



The Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish Fishery: An Overview of Economic and Social Characteristics

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Introduction

A brief overview of Main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish fishery:

- A traditional hook-and-line fishery
- Targets bottomfish that are a part of the 14-species bottomfish management unit species (BMUS) complex.
- Many fishermen target high-value *Deep 7* snapper and grouper.
- Since 2007, this fishery has been managed under a total allowable catch (TAC) regime.

In 2010, a cost-earnings survey was fielded to the Main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish fishermen with the following objectives:

1. Create an economic profile of the bottomfish fleet.
2. Evaluate their attitudes and perceptions of recent changes to management of the fishery.
3. Collect feedback on a potential catch share management system.

Survey booklets were mailed to 1,012 bottomfish fishermen that included:

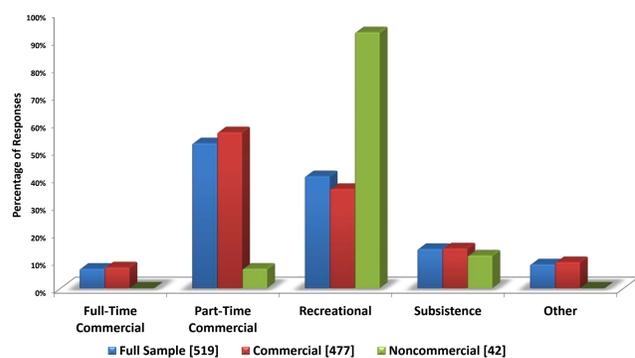
- 91% commercial marine license holders.
- 9% noncommercial fishermen with a federal noncommercial bottomfish permit.



519 surveys were completed for a 51% response rate.

Fisher Profiles

How do you define yourself as a bottomfish fisherman?

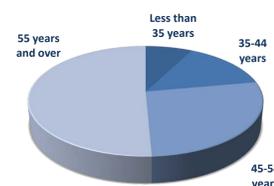


Mean years spent targeting bottomfish:

- Total Sample 19
- CML, Highliner* 23
- Non-Commercial 16

*Fishermen catching more than 1,000 lbs of Deep 7 bottomfish per year.

What is your age?



Fleet Activity

Mean vessel purchase price: **\$35,940**

92% Owner-operated

Mean horsepower: 201 hp

Mean boat length: 23.3 ft

Average trips per year: **15 trips**

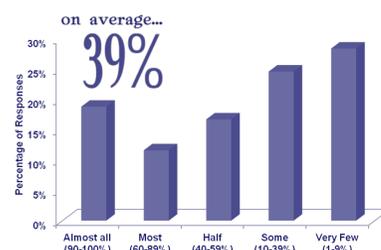
Average hours per trip: **11 hours**

Average crew size: **2 persons**

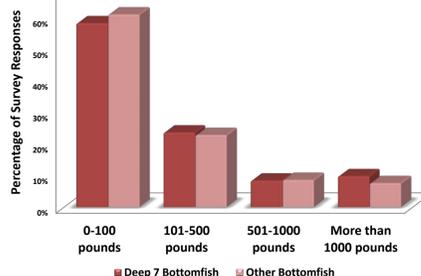
Average Vessel Characteristics. Vessel characteristics varied between subgroups of the survey population. On average, highliners were more heavily invested in their vessels with a mean vessel purchase cost of \$58,796, compared with non-highliner commercial fishermen (\$33,323) and noncommercial fishermen (\$33,752). The higher purchase price for highliner vessels reflects the larger average vessel size and engine power (27.8 ft and 295 hp), compared with non-highliner commercial fishermen (22.8ft and 191 hp) and noncommercial fishermen (22.0 ft and 178 hp).



In the past 12 months, how many of your fishing trips were primarily bottomfishing trips?



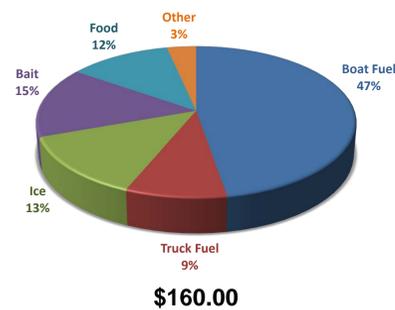
In the past 12 months, approximately how many total pounds of bottomfish did you catch?



What is your primary target when you bottomfish?



How much money was spent on your most recent bottomfish trip?



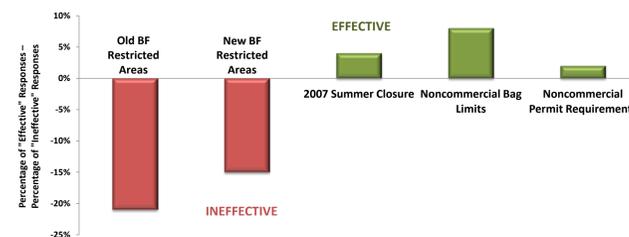
\$160.00

Median Cost by County...

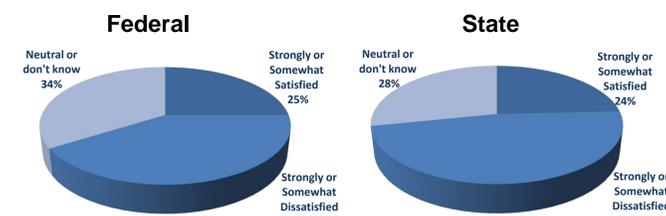
Kauai	\$120.00	Oahu	\$175.00
Maui	\$190.00	Hawaii	\$145.00

Management Perceptions

What is your opinion of previous and current management actions on promoting a sustainable bottomfish fishery in Hawaii?

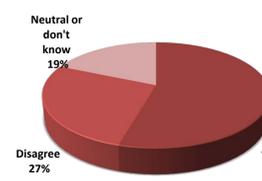


How satisfied are you with bottomfish management agencies?

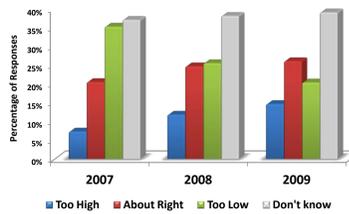


TAC and Catch Share Opinions

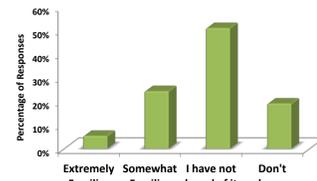
A total allowable catch (TAC) limit was needed to maintain a sustainable bottomfish fishery?



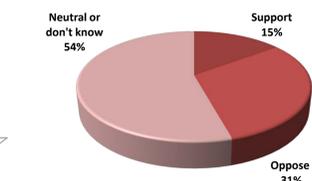
Do you feel the TAC in each year was set...?



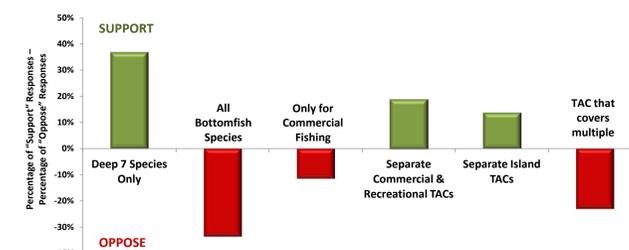
How familiar are you with 'catch share' systems?



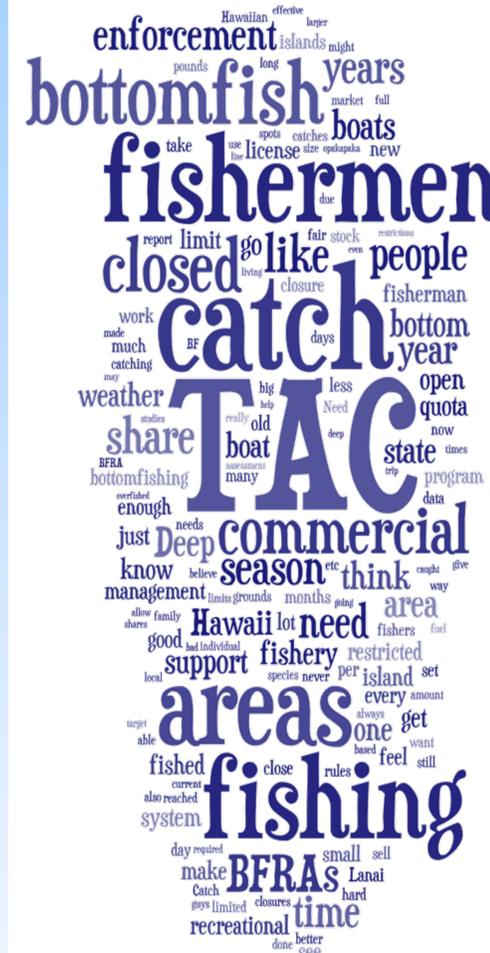
Please indicate your level of approval for establish a form of 'catch share' system.



What characteristics of a TAC program would you support?



Comments



Conclusions

- ❖ The bottomfish fishery is a complex mix of commercial, recreational, cultural, and subsistence fishermen.
- ❖ Bottomfish fishing has important economic, social, and cultural linkages.
- ❖ Perspectives from fishermen should help guide management.
- ❖ Collecting economic and social information provides improved understanding of the full implications of fisheries management.

Hawaii Bottomfish Survey 2010

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**Photos courtesy of Kurt Kawamoto