



Public Meeting for Discussion of Proposed Ban of Lay Net (Gillnet)

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Historical Overview

- 1977 - 12 hour maximum soak time established.
- 1992 - Gillnet Report to Legislature in response to HCR 421 HD1. Recommends 4 hour maximum soak time and 2 hour inspection requirement, and increasing mesh size to 2-3/4".
- 1993 - 4 hour/2 hour limits established (HRS §188-30.2).
- 1994 - 2" mesh size raised to 2-3/4". To take effect 12/31/96 (HRS §188-29).
- 1997 - Long, deep gillnets appear in Hawai'i waters, originating from West Coast.

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Historical Overview (cont.)

- 1998 - Gillnet statute converted into administrative rule (HAR Chapter §13-75).
- 1998-99 - Gillnet Task Force develops lay net management recommendations.
- 2000-02 - DAR develops draft rules and has extensive internal reviews.
- 2002 - Ten state-wide public meetings discussing Gill Net Task Force recommendations and proposed amendments.
- 2003 - Draft report on 2002 meetings and recommendations for rule amendments.

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Review of 2002 Public Meetings

- Ten informational meetings statewide - Kaua'i, O'ahu (3x), Moloka'i, Maui, Lana'i, Hawai'i (3x). Large turnouts; record 70+ on Moloka'i.
- Gillnet Task Force recommendations discussed. A wide range of management options (18) were presented, but a ban was not an explicit option. Extensive public input included survey forms.
- 2003 - Report on meetings compiled and recommendations for proposed rule amendments developed.

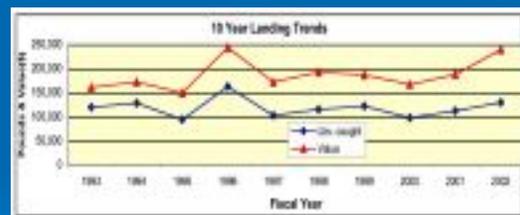
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Review of Gill Net Fisheries

- 52 lay net/gillnet commercial fishermen landed 129,511 pounds and \$239,550 in ex-vessel value in FY2002.
- As high as 162,718 pounds and \$243,948 in FY96.
- As many as 97 fishermen reported (FY97) over last ten years.
- Total statewide commercial landings in FY02 21.1 million pounds, ex-vessel value \$44.4 million. 3,100 licensees.
- Recreational/subsistence data lacking until recently (2003).
- Data shown include lay net, cross net, fence net, and set net. All use same method code. Do not include aquarium.

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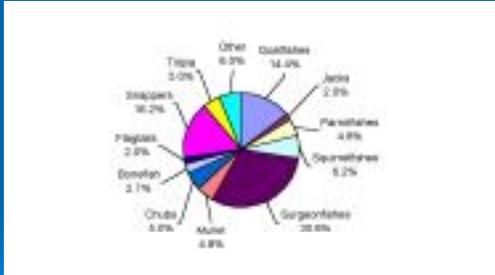
Long Term Landings/Value



Commercial landings and unadjusted values, from DAR commercial catch reports.

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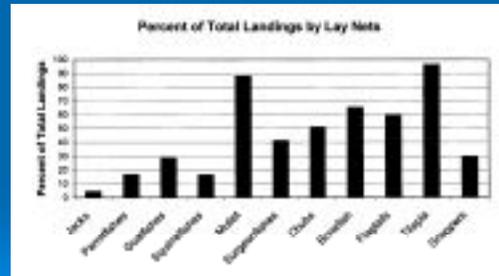
Catch Composition



Using aggregated commercial reported landings 1993-2002.

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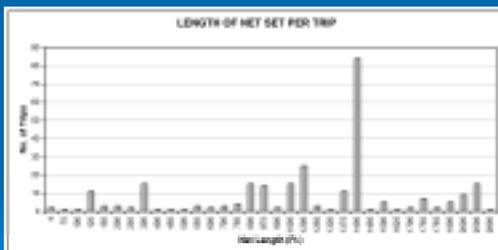
Contribution to State-wide Landings



Aggregated 1993-2002 Commercial Report Data for Inshore Areas

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Length of Commercial Lay Nets



DAR Commercial catch reports 10/02 - 6/03
Note: could include fence/bag nets

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Locations of Catch and Effort

Catch

"Lay net" landings are reported from all coastal areas of the state. The highest landings occur at, in descending order:

- Kaena Point to Haleiwa, Oahu
- Waianae to Kaena Point, and Kaneohe Bay, Oahu
- Olowalu to Kihei, and around Kahului, Maui
- South coast of Niihau

Effort in Trips

Highest concentrations of effort (in trips) occur at, in descending order:

- Eastern tip of the Big Island, and Kaneohe Bay, Oahu
- From Haleiwa to Waianae, around Kaena Point, Oahu and Olowalu to Kihei, Maui
- Around Kahului, Maui
- South coast of Kauai

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Public Demand for Lay Net Ban

- 2002 meetings report survey results:
 - 42% support net ban
 - 61% felt lay nets have a big impact on inshore reefs
 - 83% think State could manage lay nets better
- HMRFS surveyors report shoreline fishermen requesting ban of lay nets.
- Some attendees at lay net public meetings and minimum size public hearings say State should ban lay nets.
- Likely that bills calling for a lay net ban will appear in 2004 Legislature.

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Often Cited Reasons for Ban

- Lay nets are non-selective and kill fish out of season or undersized fish
- High bycatch of unwanted species
- Fish are wasted if lay nets are not checked frequently
- Discarded or lost lay nets damage coral and can ghost fish
- Lay nets entangle and kill turtles and possibly monk seals
- Lay nets are too efficient and leave little for other fishermen

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Current Proposal

- General state-wide ban on lay net use and possession. Ban would not include fence/bag, surround, akule, bait, aquarium or lobster nets, or lobster and crab traps.
- Exemption for specific areas where lay nets can be allowed. Criteria and sites to be developed.
- New requirements for lay nets based on 2003 report.
- Consideration for traditional/cultural use. Possible option for use of hand-made natural fiber nets.

Proposed Requirements for Lay Nets

- Maximum length 250 feet, no joining
- Maximum height 6 feet
- Mesh size 2 3/4" stretch (same as current)
- Minimum 500 feet separation between nets
- 4 hour max. soak time (current), new attendance requirement (within 50 ft. of net)
- Use a net once in 24 hours
- Registration, serial numbers, and tagging of each lay net
- Marker buoys

Protected Species Impacts



- Dead turtles have been found entangled in lay nets.
- State applied for an ESA Incidental Take Permit from NMFS for turtles and monk seals.
- Conservation plan required for ITP. Plan will include lay net restrictions.

Public Meetings

- Extend discussion of lay net management to include state-wide ban proposal and related options. Solicit public input and suggestions.
- State-wide coverage: Kaula'i, O'ahu (x3), Moloka'i, Lana'i, Maui, and Hawai'i (x2).

Meeting Schedule

- **December 8, 2003**, Monday - McCoy Pavilion, Ala Moana Beach Park, Oahu
- **January 5, 2004**, Monday - Waianae Public Library, Waianae, Oahu (6:30-9:00 pm)
- **January 20**, Tuesday - Wilcox Elementary School Cafeteria, Lihue, Kauai
- **January 22**, Thursday - Kealahou High School, Kona, Hawaii
- **January 23**, Friday - Waikeala High School, Hilo, Hawaii
- **January 26**, Monday - Mitchell Pauole Center, Kaunakakai, Molokai
- **January 27**, Tuesday - Lanai Public Library, Lanai City, Lanai
- **January 29**, Thursday - Maui Waena Elementary School, Kahului, Maui
- **January 30**, Friday - Benjamin Parker School, Kaneohe, Oahu

Review of Process

- Public Meetings (presentations, facilitated discussion)
- Compilation of Public Meeting Results
- Development of Criteria for Area Exemptions and Selection of Areas (if used)
- Analysis of Fishery Data
- Analysis of Options and Impacts
- Development of Draft Rule Amendments
- Request for Public Hearings

Other Coastal States and Gillnets

- Of 23 US coastal states, only Florida, Louisiana, and Texas appear to have total gillnet bans. Texas does not have it listed as a legal gear, so assumed banned. Georgia unknown.
- Generally, those states that allow gillnet use in some form have stringent restrictions. Recreational use often banned.
- American Samoa and Northern Marianas banned gillnets.
- Guam, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands have not banned, although Guam is considering it.

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For More Information

- Check DAR web site:
http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/laynet_mg_mt.htm
- Call Deborah Ward at DLNR Public Information Office, 808-587-0320.

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