Size
White	10/16	24	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Omilu	10/16	12-16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Black	10/16	15-27	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Pake/menpachi	10/16	14-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Barred	10/16	14-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Papa/Yellow spot	10/16	12-21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

White a

Increase 18 (34%)

Decrease 1 (2%)

Keep As Is 29 (55%)

None 5 (9%)

Size 15, 30, 24, 16, 18, 8/12, 18, 16, 24, 14, 24, 14, 15/20, 24, 24, 25, 24, 24, 18/20, 16, 14

Size	8	14	15	16	18	20	24	25	30
Number	1	3	1	3	3	2	7	1	1

Omilu b

Increase 14 (26%)

Decrease 1 (2%)

Keep As Is 33 (62%)

None 5 (9%)

Size 14, 16, 12, 12, 18, 16, 15/20, 14, 24, 14, 12, 16, 8/12, 16, 16, 14, 20, 15,

Size	8	12	14	15	16	18	20
Number	1	4	4	2	5	1	2

Black c

Increase 14 (26%)

Decrease 1 (2%)

Keep As Is 32 (60%)

None 6 (11%)

Size 15, 27, 14, 20, 16, 16, 15, 14, 24, 18, 15/20, 27, 28, 15, 15, 14

Size	14	15	16	18	20	24	27	28
Number	3	4	2	1	2	1	2	4

Pake/menpachi d

Increase 14 (26%)

Decrease 1 (2%)

Keep As Is 32 (60%)

None 6 (11%)

Size 14, 14/16, 14, 14, 28, 25, 15/20, 18, 24, 14, 14, 16, 18, 14, 25, 25,

Size	14	15	16	18	20	24	25	28
Number	7	1	2	2	1	1	3	1

Barred e

Increase 15 (28%)

Decrease 1 (2%)

Keep As Is 31 (58%)

None 6 (11%)

Size 25, 25, 18, 16, 14, 14, 24, 18, 15/20, 25, 18, 26, 14, 14, 14/16, 14

Size	14	15	16	18	20	24	25
Number	6	1	2	3	1	1	3

Papa/yellow f

Increase 15 (29%)

Decrease 1 (2%)

Keep As Is 31 (60%)

None 5 (9%)

Size 12/21, 14, 12, 12, 22, 18, 21, 15/20, 18, 24, 14, 12, 16, 18, 16, 14, 21, 25

Size	12	14	15	16	18	20	21	22	24	25
Number	4	3	1	2	3	1	3	1	1	1

The majority of respondents feel the current min sizes should stay the same. There appears to be some support for an increase in the min size for white.

24) Of those Ulua that have no minimum size, would you support establishing a minimum size and if yes, what should it be?

	L <sub>50</sub>	Yes	No	If Yes, What Size?	No Opinion
Kagami	22-40	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Butaguchi	19-34	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dobe	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pa' opa' o	19-34	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Kagami

Yes 28 (52%)

No 16 (30%)

Size 40, 22, 25, 22, 24, 16, 22, 14, 14, 10/16, 24, 30, 10/16, 12, 30, 10/16, 35, 22, 22, 20, 18, 11, 19

Size	10	11	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	25	30	35	40
Number	2	1	1	2	4	1	1	4	2	1	1	1	1

No Opinion 10 (19%)

Butaguchi

Yes 26 (48%)

No 17 (31%)

Size 19, 19, 18, 10/16, 19, 19, 25, 10/16, 25, 18, 34, 24, 14, 10/16, 24, 14, 19, 16, 22, 19, 27

Size	10	14	16	18	19	22	24	25	27	34
Number	3	2	4	2	6	1	2	1	1	1

No Opinion 11 (20%)

Dobe

Yes 22 (42%)

No 16 (30%)

Size 10, 12, 8, 16, 10, 8, 14, 10/16, 12, 16, 10, 10, 10/16, 10, 8, 8, 10/16, 8, 8, 8

Size	8	10	11	12	14	16
Number	7	8	0	2	1	5

No Opinion 15 (28%)

Pa'opa'o

Yes 28 (52%)

No 16 (30%)

Size 19, 19, 12, 10/16, 19, 19, 30, 10/16, 30, 12, 10/16, 25, 18, 34, 24, 28,  
10/16, 24, 14, 19, 16, 22, 19, 27

Size	10	12	14	16	18	19	22	24	25	27	28	30	34
Number	3	2	1	5	1	6	1	2	1	1	1	1	1

No Opinion 10 (19%)

There appears to be some support for establishing min sizes for these four jacks although a large group is opposed to such an idea.

25) Are there any additional comments you want to share with us?

- Need for more enforcement (x8)
- Need more data (x7)
- Ban night diving (x3)
- Need bag limits (x3)
- Ban night spearing for uhu (x2)
- All fish should have minimum sizes (x2)
- Establish min size by species instead of groups (x2)
- Ban nets
- Need seasons
- Should have max size limits instead of min sizes
- Control human population growth
- Allow smaller size for papio
- Need moi regulations
- Raise license fees and fine
- Use weight limits instead of size
- Ban lay nets on Oahu
- Need more artificial reefs