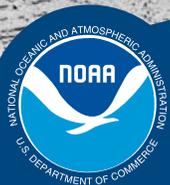


Barbless Circle Hook News

Issue 4, October 2010



NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
**PACIFIC
ISLANDS
FISHERIES
SCIENCE
CENTER**

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SWEET!

**Best finish in BCH
project history!**

See details inside.



NEWS FLASH – August 2010 – Hilo Casting Club Barbless anglers sweep the top 3 Ulua spots in Ohana Tournament.

At the Big Island Parks and Recreation 2010 Ohana Fishing Tournament, the top 3 ulua spots were swept by Hilo Casting Club anglers Kahana Itozaki (85.2 pounds), Desmond Valentin (82.2 pounds), and Jarrick Dasalla (70 pounds), all using barbless circle hooks. Although the Barbless Circle Hook project did not have an official “Barbless Challenge” within the tournament, these anglers took it upon themselves to fish responsibly. They are leading by example. The BCH project congratulates these fishermen on their accomplishments and thanks them for a job well done.



Kahana Itozaki, Ohana Tournament, 1st place Ulua Division, 85.2 lbs.



Desmond Valentin, Ohana Tournament, 2nd place Ulua Division, 82.2 lbs.



Jarrick Dasalla, Ohana Tournament, 3rd place Ulua Division, 70 lbs.

Keep up the Good Work! The 2010 season (October 2009 through September 2010) was filled with the usual barbless challenges, tournament outreach, and some new and interesting outings as well. The newest tournament outreach opportunities were at the Nanko’s Eastside Challenge on Oahu and the Hilo Jaycees Youth Fishing Day. The Lanai Keiki Fishing Tournament also tried out a new theme which made things interesting for everyone. There was even a “once in a lifetime” event that tested the resolve of the GT Masters Cup organizers and host club.

There were 5 barbless challenge tournaments during the 2010 season. The first Nanko’s Eastside Challenge, the second annual GT Masters Cup, the 12th annual Pole Benda, The Tokunaga Ulua Challenge, the 35th Hilo Casting Club annual tournament all rose to the occasion and had great participation and catches. The BCH project also continued with its fishing club, keiki and other outreach activities during the year.



In 2010 the barbless anglers once again did themselves proud. Here is a list of the outstanding catches for 2010.

BIG ISLAND

Big Island Ohana Fishing Tournament

Ulua Division 1st place - Kahana Itozaki, 85.2 pounds.

Ulua Division 2nd place - Desmond Valentin, 82.2 pounds.

Ulua Division 3rd place - Jarrick Dasalla, 70 pounds.

35th Hilo Casting Club

Ulua Division 5th placed - Leroy Nakano Santos, 62.2 pounds.

Ulua Division 7th place - Jarrick Dasalla, 61 pounds.

Ulua Division 8th place - Rody Dasalla, 57.8 pounds.

Omilu Division 2nd place - Riki Nakano, 18.4 pounds.

Other Game Division 1st place - Kahana Itozaki, kahala, 32.4 pounds.

Honorable mention - Kelsey Nacis Jr, 8 years old, 39 pound ulua.

Tokunaga Ulua Challenge

Ulua Division 4th place - Bernie Llanes, 66 pounds.

Ulua Division 10th place - Chuck Kaiawe, 45.7 pounds.

12th Annual Pole Benda

Omilu Division 1st place - Howard Yoshida, 17.8 pounds.

OAHU

2nd Annual GT Masters Cup

Omilu Division 2nd place - Honorio Madriaga, 9.9 pounds.

Oio Division 1st place - Bowe Lani, 7.8 pounds.



Ulua and Oio Tagging Projects



Ken Kunimoto's first tagged ulua.

Ulua Tagging Project

Overall this has been a slow year for papio with the oama coming in late September. In our recent tagging data, we have seen a number of papio between 10" to 14" fork length being tagged. Hopefully this is a good sign that more fish will be around during the rest of the year.

This year we have seen a significant number of ulua tagged, especially during this recent summer run. We had a good run of smaller ulua this year in the 15 to 25 pound range. In addition to the increase in the number of ulua fishermen tagging fish on their own, we've seen more ulua tagged during tournaments. Tournament organizers have teamed up with the Pacific Islands Fisheries Group to host a tagging category in their tournament competitions. The category has given anglers an opportunity to help conserve our papio/ulua resources while at the same time being able

to win something in a tournament. Our Special Thanks to the following participating tournaments in 2010: Oahu – The Bus Shoreline Family, Lanakila Meals on Wheels Papio, Family Feud Papio Trolling, Altapac - Obake Shootout, Waialua Boat Club Papio Trolling; Molokai – Top-Water Challenge; Hawaii – S. Tokunaga Ulua Challenge, Eddie Carvalho Pole Benders, Hilo Casting Club Shoreline, Parks & Recreation Ohana Shoreline Family.

Keep up the great work!

Clay Tam,
Ulua Tagging Project

Oio Tagging Project

A big Mahalo to all the participants of the Oio Tagging Project. Thanks to you, the project is a great success. Membership has risen to over 300 volunteer anglers and the numbers of reported tagged oio is over 800. Recently, some changes have occurred with the project. We are now located at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Sea Grant Program office. And we have a new website at <http://www.oiotaggingproject.com>, so please make note of the new URL.

Twenty-five recaptured oio have been reported since July 2009. Three of the tagged fish were at large for over three years, with one fish at large for over four years. Most of the recaptures occurred within 5 miles of the original tagging site. All anglers who reported



a recaptured tagged oio received a project logo t-shirt.

Kimberlee Harding,
Oio Tagging Project



Monk seals and marine turtles in 2010

Monk Seals

Approximately 150 Hawaiian monk seals inhabit the main Hawaiian Islands, and the number of documented fishery interactions with seals is increasing. In 2009, 12 seals were hooked by shorefishing gear, and a similar number has been recorded in 2010 through September. In some of these incidents, hands-on rescues were performed by monk seal scientists to remove the gear. As previous incidents have shown, such rescue attempts are potentially dangerous both for the animal and the researcher. The proactive voluntary use of self-shedding barbless circle hooks by fishermen could result in a less injurious outcome should an accidental hooking occur. – *John Henderson, Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program.*



Photo by Diane Pike.

Marine Turtles



Hawaiian sea turtle strandings have been documented by the Marine Turtle Research Program of PIFSC since 1982. There are currently more than 5,600 stranding reports of which approximately 1,400 involved fishing gear such as line, net, or hooks. Of those, a little more than half involved fishing line and around 20% involved hooks. In about half the strandings involving fishing gear, the turtle was successfully released alive after the gear was removed. Reports are also received from recreational divers about sightings of entangled or hooked turtles, but these cases are not included in the stranding reports. By using barbless circle hooks, fishers can help ensure

that sea turtles and other incidentally captured marine life may be easily released without much harm to the animal. Use of barbless hooks also reduces loss of fishing gear because the hook can be more easily dislodged instead of remaining in the animal when it is cut free by the fisherman. – *Shawn Murakawa, Marine Turtle Research Program.*



Kids' Activities



Kalaheo Elementary Fishing Club

The BCH project paid a visit to the Kalaheo Elementary Fishing Club on Kauai to brief new members. The club has persevered through budget crunches and furloughs and continues to provide motivation to the students. Mr. Joel Kawate, the fishing club teacher and mentor uses the club to teach club members to be responsible students. Kurt Kawamoto and Earl Miyamoto made a presentation to the club about protected species in Hawaii and benefits of using barbless circle



hooks and fielded all kinds of questions from the students. After the class, Mr. Kawate took some of the lucky students out on their regularly scheduled Friday fishing trip to a nearby beach. During the field trip the girls beat the boys...again! This seems to happen more often than not. It was good seeing the class again this year and I hope to get back there again next year for more barbless fishing.

Moanalua High School Summer Fisheries Course

The Moanalua High School's Summer Fisheries Course is held annually at the school and is open to the general public. Registration is limited to 15-20 students who must be entering or finishing grades 10-12. The course is generally scheduled

during June. It covers alien species, aquaculture and stock enhancement, fish stock assessments, cultural and traditional fisheries, the ecosystem-based approach to management, fishing and ocean safety, seafood safety, fish biology and habitats, fish identification, fish cleaning and preparation, fishery conservation and management, fishery economics and marketing, fisheries research, oceanography, protected species conservation and management, recreational fisheries, and much more.



The BCH project made a presentation to the class and attended the class fishing outing at the Kewalo Keiki Fishing Conservancy Kewalo Basin facility. The class used the opportunity to fish using barbless hooks while learning different methods they could use to tag for the reef fish species they caught during class. As is the tradition, there was also an informal competition between the boys and the girls, won by the girls. This seems to be a recurring theme.





2010 Tournament Outreach

The BCH project was proud to be invited to participate in a new outreach event, hosted by the Isles Fishing Club of Hilo. The club is composed of a bunch of fishing friends who also happen to be members of the Hilo Jaycees, and they came up with a way to give back to the community. Their **first annual Hilo Jaycees Youth Fishing Day** outing at the Hilo Bay front



park took place on March 27. It combined environmental and fishing education with a fishing tournament for the more than 50 kids. The BCH project staffed one of 5 stations involving a chance to learn or develop a skill, including topics like fishing knots, hook types, fishing lines, fishing rigs and their uses, fish identification, and the marine environment. It was a learning experience for the kids and their parents. After successful



completion of the stations, the kids got to fish along the Hilo bayfront in a barbless hook tournament. The parents and kids had a lot of fun fishing for a few hours, regardless of their catch. Although not many fish were caught, a fun



time was had by all participants. The top prize winners caught oio, aholehole, and weke. At the awards ceremony, additional prizes were given to kids who could answer questions on what they had learned that morning. It was a very successful event that is promised to be bigger and better next year.

The 6th annual Lanai Keiki Catch tournament on April 23 was hosted by the Maui Police Department, Lanai Division, Lanai Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Four Seasons Resorts on Lanai. It was focused on conservation this year. Officer Kim Massey and her merry band of helpers did

a great job as usual. In her absence, Executive Assistant Nalani Silva's staff pitched in and did a great job. In keeping with the new



conservation theme, a new "keep 'em alive and release them after the weigh in if you're not going to eat them" rule was introduced this year. Participants had to keep their catch alive so any fish not destined to be eaten could be released. Fish selected for eating had to be iced down. The live fish weigh in proved to be interesting, as many of the fish were very lively and managed to escape the weighing pan. Frisky fish also created a challenge for anglers posing for pictures and for Naoki's Gyotaku fish printing activities. However, the new rule added that



much more fun for the 120-130 keikis who signed up. Roi, taape, toau (3 in-

Tournament Activity – 2010



roduced invasive species), and eels (for safety reasons) were the only fishes not brought in alive. A “Roi Roundup”

was also incorporated into the tournament format. All roi were donated to the University of Hawaii for ciguatera research. The project gave a way lots of information and free barbless hook packs to all interested anglers.



The 13th Annual KMart Kauai Shoreline Fishing Tournament, held on July 18, was a big success, attracting over 200 adults and over 100 kids. This popular



summer family event is hosted by the KMart family of employees and management that has been giving back to the community for over a decade. Rain blessed the tournament early, then it finally let up and the event was standing



room only. The BCH project, the Pacific Islands Fisheries Group (PIFG), State Uluva Tagging Project, and Oceanit (the ciguatera test kit guys) did outreach to more than 300

folks attending the weigh in. This year at the weigh in there were quite a few uluas caught by the younger fishermen, giving their families and fishing mentors many



reasons to smile. There were also an unusual number of multiple ulua catches within families or groups of friends fishing together. The varied categories of qualifying fishes made for a very interesting weigh in and entertained the gathering of friends and families. There were large hinaleas, stick fishes, and eels of all kinds. Toau, pualu, oio, moana kali, papio, a’awa, and other fish were caught by young and old. Everyone had a

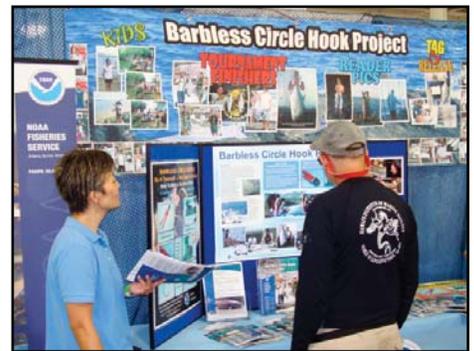


big smile on their face as they posed with their catches by the big red



KMart sign. As usual, Jarret Chytka, Sandy Higa and the rest of the gang gave out lots of lucky number prizes as well as the winning category prizes. Many thanks go out to the KMart gang for another job well done.

The BCH project also had an opportunity to do outreach at the **Hawaii Ocean Expo (HOE)** held at the Neil Blaisdell Exhibition Hall in February. The Ocean Expo outreach also included other NOAA



projects and volunteer efforts and was quite successful. A tsunami warning delayed the starting time and kept folks away early, but after the “all clear” was sounded, the action picked up as the public packed the exhibit hall until closing time. In spite of the tsunami time out, the BCH project achieved its goal of distributing all of its information and free hooks during the two-day event.



The BCH project also did outreach to the community at the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Fishers Forums and Hawaii Community Workshops on the Big Island, Maui, Oahu, and Kauai during the year. The project also maintained contacts with various fishing clubs and their activities and outings. If your club is interested in getting informational materials or free samples of barbless circle hooks, please feel free to call or write me.

The BCH project did outreach at numerous high profile fishing tournaments.

BCH Tournament Challenges

Nanko's Eastside Challenge, October 23-25, 2009

Nanko's Eastside Challenge is a brand new tournament hosted by the Eastside Outcastaz fishing club and was sponsored by Nanko's Fishing Supply and Izuo Brothers Ltd. The Eastside Outcastaz are supporters of the Barbless Circle Hook project and incorporate the Barbless Challenge in all tournaments they host. Nanko's Fishing Supply initiated this event to support Oahu's east side fishing community that regularly patronizes the store. The weigh in was held in the Nanko's parking lot on October 25, 2009. This in-between season tournament turned out to be more of a "challenge" than most expected.



Thirty-nine percent participated in the Barbless Challenge. Catches of white ulua and omilu were very sparse as summer, the most productive season, had long passed. The largest ulua weighed in at 20.1 pounds.

No qualifying omilu were weighed in. The majority of qualifying fish were round lipped oio (Albula glossodonta). The oio season was just starting and the big ones were still hiding out somewhere else. The anglers commented that they mainly caught small ones that did not meet the minimum qualifying weight of 3 lbs.



Other fishes caught included toau, papa p a p i o , barred jack, and eels. There were 2 oio (3.51, 3.74 lbs) caught using barbless circle hooks.

The tournament drew 66 anglers who fished long and hard to try to bring the big one to the scale.

Congratulations to Bowe Lani and Jeff Manatad on these barbless oio catches. There was also a non-qualifying toau caught on a barbless circle hook by up and coming junior angler James "Braddahs" Fujimori.

GT Masters Cup, February 26-28, 2010, April 16-18, 2010

Last year the GT Masters Cup was won by Francis Ganitano using a barbless circle hook. Could it be that this was going to be another great year for the BCH project and the Masters Cup? It was Saturday, February 27, 2010 and the **Izuo Brothers GT Masters Cup**



was successfully underway, into its second day. Then out of the blue, it happened. The Civil Defense alerts, warnings, and sirens went off, caused by an 8.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Chile. A tsunami alert was issued. The second annual GT Masters Cup shorefishing tournament had been blindsided by mother nature. The Eastside Outcastaz fishing club members were probably thinking, "OMG, what's going to happen

Tournament Activity – 2010



next?” Luckily, the club had already incorporated a disaster contingency clause in their rule sheets but that didn’t make it any easier to complete over 327 phone calls to participants with news that the tournament was being cancelled for safety reasons. The Eastside Outkastaz fishing club scrambled



to get the word out to the fishermen. The weigh in for fish caught prior to the stoppage of fishing was held as scheduled at the Neil Blaisdell Exhibition Hall at the HOE on Sunday. There were a few fishes caught before the cancellation.

The remainder of the tournament fishing was eventually rescheduled for the weekend of April 18th. The weigh in for part 2 of the tournament was held at Ben Parker Elementary on April 18th. There were more fishes weighed in this time. The barbless anglers tried



hard and in the end they posted some respectable finishes with congratulations going out to Honorio Madiaga who won second place in the omilu division with a 9.9 pound omilu caught on a barbless hook during the initial fishing period. Congratulations also go out to Bowe Lani for his 7.8 pound barbless oio that won the division.



12th Annual Pole Benda, May 27-30, 2010

The 12th Annual Pole Benda Invitational Tournament boasted 111 participants of which 39% (43 anglers) signed up for barbless. Fishing was slower than normal this year for everyone. The limited number of barbless catches meant that more barbless hook fish were tagged released than weighed in. The bright spot was that Howard Yoshida’s 17.8 lb barbless omilu took 1st place in the omilu division.



Howard also managed to catch and release 4 papios of which three were caught using barbless circle hooks. The overall tournament prize was won by Adam Harrison Jr with an 81.8 pound white ulua.



Tokunaga Ulua Challenge, June 10-13, 2010

The prestigious Tokunaga Ulua Challenge attracted 504 participants of which 42% (213 anglers) entered the Barbless Circle Hook challenge. Mike Tokunaga and

Tournament Activity – 2010



his gang of hard working volunteers made this year bigger and better than ever. They moved the venue to the large gym across from the traditional weigh in site of Aunty Sally's. The new location afforded the same drive-up weigh in luxury with a live video feed directly into the gym where the families could sit and watch in comfort. There was ample parking and seating for the crowd estimated at 500-600. The BCH project booth was manned by John Henderson, Earl Miyamoto, and Lisa White who did a bang up job communicating with the large crowd and giving away all the brochures and hooks.

There were 15 qualifying barbless catches with the largest ulua being a 66 pounder caught by Bernie Llanes that took 4th place in the Ulua division. Notable catches

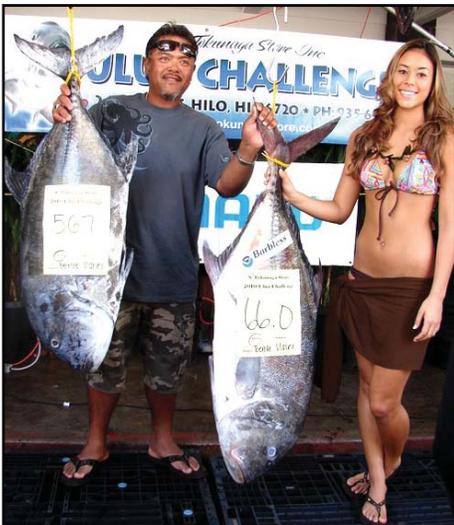


Photo courtesy of visualplugmedia.com.

were also made by Kahana Itozaki who had a very successful tour-



namment, weighing in 3 barbless fish - 2 white uluas (46 and 28.5 pounds) and 1 omilu (6.5 pounds) - while taking the Ulua Division's 3rd place with a 67.9 pounder using a standard circle hook. Chuck Kaiawe also placed 10th in the competition by catching a 45.7 pound



barbless ulua. Mitchell Taketa of Honolulu also had a good tournament catching 3 omilu on barbless hooks, two of which were weighed



in while the other was tagged and released. The largest ulua of the competition weighed 113.5 lbs and was caught by Max Pajo.



35th Hilo Casting Club Tournament, July 13-17, 2010.

The Hilo Casting Club's 35th annual tournament again provided a lot of excitement. The tournament activity area at the Naniloa Hotel has now taken over the entire lobby. The weigh in area has moved from the vehicle turn around fronting the lobby to the ocean side of the lobby. This year there was



50% (64 of 129 entrants) participation in the Barbless challenge. These barbless anglers brought 12 fish to the weigh in scales. In the Ulua division, the barbless anglers claimed the 5th, 7th and 8th places. Leroy Nakano Santos, a junior angler, took 5th place with a 62.6 pound ulua while Jarrick Dasalla, with a 61 pound ulua, narrowly beat out uncle Rody who weighed in a 57.8 pounder for 8th place.

Tournament Activity – 2010



Angler Riki Nakano captured 2nd place in the Omilu division with an 18.4 pound beauty. Hilo Casting Club member Kahana Itozaki claimed 1st place for Other Game



with a 32.4 pound kahala. Special recognition goes out to Kelsey



Nacis Jr., who at only 8 years of age landed a 39 pound ulua on a barbless circle hook. Many congratulations go out to the Hilo Casting Club members for supporting the project and for personally using the hooks during non-tournament outings.

Largest Barbless Circle Hook Ulua Award 2010 - Kahana Itozaki 85.2 pounds

The largest ulua caught using a barbless circle hook in 2010 was an 85.2 pounder caught by Kahana Itozaki during the Big Island Ohana Fishing Tournament. The largest BCH ulua of 2010 was also the winning ulua of the Ohana tournament. Kahana's accomplishment comes in just his second year



Kahana Itozaki, 1st place, 2010 Ohana Tournament. Photo courtesy of PIFG, Goda & Takimoto.

of trying out the barbless circle hooks. Kahana's award was presented by Eric Schwaab, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, and Kurt Kawamoto, Program Manager of the Barbless Circle Hook project, during the noon time festivities at the 5th Annual Fishing and Seafood Festival.

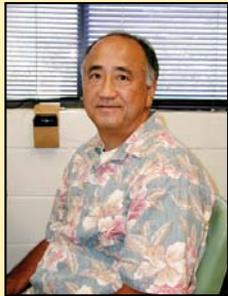
Kahana's accomplishment was closely challenged by Desmond Valentin and Jarrick Dasalla who also fished barbless during the Ohana. Together these Hilo Cast-



ing Club members completed the first ever barbless sweep of the top Ulua Division for any tournament.

**MONK SEAL
SIGHTINGS HOTLINE:
808-220-7802**

**MARINE TURTLE
STRANDING HOTLINE:
808-983-5730**



This issue is dedicated to Bert S. Kikkawa, Barbless Circle Hook Project research scientist and all around good guy, 64 years young. It is with great sadness that I pass along the news of Bert's passing. He was one of the scientists that did the hands-on research and helped start the Barbless Circle Hook project. He will be missed.

This year was another year of firsts for the BCH project. This year the project received the NOAA Bronze Medal Award, the highest honor that can be granted by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. The project was further honored and acknowledged by being presented to a national audience of recreational fishermen by our own Dr. Craig Severence (retired professor, UH Hilo) at the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit in April. These accolades are directly related to you, the fishermen of Hawaii, who have recognized the value of this gear modification and who have adopted its use for your regular shoreline fishing activities. The support of all of the fishing clubs, fishing tournament organizers, tackle shop owners, tackle wholesalers, individual fishermen, researchers, government agencies, and other partners has made this project a success. I can truly say that this one — is for you guys and because of you guys! It is a credit to your individual fishing ethics and forward thinking in terms of taking care of our shared resources. I am glad to say that we are all learning along the way.



Special thanks to Jake Kahiapo who successfully caught the project's first halibut on a barbless circle hook. Jake is a part-time student who works in Alaska at the Shelter Lodge during his summer breaks. Another first for the project!

I would like to congratulate Kahana Itozaki, Desmond Valentin, Jarrick Dasalla, Bernie Llanes, and the rest of Hawaii's anglers for trying the hooks and catching fish.

Finally, just a reminder that fishing responsibly and keeping our fishing areas clean is up to us. Thanks for being role models. . . . Kurt



Program Manager's Message

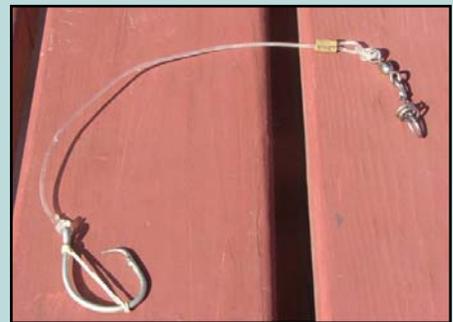
IT WORKS!

The ease of shedding a barbless circle hook has been on record now since 2007. Every year an average of 5-10 seals show up with a barbed circle hook in some part of their body. The undeniable "proof" that the barbless circle hooks could easily be self-shed comes from this 2007 Big Island incident which was documented by NOAA researchers.

"Well, we got super lucky last night and got the hook out without even touching the seal. I've attached two pics so you can see the hook in the mouth and the hook by itself. It appears that the fisherman may have cut off the barb so the seal actually pulled the hook out herself when she reacted to me getting close, she moved away and popped it right out!!"

A lot of unintended interactions can have a similar outcome if barbless circle hooks are used by responsible fishermen. Many thanks to the fisherman who used this one...you were definitely ahead of the game.

Please practice responsible fishing. Keep on using them. – Kurt



DIY barbless hook – not sold in stores.



Barbless Circle Hook Catches By You!



Barbless Circle Hook Catches By You!



Barbless Circle Hook Catches By You!



If you would like to have your barbless catches listed, please call, e-mail, or write me and I'll be glad to add it to the growing list of anglers and catches.

Send us photos of your barbless hook catches so we can add them to our growing photo list. Sending in your photos will give us implicit permission to use them for publicizing the NOAA Barbless Circle Hook Program.

For more info, contact: Kurt Kawamoto (808) 983-5326 or Kurt.Kawamoto@noaa.gov.
2570 Dole Street, Hon., HI 96822-2396.



PACIFIC ISLANDS FISHERIES GROUP



5TH ANNIVERSARY *Hawaii* **FISHING SEAFOOD** *Festival*



Sunday, October 10, 2010

9am – 4pm FREE Admission

Honolulu Fishing Village Pier 38

FREE Parking at HCC

www.hawaiiifishingfestival.com

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