

CURRENT LINE

DAR STATEWIDE PROJECT INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 1, February 2000

LICENSES, RULES, & REGULATIONS

REVISED LONGLINE TRIP REPORT FORM

Attention Commercial Longline Fisherman:



The Longline Trip Report form has been revised. *Please use this revised report form IMMEDIATELY, and discard all previous Longline Trip Report forms.*

Revisions to the Longline Trip Report form include:

- **adding** a section for reporting the sale of shark fins, and
- **removal** of the bait section from the form.

To fulfill the Department of Land and Natural Resources' fish catch report requirement, all marine life caught and sold must be reported on the Longline Trip Report form. Tunas, billfish, mahi-mahi, ono and other fish sold to fish markets and shark fins sold to dealers must be reported.

The information on the Longline Trip Reports will be verified, and if deemed to be incomplete, such as missing sales of shark fins, the Division of Conservation Resources Enforcement may take enforcement action.

NEW WEST HAWAII REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT AREA

As of Dec. 31, 1999, the administrative rules establishing the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area took effect. Within the new Management Area, nine new "fish replenishment areas (FRAs) have been established which prohibit the collecting of live aquarium fish, and the feeding of fish within the FRA boundaries. The FRAs extend from

Upolu Point (North Kohala) to Ka Lae (Kau). Maps of the fishery replenishment areas may be obtained by contacting DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources offices in Hilo or Kona at 328-8041 or 887-6064.

SPECIAL OPEN SEASON FOR RAINBOW TROUT FISHING ON KAUAI



The 1999 trout fishing season was cancelled due to a fire hazard threat caused by dry forest conditions within Waimea Canyon State Park. Conditions in the area have since improved and is no longer considered a threat. A special opening for rainbow trout fishing in the Kokee Public Fishing Area on Kauai has been scheduled to begin on Saturday, February 12, 2000, and continue daily through Sunday, March 12, 2000. Anglers may fish between 6:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. during this opening. For more information contact the DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources at (808) 274-3344 on Kauai or (808) 587-0100 on Oahu.

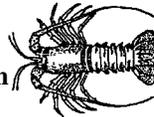
REMINDERS

Mullet Season



(for ama ama or striped mullet) is closed between December to February. Open Season will resume on March 1st and run till November 30th.

Spiny Lobster Season Slipper Lobster Season & Kona Crab Season



is now **open** as of September 1st and will run till April 31st..

Moi & Moi-li'i Season

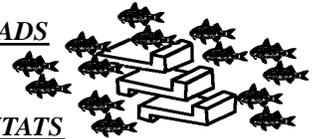


is now open as of September 1st and will run till May 31st. Remember that minimum size for home consumption or sale is 7 inches.

Waikiki Diamond Head Fishery Management Area is now open for fishing from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000. The area will be closed to fishing from January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001.

INSHORE PROJECTS

WINDWARD ARTIFICIAL REEF GETS TWO BARGE LOADS OF "Z" SHAPED FISH HABITATS



On two placid days in December the Kualoa Artificial Reef off Kaaawa, Oahu, received about 850 "z" shaped fish habitats. The fish habitats were constructed from surplus concrete donated by Ameron Hawaii. Each habitat weighs approximately 3,000 pounds and measures eight feet in length by four feet in width with twelve inch high legs at each end facing in opposite directions in a "Z" or "N" shaped form. The Division contracted a tug and barge to transport the habitats from Honolulu Harbor to selected locations at the Kualoa Reef. The habitats were placed in clusters at

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depths between 65-90 feet about one mile offshore. Several additional barge loads of habitats are proposed for the Kualoa Reef in the coming months. Also in December, some 950 "z" habitats were added to the Maunalua Bay Artificial Reef as poor weather and sea conditions diverted original plans to continue deploying habitats at the Kualoa Reef.

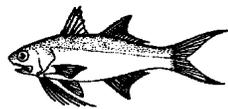
Waianae and Maunalua Bay Artificial Reefs include three 115-foot landing crafts, over 3,600 concrete "z" shaped fish habitats, and 1,000 tons of concrete pilings.

The Pearl Harbor Shipyard donated the landing crafts and arranged for the Navy's Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit to scuttle the vessels. Two of the three landing crafts were added to the Waianae Artificial Reef in depths of 75 and 95 feet. The third vessel was scuttled in 85 feet of water at the Maunalua Bay Artificial Reef.

The 3,600 "z" shaped fish habitats cost over half a million dollars to build, transport, load, and deploy or about \$145 each. However, due to donation of concrete and other materials, this project is essentially funded by Federal Aid monies.

Healy Tibbitts Builder, Inc., a construction company working in Pearl Harbor donated a barge load of concrete pilings and deployed the material in the Maunalua Bay Artificial Reef at depths between 65-75 feet. The cost to load the pilings and deploy them at the Reef was estimated at \$28,000 by Healy Tibbitts Builders, Inc. Since all cost for this project was donated the \$28,000 can be used as in-kind matching and 75% of the cost or \$21,000 may be reimbursed through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fish Restoration Program.

**MOI STOCK
ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAM**



In response to concerns of declining coastal fisheries populations in Hawaii, the Division of Aquatic Resource's Anuenue Fisheries Research Center has released hatchery reared, tagged juvenile moi along the southern coast of Oahu (Waikiki-Diamond Head Shoreline Fisheries Management Area) and along the eastern coast of Maui (Ke'anae) as part of the State of Hawaii's ongoing coastal stock enhancement program.

Over 10,000 tagged moi were released off Waikiki-Diamond Head, Oahu and another 6,000 tagged moi off Wailua Bay and Honomanu Bay in Ke'anae, Maui. The moi were tagged with a fluorescent elastomer stripe (visible tag) in the clear tissue behind the left or right eye. Various colors (e.g. orange, red, green, blue, purple, and pink) will be used for easier identification and processing. In addition to the visible tag, an internal coded wire tag (CWT) has been inserted into the snout of the moi. This CWT contains a microscope code that provides important biological and behavioral information on size-at-release, release site, and release date.

If you happen to catch ANY moi on Oahu or Maui, please report this by calling the Division of Aquatic Resource's Oahu Moi Hotline (808) 832-5003 or Na Moku Aupuni o Ko'olau Hui (808) 248-8658 in Ke'anae. Your KOKUA would be deeply appreciated since the success and continuation of this restocking program depends heavily upon the amount of moi caught and the information returned. MAHALO in advance and let's all hope for the best that this project will be another step toward improving Hawaii's coastal fisheries resources.

X-FILES PROJECTS

**HAVE
YOU
SEEN
THESE
FISH?**



Sectator ocyurus



Scomber australasicus

Every so often, fishermen stop by the DAR office with an unusual looking fish that they cannot identify readily. Remember in late 1998 people were catching an unusual looking fish that had the head of a papio and the body of an omaka (identified as the green jack)? In January, a couple stopped by the DAR office with another unusual looking fish asking what it was and was it okay for them to eat it. This fish looked like an elongated or stretched out nenuue and sort of resembled a baby mahi with its brilliant metallic yellow-green color and the longitudinal lines of blue and gold on its sides. This fish was identified as the bluestriped chub or *Sectator ocyurus* which normally occurs in the Eastern Pacific from Baja California to Peru.

Occasionally a few fish stray outside of this range; one even reaching as far as Japan. The fish is related to the nenuue, but is considered pelagic and not very common. Only a few specimens have been caught in Hawaii, the earliest known record being one taken in 1902 off of Haleiwa, Oahu. The specimen brought in to DAR in January was caught off of Barbers Point, Oahu. The fisherman said that he saw four of them swimming around and managed to catch just this one.

In general the fish is not common, but occasionally appears in great quantities in Panama markets. The couple that brought this fish into the DAR office can attest that it is an edible species that tasted pretty good. Young fish can be found around floating seaweed. Adults seem to be pelagic or semi-pelagic. Adults can reach lengths of up to 18 inches.

If you catch one of these bluestriped chubs, you can identify it by the metallic yellow-green color on the top and longitudinal lines of blue and gold on its sides. It also has a deeply forked tail.

Another mystery fish was also brought in to the DAR office for identification. It was caught by a commercial fisherman at Penguin Banks in the 100 fathoms depth zone. The Ichthyology Department staff at Bishop Museum confirmed the identity of the fish as the blue mackerel or *Scomber australasicus*. Also known as gomasaba, it somewhat resembles a saba, but the markings are different. The belly on the saba is unmarked or faintly marked with dark spots, whereas the blue mackerel has small blue-black spots on the belly, hence the name "gomasaba". It grows to about a foot in length and can get up to two pounds in weight. Normally found in the Western Pacific Ocean off the coasts of Australia and New Zealand, this is the first time Bishop Museum was able to get a good specimen that was caught in Hawaiian waters. The earliest and last record of this fish being reported caught here was in 1967, but no specimen was provided, so this specimen is a real find.

It is always exciting and interesting when someone brings in an unusual looking fish for us to look at. We really appreciate the effort as it gives us a chance to communicate with the fishermen who are always a tremendous help

with informing us as to what is happening with our ocean resources. We couldn't do our jobs without all of you - MAHALO plenty!

FRESHWATER FISHING

LAKE WILSON CLEAN UPS!

"Make a Difference Day", on October 23, 1999 involved the clean up of Ohai Place Cove in Wahiawa Public Fishing Area. This half day activity was organized by Representative Marcus Oshiro and the Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association (HFFA). Over 3 tons of rubbish and 150 tires were removed from this area by boat and were transported to the Wahiawa Freshwater State Recreational Area for disposal.

Over 50 people were involved in the clean up which included US Army personnel from Schofield Barracks, HFFA members, students from Leilehua High School, State personnel, Representative Oshiro's staff and community residents living along the reservoir.

"Lake Wilson Clean Up", on November 6 & 7, 1999 was organized by Representative Oshiro and the Hawaii Freshwater Fishing Association (HFFA). The clean up area again concentrated on Ohai Place Cove and the shoreline area adjacent to the Wilson Bridge in the Wahiawa Public Fishing Area as well as the trails in the Wahiawa Freshwater State Recreational Area. The clean up effort was a great success with over 20 tons of rubbish being removed from these areas during both clean up days.

Over 150 volunteers participated in this activity and included US Army personnel from Schofield Barracks, HFFA members, Leilehua High School students, officers from the Honolulu Police Dept., Wahiawa Station, community members, Rep. Oshiro's staff, State Parks personnel, and Aquatic Resources personnel. HFFA and DAR provided boats to transport the rubbish to the freshwater park, where US Army vehicles and drivers hauled some of the rubbish to landfill areas. Lunch was provided for the volunteers by the Wahiawa Rainbow Seniors Club with food and other contributions donated by small

businesses in the Wahiawa community. We'd like to extend a BIG MAHALO to all those people who helped. It's efforts like these that truly demonstrate the aloha spirit the people of Hawaii have for their community, each other, and their natural resources.

FISH HATCHERY



In December, 1999, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), and the Wahiawa Middle School (WMS) signed an agreement for the construction of a fish hatchery on the grounds of the Wahiawa Middle School. The hatchery and its operation will be jointly maintained and funded by DAR and WMS for the purpose of producing bass fingerlings which will be used to stock the Wahiawa Public Fishing Area. Middle school students will also have the opportunity to get hands on training and education in working with fish.

OFFSHORE FISHERIES

OPAKAPAKA TAGGING UPDATE



The Division conducted tagging studies in an effort to better monitor and understand our valuable bottomfish resources. During 1989 to 1994, approximately 4,000 opakapaka were tagged and released off Oahu and in Maui County. Although there have been no further tagging efforts due to the retirement of the senior project biologist, submittal of tags and information by cooperating fishermen and data collection on recoveries have continued. The following chart will give you some of the information collected:

	7/1/96 to 6/30/97	7/1/97 to 6/30/98	7/1/98 to 6/30/99
estimated growth rate	2" /yr	2" /yr	2" /yr
longest days of freedom	2,176 days (almost 6 years!)	2,339 days (= 6.4 years)	2,251 days (= 6.2 years)
farthest distance traveled	80 nautical miles	41 nautical miles	80 nautical miles
largest fish caught	26" FL at about 9 lbs.	26.5" FL at about 11 lbs.	26" FL at about 10 lbs.

	7/1/96 to 6/30/97	7/1/97 to 6/30/98	7/1/98 to 6/30/99
growth of largest fish caught over time tagged	11"	9.5"	11"

Current Tag Recoveries (fish recovered between 7/1/96 to 6/30/97):

<u>Number Recovered</u>	<u>Tagging Site</u>	<u>Recovery Site</u>
2	Ewa	Kaena Pt., Oahu
* 1	Moloka'i	Kaena Pt., Oahu
2	Moloka'i	Moloka'i
1	Maui	Maui

* Some notable movement of tagged opakapaka

This behavior of channel crossing was previously unknown to both fishermen and scientists, and has implications for fishery management. The Division will pay \$10 for each tag returned with the following information:

1. WHO (name & address of fisherman)
2. WHEN (date)
3. WHERE (location of capture)
4. DEPTH (fathoms)
5. SIZE (tip of mouth to fork of tail in inches)

FOR REWARD!

Notify any DAR office:

O'ahu	587-0094
Maui	243-5294
Kaua'i	274-3344
Hawai'i	974-6201
Moloka'i	567-6696

FAD PROJECT

Here is the most recent update of missing FADs:

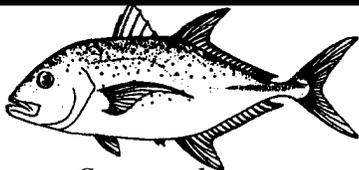


MISSING FADs (as of Feb. 3, 2000):

<u>FAD</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Island</u>
E	Leleiwi	Hawai'i
J	Waialeale	O'ahu
I	Halona Point	Kaho'olawe
M	Hana Bay	Maui
Z	Kipukai	Kaua'i

For current locations and/or more information, contact Warren Cortez at 848-2939. Also, if you know of any FADs that broke loose, see any light out or have any other comments, please give Warren a call.

FISH FACTS



Caranx melampygus

(Bluefin Trevally, Blue Crevally, Omilu)

SIZES

Length: commonly around 24 inches in length; but can get up to 36 inches in length

Weight: can reach up to 30 lbs in weight

BREEDING

Sexual Maturity: fish are sexually mature when they reach between 12 to 16 inches in length.

Spawning: spawning occurs between April to November. Fish are sexually mature at 12 to 16 inches fork length

LIFESTYLE

Distribution: Indo-Pacific & tropical Eastern Pacific; from Hawaii to central Polynesia, East African Coast to Panama, throughout Micronesia

Habitat: found anywhere from the shoreline all the way to the outer edge of reef areas.

Diet: a hunting predator. Feeds primarily on fishes. Other diet items include a few crustaceans and molluscs.

Life Span: Unknown.

RELATED SPECIES

The omilu is a member of the Jack Fish Family which includes all species of ulua and papio as well as other fishes such as omaka, opelu, akule, lae, & rainbow runner. The omilu is considered a valuable commercial species and an extremely popular game fish among recreational fishermen. Juveniles, known as papio, may be found in small schools swimming around in shallow bays & estuaries. Adults occur singly or in small groups over the inner & outer reef areas.

The following table will give you an idea of how fast these fish grow and how old they are. Please note that these are just ball park figures and meant only to give you a

general idea on the relationship of length, weight, and age.

<i>Length, Weight and Age of Omilu</i>		
Standard Length (inches)	Weight (pounds)	Age (years)
8	0.3	1
13	2	2
18	4	3
22	6	4
24	9	5
27	12	6
28	14	7
30	16	8
31	18	9
32	20	10
32.5	21	11
33	22	12
33.5	23	13
34	24	14

The Department of Land and Natural Resources receives financial support under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration and other federal programs. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the laws of the State of Hawaii, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the State of Hawaii prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, and disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you desire information, please write to: Affirmative Action Officer, Personnel Office, Department of Land and Natural Resources, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Rm. 231, Honolulu, HI 96813, or the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office for Human Resources, 1849 C Street NW, Room 3058, Washington, D. C. 20240.