

What Constitutes a Bucket of Live Bait in the Hawaiian  
Pole-and-Line Fishery for Skipjack Tuna, Katsuwonus pelamis

By

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There are many estimates of live-bait buckets and scoops in the various live-bait, pole-and-line fisheries for skipjack tuna, Katsuwonus pelamis, in the Pacific. It becomes apparent that if these estimates are to be used to assess the baitfish stocks or in baitfish economic studies, we have to define more precisely what constitutes a bucket or scoop of live bait. Therefore, it was thought necessary to define a bucket of live bait for the Hawaiian skipjack tuna fishery. Many researchers have used 3.2 or 3.6 kg (7 or 8 pounds) as the weight of the anchovy or nehu, Stolephorus purpureus, in a bucket of live bait in their studies of the Hawaiian pole-and-line fishery for skipjack tuna. No information on the methods by which their figures were derived nor a good description of a bucket were given.

Up until the mid-1960's, the bait was bucketed from the bunt of the net into the live baitwells of the skipjack tuna fishing vessels. Since then, several vessels have been dipnetting the bait from the bunt of the net into buckets and then placed into the baitwells--this information was given by several fishermen who were interviewed.

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