

# The Hawaii-based Longline Logbook Summary Report April-June 2007<sup>1</sup>

Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
Fishery Monitoring and Analysis Program

All Federal longline logbook data for fishing trips completed in the second quarter of 2007 (Q2-2007) 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 second quarter and continued into the third 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>.

In Q2-2007, the shallow-set fishery targeting swordfish continued to operate under annual limits on allowed interactions with loggerhead and leatherback sea turtles – 17 and 16 interactions, respectively. Similarly, the deep-set tuna fishery operated under an annual quota of 500 metric tons for U.S. longline catches of bigeye tuna east of 150° W longitude. The quota was established under Resolution C-06-02 of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission as a measure to conserve bigeye tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

During Q2-2007, a total of 124 vessels were active in the fishery, 11 more than in Q2-2006 (Fig. 1). They recorded 398 longline trips (41 more than in Q2-2006), including 363 using deep-set gear to target tuna and 35 using shallow-set gear to target swordfish (Fig. 2). The vessels deployed about 9 million hooks, 930,000 more than in Q2-2006 (Fig. 3). They fished mainly outside the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) (60% of total hooks set) followed by the EEZs of the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) (19%), the Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIAS) (17%), and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) (4%).

In Q2-2007, the Hawaii longline fleet caught a total of 32,878 bigeye tuna (Fig. 4); 57% were caught outside the U.S. EEZ, 30% in the EEZ of PRIAS, 11% in the MHI EEZ, and 2% in the NWHI EEZ. The bigeye tuna CPUE on tuna-targeted trips was 3.8 fish per 1000 hooks (Fig. 5). The albacore catch and CPUE on tuna-targeted trips were 1,376 fish and 0.16 fish per 1000 hooks, respectively (Figs. 6-7). The yellowfin tuna catch (3,785 fish) and CPUE on tuna-targeted trips (0.44 fish per 1000 hooks) were substantially lower than in Q2-2006 (Figs. 8-9), whereas the Q2-2007 swordfish catch (7,244 fish) was substantially higher (Fig. 10). The increase in swordfish catch is attributed to the longer swordfish season this year; in 2006, the season was cut short when the limit on loggerhead interactions was reached. In Q2-2007 the swordfish CPUE on shallow-set swordfish-targeted trips was 14.3 fish per 1000 hooks (Fig. 11). The Q2-2007 striped marlin catch (2,586 fish) and CPUE on tuna-targeted trips (0.28 fish per 1000 hooks) were substantially lower than in Q2-2006 (Figs. 12-13). The Q2-2007 blue marlin catch and CPUE on tuna-targeted trips were 1,145 fish and 0.13 fish per 1000 hooks, respectively (Figs. 14-15). A total of 12,813 sharks were caught in Q2-2007, of which 5% were kept. Blue shark comprised 71% of the total shark catch (9,066 fish) (Fig. 16). Blue shark CPUE on shallow-set swordfish-targeted trips was 3.4 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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