

The Hawaii-based Longline Logbook Summary Report January-March 2007¹

Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Program

All Federal longline logbook data for fishing trips completed in the first quarter of 2007 (Q1-2007) by Hawaii-based longline vessels have been received and processed and are summarized in this report (Table 1). The report includes most data from trips that began late in the first quarter and continued into the second quarter of 2007, but data from such trips may still be forthcoming; hence, this report should be considered preliminary. Updates will be made available in the online edition of the report at <http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/fmsd/reports.php>.

The shallow-set fishery targeting swordfish was reopened on January 1, 2007. The fishery had been closed since March 20, 2006 to protect sea turtles. Under Resolution C-06-02 of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, the annual quota for U.S. longline catches of bigeye tuna in the Pacific Ocean east of 150° W longitude was revised from 150 metric tons during 2004-2006 to 500 metric tons in 2007. The annual catch limit is intended to help conserve bigeye tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

During Q1-2007, 121 longline vessels were active, 5 more than in Q1-2006 (Fig. 1). They recorded 373 trips (31 fewer than in Q1-2006), including 315 using deep-set gear to target tuna and 58 using shallow-set gear to target swordfish (Fig. 2). They deployed about 8,083,000 hooks, 260,000 more than in Q1-2006 (Fig. 3). They fished mainly outside the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (58% of total hooks set) followed by the EEZs of the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) (24%), the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) (10%), and the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA) (8%).

In Q1-2007 the Hawaii longline fleet caught a total of 30,549 bigeye tuna (Fig. 4); 58% were caught outside the U.S. EEZ, 19% in the MHI EEZ, and 13% in the NWHI EEZ. The bigeye tuna CPUE on tuna-targeted trips was 4.1 fish per 1000 hooks (Fig. 5). The total albacore catch and CPUE on tuna-targeted trips were 4,204 fish and 0.4 fish per 1000 hooks, respectively (Figs. 6-7). The total yellowfin tuna catch (4,405 fish) and CPUE on tuna-targeted trips (0.5 fish per 1000 hooks) were substantially lower than in Q1-2006 (Figs. 8-9). During Q1-2007, the total swordfish catch (13,633 fish) was similar to the swordfish catch in Q1-2006 (Fig. 10) and the swordfish CPUE on swordfish-targeted trips (16.1 fish per 1000 hooks; Fig. 11) was lower. The total Q1-2007 striped marlin catch (3,085 fish) and CPUE on tuna-targeted trips (0.4 fish per 1000 hooks) were slightly higher than in Q1-2006 (Figs. 12-13). The total blue marlin catch and CPUE on tuna-targeted trips were 496 fish and 0.1 fish per 1000 hooks, respectively (Figs. 14-15). A total of 21,311 sharks were caught in Q1-2007 of which 2% (497) were kept. The catch of blue shark (19,023 fish) comprised 89% of the total shark catch (Fig. 16). Blue shark CPUE on shallow-set swordfish-targeted trips was 15.0 fish per 1000 hooks (Fig. 17).

Revised graphs of annual catch and fishing effort during 1991-2006 are presented in Figs. A1-A7. Additional quarterly and annual statistics for the Hawaii longline fishery are included in the online edition of the report.

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