

Barbless Circle Hook News

Issue 7, Dec 2013



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

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**Barbless
ulua wins
S. Tokunaga
Ulua
Challenge
again!**

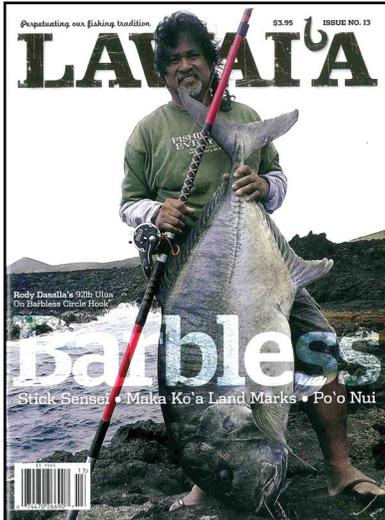
See details inside.

Science, Service, Stewardship

2013 Happenings



The Barbless Circle Hook Project had another busy year with lots of tournaments and “barbless challenges”. The project has continued to support keiki events on Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, and Lanai. The adult events also spanned across the island chain doing outreach on all of the major islands. We have added one new tournament this year – the Lolly Agliam Molokai Master’s Fishing Tournament.



Anglers across the State have been making some nice catches using barbless circle hooks during the summertime tournaments. Other anglers have been fishing barbless during their regular fishing outings and have emailed us pictures of their holo holo catches. Some catches of note are Rody Dasalla’s 92 pounder caught in March. Troy Haspe quickly followed up with a 55 pounder of his own. Kauai angler Kevin Pongasi emailed pictures of his barbless ulua catches too. Rumors of Kauai being the 100 pounder capitol of Hawaii in 2013 were heard as by the end of summer the coconut wireless had the Kauai total up over 20 and counting for just the fishing community alone.

Dean Uyetake of Hilo had a great ulua fishing season. While fishing in the S. Tokunaga Ulua Challenge he caught a 93.4 pound ulua on a barbless circle hook to take the top honors. The story was that he caught it on the first day of the competition and it got pinned down for about half an hour making for an interrupted 2-part battle. While it was pinned down he landed another smaller 46-lb ulua that hit his other line right after the first strike got pinned down. Some guys got all the luck! After landing the smaller ulua he noticed that the other line was again free and the fight was on. Boosting hard to keep it from getting pinned down again the huge fish finally succumbed to the pressure. After landing it Dean saw that it was caught on his barbless slide. Dean beat out the field of just over 500 competitors in this grueling 4-day test of character. His awesome catch narrowly beat out Rody Dasalla’s 92 pounder caught earlier in the year to take the Barbless Circle Hook Project’s top annual award – the 2013 Largest Barbless Circle Hook Ulua.



Dean Uyetake, largest 2013 BCH ulua, 93.4 lbs.



The 2013 season was another very busy one. One brand new tournament took place this year – the First Annual Molokai Master's Fishing Tournament, with a Barbless Challenge. We welcome the tournament into the family and look forward to being invited over for many more. Another new partner is the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on Kauai. The facility is open to the public for fishing and the use of barbless circle hooks is encouraged because of the presence of numerous monk seals and green sea turtles.

This year I would like to remind everyone to try using barbless hooks when turtles or monk seals are seen in your selected fishing area. We can make a difference in the outcome should any accidents happen. In our everyday fishing efforts we should also remember as fishermen we interact with more fish than anything else (duh!). When fish break off for so many reasons, have you ever thought about how a barbed hook will affect a fish that has gotten away? Stuck with a barbed hook in their mouth, can the fish go about their business of eating, growing, and reproducing? Are they doomed? What do you think happens to them? The other scenario where use of the barbless circle hook can make a difference is when we check bait and lose the rig in the process. Many times we leave a baited hook on the now "abandoned" rig. When that all-too-familiar scenario happens, marine life could come along and get accidentally hooked and would have to deal with trying to shed the hook unassisted. Can we as fishermen be part of the solution in this case? It probably happens more often that we think.

Special thanks to all of the tournament organizers, clubs, and supporters who have consistently spread the message about responsible fishing. Using barbless circle hooks, cleaning up the shoreline, being courteous to other beach goers, and taking only what you can use show that fishermen are part of the solution. Keep up the good work! It really is all up to US. Thanks for being role models...Kurt



Program Manager's Message

BARBLESS WORKS!

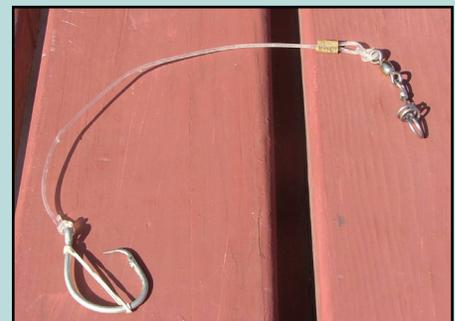
The fact that barbless circle hooks shed easily has been on record now since 2007. Each year an average of 5-10 seals show up with a barbed circle hook in some part of their body. The undeniable "proof" that the barbless circle hooks could easily self-shed originates from this 2007 Big Island incident 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 barbless hooks.

– Kurt



Barbless circle hooks aren't sold in stores.
Here's how to make your own...





Oio Tagging Projects



Photo by Oio Tagging Project.



Oio Tagging Project, Hawaii Cooperative Research Unit, UH

Mahalo to everyone who contributed and participated in the Oio tagging project over the years! Between 2008 and 2013, 1660 fish were tagged and 7 were recaptured in 2013. Our volunteers have increased to 590 fishermen and we are still growing on a weekly basis. We have been receiving more tagging reports from Molokai, Lanai and Maui as well. Many of you have stopped by our booth at fishing tournaments, expos, and festivals. Be sure to look out for us again in the upcoming events! To all the Hawaii Fishing News

readers, an article in the May 2013 issue synthesized many of our findings over the progression of the project.

Recently, we have enlisted the help of several local fishing-supply stores as pick-up locations for tagging supplies. If you're interested in a tagging kit or need more tags, please contact us and hopefully there is a participating store near you where you can pick up your supplies.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or requests!

<http://www.hawaii.edu/oiotaggingproject/>
Hawaii.oio.tagging.project@gmail.com
 808-956-8350

TROPHY VS LOMI

O'io Bonefish

If you recover a tagged o'io call 265-4962

Be prepared to provide the following critical information:

1. Your name, address, and telephone number.
2. Capture date, island, and fishing location.
3. Tag number.
4. Fork length – measure from tip of the nose to "V" in the tail.
5. There are 2 species - Sharp Jaw *Albula virgata* which has a bright green/yellow dot under the pectoral fins, and Round Jaw *Albula glossodonta* has no green/yellow dot.

Reward
 In return for your valuable information, you will receive a free special edition t-shirt featuring original artwork (seen above) by artist and fisherman Mike Sakamoto.

PIFG
O'io Tagging Project

For More Information

PACIFIC ISLANDS FISHERIES GROUP

150 Hamakua Dr. PBN# 430
 Kailua, HI 96734

Ph: 808 265-4962
 Web: fishtoday.org



MARINE WILDLIFE PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH BCHP

Earl Miyamoto



Who are we? A special project at the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Staff: Earl Miyamoto (Oahu) and Mimi Olry (Kauai).

What's our main focus? The prevention and reduction of monk seal and sea turtle interactions with humans.

Our purpose? To reduce the impact of accidental fishery interactions with monk seals and sea turtles.

How are we doing that? By encouraging recreational fishermen to fish barbless!

Why fish barbless? Increasing numbers of Hawaiian monk seals and honu in nearshore waters make it likely that you will encounter one of these animals while fishing. To reduce your impact should an interaction take place try fishing barbless. Using a barbless hook accomplishes two very positive things. First, should you hook a turtle or seal, injury to the animal will be reduced. Second, you will be sending a very strong message that you are aware of the animals, respect their presence, and are taking proactive measures to mitigate any possible interactions.

A barbless hook makes dehooking an animal much simpler and reduces the trauma to the animal. It also increases the likelihood of the animal shedding the hook on its own. In the event you do hook an animal you can attempt to remove the hook or cut the line as short as possible but, only if it can be done without putting your personal safety at risk.

Fishing barbless makes the nonfishing public aware that we, too, care about the animals which inhabit the ocean we fish to feed our families and recreate, and that we consider a healthy marine environment an essential and vital part of the enjoyment of living in Hawaii.

Mahalo to all of you who already fish barbless and to Kurt for allowing us to partner with his project!

Contact us with questions about seals or turtles at (808) 832-5017.





Monk Seals



Approximately 150-200 Hawaiian monk seals inhabit the main Hawaiian Islands, and monk seals have been documented interacting with several fisheries, including set nets, traps, spearfishing, and shoreline fishing. Approximately 10 seals become accidentally hooked by shore-fishing gear every year in Hawaii. In 2013, as of mid-September, 10 seals had been accidentally hooked by either large circle hooks or small 'damashi' hooks. One of the hookings resulted in the death of the affected animal because the hook that had been swallowed was near the stomach. Of the remaining 9 incidents, 5 seals lost the hook without assistance and 4 had the

hook removed by NOAA personnel. The proactive voluntary use of a self-shedding barbless circle hook by fishermen could result in a less injurious outcome should an accidental hooking occur.—*John Henderson, Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program, NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.*

Marine Turtles

The Marine Turtle Research Program's stranding response recently reached a significant milestone in the release back into the ocean of the 808th turtle rescued and rehabilitated since the program's inception in 1990. This turtle in particular was aided by good samaritan members of the public in Kailua Bay on Oahu: a life-threatening fishing line that had been strangling the body and a front flipper was carefully removed; the turtle was promptly released and swam away vigorously. This is the best outcome for a turtle that interacts with fishing line: Others have a flipper so severely damaged that amputation surgery by a veterinarian is required (62 cases since 1990). The most common species rescued is the green turtle with 96% of instances, followed by



Fisherman removes hook and line from lightly hooked green turtle.

small numbers of hawksbill, olive ridleys, and one case of a loggerhead. Most of the turtles rescued (63%) stranded on Oahu, followed by the Big Island (19%), and Maui (11%). Of the 13 categories recorded as cause for live stranding thus far, the most common is indeed line strangulation (274 of the 808 turtles or 34% of the total), followed by interaction with fishing hooks, usually stuck in the body of a turtle without actual entanglement by fishing line (128 cases, or 16% of the total). The third most frequent category for a rescue is entanglement in fishing net either from coastal recreational fishing or net debris originating from the high seas (105 instances, or 13% of the total). First funded in 1990 as a Congressional Initiative by the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye, sea turtle stranding response and research is an important facet of the NOAA PIFSC Protected Species Division (PSD). The success of this activity is a direct reflection of the partnerships and excellent cooperative dedication between many State, Federal and private agencies and, as in this instance, the public. Reports are also received from recreational divers about entangled or hooked turtles, but these reports are not included in the stranding reports. By using barbless circle hooks, sea turtles and other incidentally captured animals may be easily released without much harm to the animal. It may also prevent loss of fishing gear to the fishermen if the hook can be dislodged instead of being taken with the animal.—*Ms. Shawn K. K. Murakawa, Protected Species Division, NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.*



Kids' Activities

Mililani Middle School Fishing Tournament March 12, 2013

The Barbless Circle Hook (BCH) project and the Pacific Islands Fisheries Group (PIFG) were invited to attend the Mililani Middle School's Fishing Club meeting. The very popular school club (40+ members) meets every Tuesday after school. Mr. Tracy Momohara runs the club and, along with many dedicated volunteer helpers, provides not only fishing guidance and support but also teaches them responsibility and respect that carries over into their everyday lives.

The BCH project made a short presentation on barbless circle hooks. Clay Tam from PIFG followed up with a presentation dealing with responsible fishing and the Fisherman's Pledge. The project is providing continuing

support to the club as educating the next generation of fishermen and fisherwomen on responsible fishing gives them a good head start to keeping fishing sustainable for future generations.

Currently, plans are underway for the MMS Fishing Club's Annual Fishing Tournament which is scheduled to take place May 3-5. Thank you to Mr. Tracy and the MMS Fishing Club for inviting us over every year and for making the tasty snacks that are enjoyed by all.

Lanai Keiki Catch April 26, 2013

The 9th Annual Lanai Keiki Catch Fishing Tournament was held on the beach at Hulupoe Bay (Manele Bay). The camping areas started filling up



Friday afternoon as families of the keiki anglers chose their camping and fishing spots. Friday night was the first chance the kids got to fish, and the harbor was the place to go for most of the excited anglers. They all checked in early and got their live catch buckets and aerators/batteries (donated



by PIFG) for the conservation-themed event. There were many catches of all kinds. Prizes for many kid-friendly categories were awarded. For those not as lucky, there were lots of free raffle prizes for everyone. Donations from many local stores and businesses as well as off-island tackle shops made this an exciting event and a learning experience for the kids.

All of the participants went home winners with new stories and experiences gained from the family time spent together. For a look at pictures from the annual event





please visit the unofficial Barbless Circle Hook Facebook page at [https://](https://www.facebook.com/barbless-circlehook)

www.facebook.com/barbless-circlehook. For an inspiring story on the background of the event please read Lawaia magazine Issue No. 11, pages 30-31.

We are looking forward to next year's 10th anniversary tournament, which is sure to be an extra special one, since the Four Seasons Resorts and new owner of Lanai Island Larry Ellison have pledged to support next year's tournament based on reading the Lawaia article about the tournament's community-oriented origins. P.S. You should see the incredible beach bathroom renovations.



Mililani Middle School Fishing Club's 2nd Annual Fishing Tournament May 5, 2013

The Mililani Middle School Fishing Club held their 2nd annual fishing tournament on May 3-5. The Sunday afternoon weigh-in was held in the school



dining hall. This tournament was a conservation-themed event with a mix of catch, photo, and release entries as well as traditional tournament weigh-in entries. The participants were highly encouraged to use barbless hooks. The overall tournament drew around 20 club-member entries this year (club membership~40). Lots of pot luck food at the weigh-in added to the festivities.

The catches ranged from the much sought-after papio to all kinds of colorful reef fishes. Lots of fishes were caught, but the high number of catch, photograph, and released fish allowed the weigh-in to run pretty quickly. All of the catch-and-release fish photos were requested to be emailed to the BCH project. To spur student interest, the identification of and information on their catches will be emailed back to each student. Perhaps there is a budding



fisheries scientist among these fishermen. Congratulations to all the participants for a job well done.

WPRFMC's Moanalua HS Summer Fisheries Course June 11, 2013



The annual Moanalua High School Summer Fisheries Course sponsored by the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council is in session this year. This course seeks to expose and encourage our local kids to engage in our local fisheries in some way. The summer course is hands-on in many respects but also relies heavily on guest lecturers from the industry and government subject matter experts. The students learn many different skills and the workings of fisheries science and management. The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center staff provides expertise in many subjects. The BCH project does a presentation every year on the use of barbless circle hooks and on fisheries-dependent monitoring and data.



More Kids' Activities



MHS Summer Fisheries Course - Blaisdell Pond Project June 20, 2013

The annual Moanalua High School Summer Fisheries Course is in full swing. This year their hands-on summer project was a baseline study of the Blaisdell ponds at the Neil Blaisdell Center. The students were given the tasks of conducting basic water sampling and testing, identification of the algae and fish, tag and release of the resident uluas, and collection of baseline information from the tagging activity. The entire project tested their collective abilities to understand,



plan, and successfully execute a scientific study. The final product

was a report that analyzed and summarized the collected data.



population in one of the ponds. Kawamoto was the fish ID advisor and tagging participant on the project. The students used a short seine net to round up the fish in the mauka diamond head pond for a fish ID, measurement, and count. They also participated in surrounding the uluas in the main big fish pond then scooping, tagging, and releasing them. Most of the large jacks were tagged and released with a few that were allowed to remain untagged as the control group. Lengths, weights, and tag numbers were recorded by

As part of the study, the students participated in the assessment of the fish

the students. The tagged fish were then monitored on a regular basis to document the post-tagging recovery. Thus far all of the tagged uluas have healed up nicely. Observations on tag loss, algae coverage on the tags, tagged fish recovery times, and potential post tagging problems affecting the fish will help direct future tagging projects. This project represented a great monitoring opportunity as most fish are tagged and released, never to be seen again.

3rd Annual Keiki Fishing Tournament "Molokai Style" June 29, 2013



This family-style keiki tournament held on Molokai was a great opportunity to support a good cause while doing a lot of barbless outreach to increase awareness of community responsibility with respect to protected species. The kids are our future and getting to them early is the key. The event was very successful as it was centrally held at the only harbor on the island just adjacent to the town. The organiz-



ers estimated the participation at 300 children. Aunties, uncles, parents, and grandparents were all there to cheer and help their



keiki try to catch anything. Free entry and registration encouraged participation by all. Each child was issued their own pre-rigged bamboo poles, weigh-in buckets, and bait—all provided for free. They were encouraged to keep the bamboo poles for use in their next fishing adventure. Free lunch was provided while the results were tabulated. Throughout the tournament, sliced watermelon, snacks, and ice cold refreshments were shut-



tled along the shoreline to the kids and adults by the Moanalua High School Fisheries class who were on Molokai as part of their summer curriculum. The Moanalua students also provided fish weigh-in shuttle services and manned a gyotaku station where

the tournament entrants could make and take home a free t-shirt decorated with a print they made themselves.

The catch-and-release tournament required everything to be weighed in live, making this an interesting proposition in some cases. Many different kinds of fish were caught. The largest was a moray eel which refused to stay in the little weigh-in bucket. Prizes were given to every one of the kids, but regardless of any catch everyone went home a winner in terms of gaining a little more precious family time together.

3rd Annual New Hope Hawaii Kai Keiki tournament July 20, 2013

The New Hope Hawaii Kai 3rd Annual Keiki Fishing Tournament was hosted by Mike Kim - the church's self-proclaimed "Fishing Minister." This year 136 keiki and their parents were treated to a morning of fun and fishing using bamboo poles armed with

barbless hooks. Bamboo poles, tackle, and bait were provided. Pre-fishing announcements informed the congregation that due to safety concerns it was to be all barbless fishing for the day (last year one child accidentally got hooked). Information about the catch-and release and the safety-first format of the tournament was highlighted just prior to the start of fishing. This year a fair number of fish were caught and released, the park was cleaned, and everyone was fed chili rice and hot dogs for lunch with shaved ice for dessert. Mike and his crew made sure that all of the keiki went home with prizes. There was even a very special fishing hole for the youngest keiki where it was like shooting fish in a barrel. Everyone was a winner and went home with smiles on their faces.





Other Events

7th Annual Fishing and Seafood Festival Oct 7-13, 2012



The 7th Annual Fishing and Seafood Festival drew an estimated 23,000 people. The BCH Project had a successful outing distributing all of the sample packs of barbless circle hooks and nearly all of its outreach materials. On the main stage during the noontime ceremony, Samuel Pooley and Kurt Kawamoto presented angler Bryson Kawaihae with the 2012 award for the largest barbless ulua. Bryson did some personal outreach to promote the use of barbless circle hooks in the booth during the morning hours. Many anglers



took advantage and asked questions about his experiences. His ulua weighed in at 85.3 lbs and took first place in the S. Tokunaga Store Ulua Challenge. This year in the Tokunaga, the 4 largest ulua weighed in were all caught on barbless circle hooks. This is the second tournament to have the top spots swept by barbless anglers.

Fish and Dive Expo March 10, 2013



This was the first year that the project participated in outreach at this popular event. Don't know if it was the rainy day or the truck show next door or all the great deals that brought the crowd out. Dave Itano, the new PIRO Recreational Fisheries Specialist, kindly shared his rec-

reational fisheries booth with the BCH project and the Human Dimensions (sociology) team. An estimated 3500 fishing and diving enthusiasts attended the one-day expo. Dave's wall-sized display attracted many to the NOAA booth to meet and talk story with him in his new role. Many old and new faces stopped by to get the latest Barbless Newsletter and a free pack of barbless hooks. Many of the new faces came from the diving community as many of them occasionally fish in their non-diving free time. The new venue provided a great opportunity to interact with additional ocean users.

Hawaii Ocean Expo April 14, 2013



Volunteers of the Barbless Circle Hook Project successfully completed outreach at the 5th Annual Hawaii Ocean Expo. Although the Saturday attendance was spotty at times, there was lots to see and do. Sunday is usually the big day for attendance as the fishermen in the GT Masters Cup Fishing Tournament come down to see the weigh-in. This year was no exception as the GT Masters attracted 289 anglers and their families to the Expo.



**Friends of Kewalo
June 1, 2013**



Photo by Friends of Kewalos.

The Friends of Kewalos held their annual Kewalo Basin beach cleanup and fundraising activity. More than 300 hardworking people showed up to give back to their beloved park. The Barbless Circle Hook Project was invited again to outreach to the fishermen and the general public. Additional educational booths, a dance routine by Life 360, prize giveaways, shaved ice, and more were available to the motivated crowd. Another successful community event.

Friends of Roland Galacgac Benefit Tournament June 2, 2013

The Friends of Roland Galacgac Benefit Tournament went off without a hitch. Roland is the President of the



Atlapac Fishing Club. This tournament was a fundraiser to help offset his mounting medical expenses. The entire shoreline fishing community pulled together for this event. Shorecasting clubs, tackle shops, wholesalers, friends, and many fishermen made this a special event. Atlapac's continued support for the Barbless Circle Hook Project from the absolute beginning made an invitation to this event very special. Barbless was one of only two projects invited to participate and outreach.



The tournament was a success attracting approximately 160 entrants. The weigh-in brought together all of the resources from multiple clubs such that there was a sound system for music and tournament announcements, multiple platform and hanging scales for fishes of all sizes, computers and printers for keeping track, a plate lunch tent, and a whole lot of donated raffle prizes with values of up to \$750. The largest ulua of the day was a 49.9-lb white ulua but the real winner was Roland and the fishing community. For more pictures please visit <https://www.facebook.com/barblesscirclehook>.





BCH Tournament Challenges

Atlapac Obake Halloween Shootout October 14, 2012



This tournament is one of the annual tournaments that the Atlapac Fishing Club does every year to give back to the shorefishing community. Oahu anglers all look forward to participating in this late season tournament. This year the “Barbless Challenge” attracted 31% of the 301 participants. Lots of fishes were caught and the weigh-in line was busy for almost the entire weigh-in period. The line went clear around the corner of the POP building. This is the start of the small game season so most of the catches were on the smaller side and of the smaller species. There were 6 barbless anglers who weighed in 8 fish with the kids almost matching the adults. There was one barbless oio brought to the scales that had been tagged by the PIFG oio tagging project (green tags). This fish was one of the 3000 oio tagged as a part of the PIFG Oio Tagging project ([\[day.org/cooperative-research/oio-tagging-project\]\(http://www.fishto-day.org/cooperative-research/oio-tagging-project\)\).](http://www.fishto-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Only one barbless fish placed in the tournament. Justus Lani took 4th place with his 2.97 lb barbless oio in the children’s 9-12 division. Children’s 9-12 division first place winner Kade Kaupiko had the largest overall oio weighing in at 8.16 lbs which beat all of the adults. This was a great tournament with lots of entrants and catches.

3rd Annual Oahu Transit Services October 21, 2012

The 3rd Annual OTS Family Fishing Tournament was a big success with lots of ono food and live local musical entertainment. The small family style fishing tournament for the OTS family and friends turned out to be mainly a kids fishing event as they totally outfished the adults. The results were not surprising as many of the OTS employees were first-time or novice anglers themselves and signed up mainly for their kids. The kids also got rewarded as the organizers made sure each one who attended the weigh-in took something home regardless of catching any fish. Forty-one percent of the total anglers signed up for the barbless challenge. The only barbless catches were made by 2 future fishermen in the kids category. Kai Mu-



rata (0.95lb white papio) and Dillon Wakui (2.05 lb. oio) brought their barbless catches to the scale early during the weigh-in period. I guess they were just setting the example for the adults to follow.

Kakaako Kasting Club Annual Invitational Oio Tournament November 11, 2012

The Kakaako Kasting Club held their annual Invitational Oio Tournament weigh-in at Pier 38. There were 100 participants of which 37 signed up for the “Barbless Challenge”. Catches were pretty good but spotty as some anglers had no



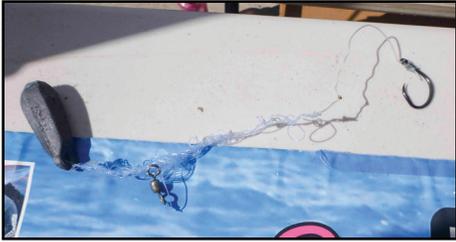
strikes or catches while others who were at the right place brought in multiple catches. The tournament minimum size of 5 lbs to qualify a fish for the weigh-in resulted in many smaller ones being released. Although there were lots of nice oio caught, only 2 came up on barbless circle hooks. Keoni Gaudia (5.85 lber) and Chris Wachi (5.65 lber) were the lucky anglers. One long-time barbless angler reported that he took a break and didn’t check his line for over 1.5 hours when it got stuck and was surprised when the fish un-



Tournament Activities – 2013



was subsequently landed. The result was a non-qualifying 2.5 lb oio and



a tangled up mainline, lead line, and hook line. There were also a good number of papio and uluas, with the winning ulua going 41.9 lbs.

8th Annual Atlapac Invitational Oio Tournament December 4, 2012

The last tournament for the calendar year 2012 was the 8th Annual Atlapac Oio Tournament. The weigh-in was held at President Roland Galacgac's house. Despite the windy weather, a lot of fish were weighed in. Some guys had "da spot" and others, like me, just went fishing for fun. This small



tournament targeting oio had nearly 85% of the anglers sign up for barbless. Quite a number of oio were caught on barbless. The largest oio was caught on a standard hook by Tanner Puahi, a 7.53 lb oio. Second and third place were oios caught by Atlapac Club members Winston Icarl (5.92 lbs) and Mike Marks (5.72 lbs) with barbless hooks. The most unusual and sought-after catch of the tournament was Mitchell Taketa's 2

nice kumu that were caught on his barbless circle hooks.



The weigh-in went smoothly with most of the oio heads and guts being donated to Kim Harding's Oio Tagging Project. The one ulua caught by Varrick Sabino (47.3 lbs) during this mid-winter tournament made this an even more exciting event. Thank you to Atlapac for wrapping up the year in style.

The 4th Annual Eastside Challenge January 13, 2013

The 4th annual Eastside Challenge had a total count of 75 anglers, of which 39% signed up for the "Barbless Challenge". Not surprisingly the majority of the fish were oio. Only 1 omilu was weighed in and there was only 1 ulua. The format for the tournament's weigh-in is a bit different from many tournaments. The anglers check in their fish early and get their assorted goodies. The coolers are lined up and the weighing is done

one after another from the start of the weigh-in time until all are completed. This way everyone can see all of the fish. This is the same format that the Eastside Outcastaz use annually at their GT Masters Cup tournament at the Hawaii Ocean Expo (April 13-14, 2013). If you are there from the beginning you get to see all of the fish with no interruptions.



The barbless anglers weighed in 3 fish. James "Braddah" Fujimori got a nice 5.33-lb oio. Klint Oshima weighed in a respectable 3.73-lb oio. Lastly Glenn Manuel and son Scott brought a 3.21-lb white papio to the scales. Congratulations to these lucky anglers.



GT Masters Cup April 14, 2013

This year the GT Masters attracted 289 anglers, and 101 of them signed up for the "Barbless Challenge". For this tournament, the minimum size for a qualifying catch is based on the L-50 size of the tournament's target species to promote sustainability. The organizers make



it a point to explain their rules and in that way provide education to the public while letting them have fun. This year the largest fish weighed in was a whopping 100.4-lb white ulua caught by Preston Maze. The huge fish brought the audience to its feet, won the tournament, and for the first time ever took the \$1000 bounty for a 100 pounder caught in the tournament. This large catch was



Photo by hanapaafishing.com.

just the icing on the cake as this year the tournament had the most fish caught and the most brought to the scales ever...but unfortunately none of those qualifying fish were caught on a barbless circle hook. That's fishing. There were barbless fish caught but they were too small to qualify. However, they were hung for all to see to promote the project.

There were a lot of stories of the fish only biting on the barbed hooks. Ulua were hooked by the barbless anglers but lost. One angler who only used barbless circle hooks reported that he had a 60 lber ready to gaff when the line suddenly broke due to chafing on the rocks. Another long-time barbless angler said his estimated 50 lber was close to gaffing when his fishing partner was swept off the rocks by a big wave

and he had to immediately cut the line and go save him. Interestingly there was one unusual fish caught. It looked to be a hybrid of a white ulua



and an omilu. The angler reported that it had the coloration of an omilu on the posterior half of the dorsal portion of the body while alive and having the white ulua coloration and features in other parts. He immediately suspected a hybrid. Flesh samples were taken by the HIMB research project on omilu feeding guild identification (Jeff Drazen). The results on any DNA identification should be interesting. The suspected hybrid was disqualified from the competition by the tournament rules. There was also one recovery of a tagged oio and the UH Oio Tagging project was there to retrieve the tag and information.

14th Annual Pole Benda May 26, 2013

The 14th Annual Pole Benda tournament weigh-in was held in Kamuela, Hawaii at the Thelma Parker Gymnasium. The barbless anglers more than held their own with multiple catches as well as some big fish. The largest barbless catch was made by veteran angler

Kahana Itozaki who weighed in a 79.6-lb white ulua. His other 4 uluas weighed in at 27.7, 34.3, 22.4, and 60 lbs. In addition to these catches,



he also tagged and released 9 additional uluas for science while fishing barbless circle hooks in this tournament. Kahana's nephew Jordan Kilkenny also weighed in 5 uluas all caught on barbless circle hooks as well. Kahana and many other of the senior fishermen in the community have been mentoring their younger fishing partners and



club members in the use of barbless circle hooks. There were also some nice omilu caught on barbless as well. The overall tournament big ulua winner was David Bello who caught an 89.4-lb white ulua on a standard circle hook.

Tournament Activities – 2013



S. Tokunaga Ulua Challenge June 15, 2013

The S. Tokunaga Ulua Challenge, the largest shoreline tournament in Hawaii, hosted 515 anglers this year.



The Barbless Challenge (54% signed up) anglers had another great year. The weigh-in went from 11 am to 2 pm on Sunday. There were so many fish that even after the 2 pm cutoff the trucks were still lined up around the gym and deep into the parking lot. It was after 3 pm when it was all said and done.

At 11 am the first fish to be weighed in was a 24.4-lb barbless ulua caught by Morgan Carter. Coincidentally the last fish of the day was also a barbless ulua. This one a 19 pounder



caught by Rob Libanos. In between these the barbless uluas and omilulu kept coming at a steady pace. In the end there were a total of 21 fish weighed in that were caught on barbless circle hooks. The barbless and the tournament highlight was Dean Uyetake's winning ulua, a 93.4 pounder. The Barbless Challenge anglers took 1st and 3rd in the Ulua division and 3rd in the Omilulu division. Another great showing.



KMart 16th Annual Shoreline Tournament July 21, 2013

The Kmart on Kauai held its 16th Annual Shoreline Tournament on Sunday July 21. A total of 152 keiki and 240 adults entered in this popular community tournament. This is the only tournament in Hawaii that has its own barbless category as well as the NOAA "Barbless Challenge". This year, along with the usual species, there was an unusual catch of a kala on a barbless hook. This herbivore was caught using seaweed for bait. Looks like



barbless hooks are being adopted for unexpected species and uses. This year there was an abundance of fish caught and the weigh-in line was still very long even after the noon cutoff time. The tournament winning fish was caught on a



standard circle hook. The large ulua weighed in at 91 lbs and was caught on the west side of Kauai. Reports from fishermen on Kauai say that an abundance of ulua over 100 lbs was being landed on Kauai this year.

1st Annual Molokai Masters Ulua Fishing Tournament August 11, 2013

The First Annual Molokai Masters Ulua Tournament weigh-in was held this year to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the passing of one of Molokai's master ulua fisherman, Lolly Agliam. Lolly is a member of the Hawaii Fishing News 100 Plus Club, catching his 135-lb ulua on February 4, 1977. This family-run tournament honors and celebrates the life and times of Lolly Agliam by perpetuating his passion for ulua fishing and sharing it with the community. This is the first tournament

Tournament Activities – 2013



where all of the anglers signed up to try barbless. The weather was not ideal and it tested all of the passion and commitment of all the contestants. Fishing was tough and in the end new angler Eric Bush caught the winning ulua, a 13.6-lb beauty, to become the first winner of the Molokai Masters. It could be beginner's luck but it looks like Lolly's passion just signed up another lifetime mem-



ber. Congratulations to Eric for his winning catch. He gets to take home the perpetual trophy of a Molokai original hand-carved mango wood ulua that is really "ulua" sized. Although there were no catches using barbless circle hooks, this small tournament will provide the core group of experienced barbless anglers for future Molokai-based tournaments.

17th Annual Ohana Shoreline Fishing Tournament August 18, 2013

The Big Island Department of Parks and Recreation 17th Annual Ohana Shoreline Fishing Tournament held its weigh-in at the Honokaa gym.

The official number of participants was reported as > 400 anglers, from keiki to kupunas. This tournament is truly a community event with 7 different divisions of competition with up to 15 winning places in a division. The Barbless Circle Hook project held a "Barbless Challenge" within the tournament which yielded 8 different kinds of fish caught with barbless hooks. A barbless circle hook used by Kahana Itozaki, President of the Hilo Casting Club and long-time supporter of the project, caught the



It also highlighted the importance of our kupunas to the family unit by hosting a kupuna division that in itself encourages the passing on of accumulated fishing knowledge. Awareness of introduced/invasive species was highlighted by hosting an invasive species division.

Rounding out the community support was the annual fundraising efforts at the tournament by the local high school volleyball team. Snacks, lunches, and drinks were sold during the event. Tournament results can be found at <http://bigislandnow.com/2013/08/21/ohana-shoreline-fishing-tournament-results/>.

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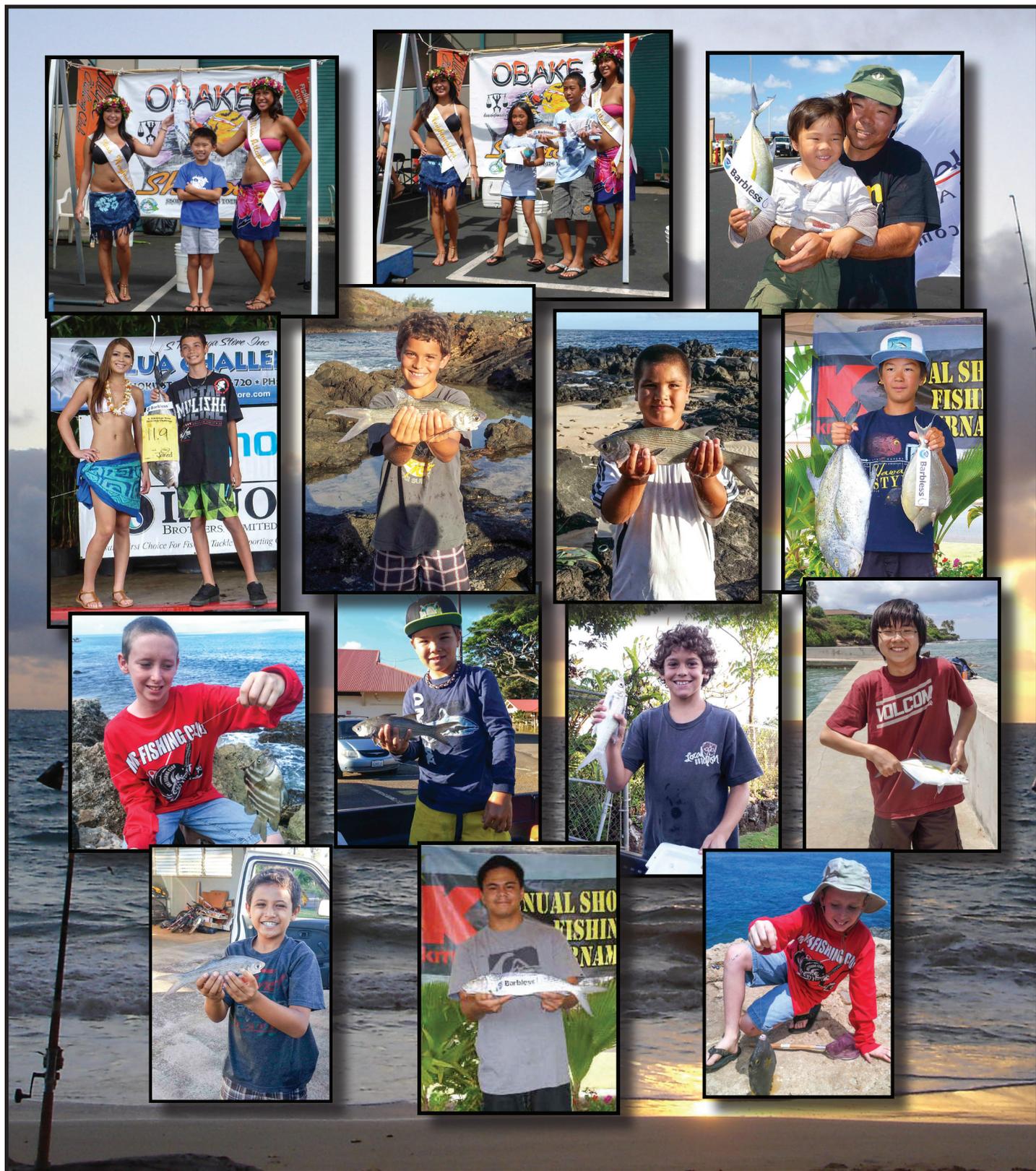
Barbless Circle Hook Catches By You!



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) 725-5326 or Kurt.Kawamoto@noaa.gov, NOAA/IRC, NMFS/PIFSC/FRMD/Kurt Kawamoto, 1845 WASP Blvd., Building 176, Honolulu, HI 96818.



8TH ANNIVERSARY
Hawaii

Sharing Our Ocean Resources, Sharing Responsibility.
A Pacific Islands Fisheries Group Community Event

FISHING SEAFOOD

Festival

Sunday, October 13, 2013 • 9am-4pm
Pier 38 Honolulu Fishing Village

FREE Admission • FREE Parking: Shuttle Services
from Honolulu Community College



Featuring Mānoa DNA



Week of Events

FISHING FOR HAWAII'S HUNGRY (October 5-6)

• A FREE trolling tournament benefiting the Institute of Human Services (IHS). All fish will be donated to help feed Hawaii's hungry. Weigh-in @ Pier 38 on Sunday, October 6 from 10am-12pm. Enter to win Round Trip for 2 to Las Vegas and other great prizes by Sept. 27. Email: mvfishing@gmail.com.

SEA TO ME TASTING NIGHT (October 5)

• Pōmaika'i Ballroom at Dole Cannery - Iwilei; 6-9 pm. Enjoy an evening of fresh local seafood prepared by Hawaii's top chefs, such as Alan Wong, and culinary students to raise funds to support the Culinary Institute of Pacific and Pacific Islands Fisheries Group. Graze through 12 seafood tasting stations and enjoy fine beverages, entertainment and a silent auction. Limited tickets are available for \$100. For more information visit www.fishtoday.org.

KEIKI ART CONTEST

(Deadline to enter Sept. 9)

• This years theme will be asking students to create art around the PIFG Fishing Pledge for the Future. Keiki 3rd-12th grade and their schools are eligible to win savings bonds and other prizes. Visit www.HawaiiFishingFestival.com for details.

Presented by



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Event details www.hawaiifishingfestival.com

Mahalo
to our
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NOAA BARBLESS CIRCLE HOOK PROJECT

Kurt Kawamoto, (808) 983-5326 or (808) 725-5326 (eff 7 Mar 2014), kurt.kawamoto@noaa.gov

