

Barbless Circle Hook News

Issue 8, Dec 2014



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

Inside This Issue

2013 Happenings	2
Manager's Corner	3
Manager's Message	4
Research News	5-8
Outreach Activities	9-15
Tournament Activities	15-20
Barbless Circle Hook	
Catches by You!	21-27



**Tokunaga
Ulua
Challenge
produces
2014's
largest
Barbless
Ulua!**

See details inside.

Science, Service, Stewardship





Lots of tournaments and outreach this year. We were on Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Maui, and the Big Island. There were 2 new tournaments in 2014, the Haaheo Fishing Club's First Annual Best of the Best Invitational Tournament and the 2014 Kalaupapa Fishing Tournament. The "Best of



the Best" tournament challenged the fishermen to compete at a higher level while keeping conservation and catch and release in mind by limiting the competitors to 1 fish per category with a minimum qualifying weight of 7 lbs. Tough requirements but there were still lots of fishes weighed in by the many fishermen that answered the challenge. The Kalaupapa Tournament is not held annually so the invitation was a great opportunity for the Project to provide outreach to the residents, visiting topside and off-island anglers. This special tournament showcased the beautiful and rugged coastline and its many fishing areas as well as the local emphasis on caring for and using the resource wisely. The ocean is the resident's icebox, and all fish caught were donated for use at the tournament banquet.

This year the barbless anglers sent in a lot more pictures. Barbless catches from Kauai to the Big Island and everywhere in between were submitted. Keiki to kupuna anglers were all successful. Mr. Kawate's fishing club members made every barbless outing count as the moi were biting on Kauai. Congratulations on catching many delicious dinners for your families.

The largest barbless circle hook ulua (72.9 lbs) was landed by Davin Sumic during the S. Tokunaga Ulua Challenge. Davin's ulua placed 8th overall in the Ulua Division. Congratulations to Davin on his barbless circle hook accomplishment. Thanks for using the hooks and showcasing what they are capable of catching. Good Luck next year!...Kurt



There were lots of barbless catches in 2014. Big and small they caught them all. If you were out there this year you couldn't help but notice lots of small fish along the shoreline. This year there were reports from fishermen and divers from every island about the abundances of reef fish recruits that were seen. Even the newspapers and television news reported stories about over-the-top abundances. This super recruitment pulse of reef fishes is a good sign of things to come as they all continue to eat and grow into the fishery. Target species as well as prey species benefitted.

Most reef fishes spawn in the water column and let the ocean currents take care of the next generation until it is the right time to settle out on the reefs to begin the next phase of their lives. Spawning occurs every year but the currents and ocean conditions are variable which means that regardless of the number of larvae, if they are not at the correct place and at the correct time to settle out on the reefs then they will remain offshore in the currents and are doomed as prey. This year a lot of lucky fish weren't left hanging out in the deep. We'll catch them for years to come. Even now in November shoreline anglers on all islands are still catching juveniles of many species, so please pay attention to the State size and bag limits.

The green sea turtle and the main Hawaiian island monk seal populations continue to increase. Growing populations potentially mean more interactions as the number of shoreline anglers also continues to grow. Hundred-pound uluas are caught on all islands annually, indicating a healthy resource. Fishing is not catching and we do lose many big ones (and little ones as well), but using barbless circle hooks can help them quickly shed the gear and go about their normal activities with minimal injury. Ditto for the turtles and monk seals should any unintended interaction occur. Lose a rig lately? It is a fact of life in shorefishing. We can help anything that gets caught or entangled on this lost rig by using barbless circle hooks. Think about it.

Have you noticed that the National Marine Fisheries has not prosecuted any fishermen for accidentally hooking any protected species? Mahalo to the fisherman who self-reported hooking a monk seal earlier this year. His action saved the seal's life, provided a role model, and gave us fishermen a gold star for helping. Usually the fishermen get a black mark whenever a protected species is seen with a hook or line attached. Please embrace the responsibility that all of us have to be the stewards and guardians of all of the resources that make up the complex web of life on which we depend. As stewards of the resource, fishermen have the opportunity to practice what most people only talk about. Please don't forget to pick up your trash. Thanks for being role models...Kurt



Program Manager's Message

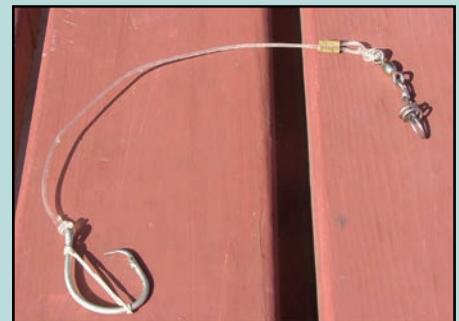
BARBLESS WORKS!

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.

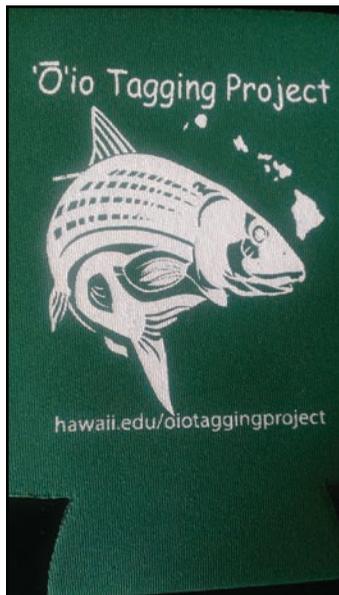


Barbless circle hooks aren't sold in stores.
Here's how to make your own...





Oio Tagging Projects



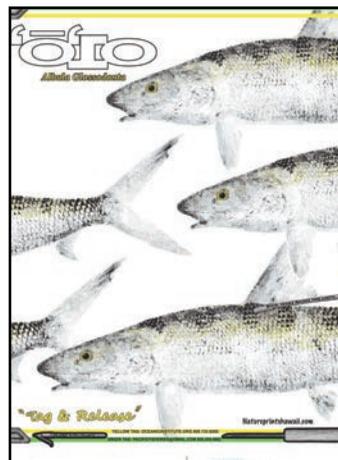
Oio Tagging Project, Hawaii Cooperative Research Unit, UH

Mahalo to everyone who has contributed and participated in the 'O'io tagging project over the years! There have been 3420 fish tagged from 2003 to 2014 and 67 recaptures. Our volunteers have increased to 770 fishermen and we are still growing on a weekly basis. We have been receiving more tagging reports from the Big Island, Kauai, Molokai, and Maui as well. We encourage everyone to report a recaptured fish to receive a complimentary t-shirt or beer koozie. These recaptures tell us a lot about how 'o'io grow and

provide insight into their movement patterns.

Hanapaa (Kalihi), Roy's, Charley's, Brian's, and Nanko Fishing Supply have been extremely helpful in participating as pick-up locations for tagging supplies. If you are interested in a tagging kit or need more tags, please contact us and we can have your supplies sent to one of the participating stores or mailed to your location.

Many of you have stopped by our booth/tent at fishing tournaments, expos, and festivals. Be sure to look out for us again in the upcoming events and tournaments! We also have two publications that are under review that focus on the life history characteristics of both 'o'io species and the findings from the 'O'io Tagging Project.



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

<http://www.hawaii.edu/oiotaggingproject/>

Hawaii.oio.tagging.project@gmail.com

808-735-8290

PIFG Oio Tagging Project—Update

This project focused on locating offshore populations of oio, which were

then targeted to be captured and held for tagging through the use of the traditional Hawaiian commercial fishing method, known locally as the deep-water bag net fishing. This fishing method and proven high-volume tagging methodology adopted from high-volume tuna tagging projects were successfully brought together in this first-of-a-kind tag-and-release research project. A total of 3000 oio were tagged





during the project. Both species of oio that make up the Hawaii fishery (non-commercial and commercial) were tagged.

As of November 2014 more than 80 oio tag recoveries were reported. Initially, short term (less than a year) tag recoveries indicate that the large nearshore schools of oio off the Waianae coast of Oahu travel and freely intermix along the coast. The species composition of the schools also showed that they can be species specific or mixed as well. For the oio at liberty, the longest so far has been approximately 19 miles of travel in 1322 days from Maile Pt., Waianae, to Iroquois Pt., Pearl Harbor. Prior to that the longest distanced travel outside of Waianae was to Kaleloa, Barbers Pt. These longer-term recoveries (more than 1 year) could provide insight on the growth and movement of this important local resource.

Some growth-rate information was generated from the short-term recaptures where time at liberty ranged from 2 days to 1,322 days. Growth rates ranged from zero to 2.8 inches of growth. Future

tag recoveries will yield more information on the growth rate of both species.

Oio Tag Recovery Information

If you catch an oio with a green PIFG dart tag, please give us a call at (808) 265-4962 or send an email to pacificfisheries@gmail.com with the following information: Tag Number, Date of Capture, Time, Location, Species (round or sharp jaw, see example), and Fork Length measurement. Please remove and keep the tag for return until PIFG contacts you.

For recovering and reporting a PIFG tagged oio, you will receive a one of a kind oio t-shirt (artwork created by the late Mike Sakamoto) along with an informational letter stating the initial tagging information collected of when, where, and fork length.

We appreciate your help, support, and cooperation. Together we can help sustain our fisheries by getting involved with research efforts, by living the Fisherman's Pledge and by fishing responsibly. Brian Funai, PIFG Oio Tagging Project. www.fishtoday.org

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

Oio – 2 species in Hawaii

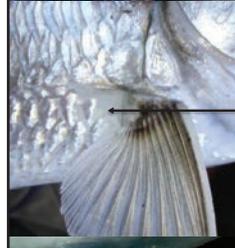


Bright green/yellow dot behind fin

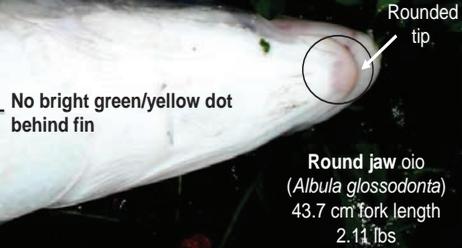


Sharp jaw oio
(*Albula virgata*)
48.6 cm fork length
3.1 lbs

Pointed tip



No bright green/yellow dot behind fin



Round jaw oio
(*Albula glossodonta*)
43.7 cm fork length
2.1 lbs

Rounded tip



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



The Hawaiian monk seal population in the main Hawaiian Islands numbers 150-200 individuals 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 shorefishing gear every year in Hawaii. During 2014, as of the end of October, 10 seals had been accidentally hooked by either large circle hooks, small 'damashi' hooks, and in one instance a large 'J' hook. One of the hookings resulted in death of the affected animal because the hook had been swallowed and perforated a lung. Of the remaining 9 incidents, 4 seals lost the hook without assistance and 5 had the hook removed by NOAA personnel.

One of the successful treatments was made possible because of prompt reporting by a fisherman that a seal had become hooked on his gear. Because of the report, NOAA was able to respond quickly and treat the seal—treatment in this instance required general anaesthesia of the seal to remove the hook from deep in the animal's esophagus. Without the timely response made possible by the fisherman's self-reporting, the seal might have died.

The proactive voluntary use of a selfshedding barbless circle hook by fishermen could result in a less injurious outcome should an accidental hooking occur. And self-reporting of hookings and other interactions could save a seal's life. – John Henderson, Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program.

Marine Turtles



Hawaiian sea turtle strandings have been documented by the Turtle Research Program of PIFSC since 1982. There are currently about 6,900 stranding reports of which approximately 21% of all turtles were involved with fishing gear such as hook, line, and/or net. Almost half of all fishing gear interactions involved hook and/or line. As of September 2014, more than 700 (11%) reports of turtles were determined to have fish hook and/or fishing line as the main cause of the stranding. Since the 1990s, fishing gear interactions have

increased and is now the second highest cause of stranding for the Hawaiian green sea turtle, with fibropapillomatosis (26%) being the highest known cause. Reports are also received from divers about entangled or hooked turtles. 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

36th Annual Lahaina Yacht Club Keiki Fishing Tournament, November 7, 2013



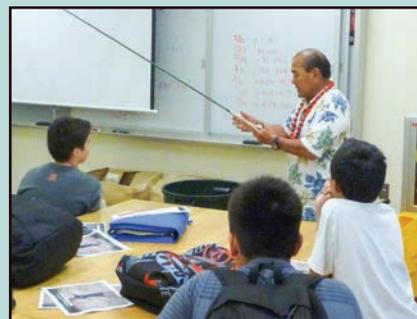
Earl Miyamoto set up his table at the Lahaina Yacht Club Keiki Fishing tournament and immediately drew a crowd of interested young anglers. State biologist Skippy Hau and Earl tag teamed this very well attended event which was free to all children 12 and under. Each of the 242 eager young anglers were

given a free t-shirt, a bamboo fishing pole, and bait while the supply lasted. They had to bring their own bucket though. There were all kinds of reef fish caught and many prizes given out. This was the first year that the BCH project was invited to this event and the organizers were very supportive of the project and its goals. We'll be seeing you there again next year!



Mililani Middle School Fishing Club Outreach, April 1, 2014

The BCH project visited the Mililani Middle School's Fishing Club to meet all of the new members. Kawamoto made the why barbless? presentation to the 5th and 6th grade club members and Earl



Miyamoto held a hands-on fly casting lesson for the entire club. The club will be having their annual fishing tournament later this month which will be a head to head, one day, one beach tournament format. Many of the club members have committed to using the barbless hooks during the fishing activity. The weigh in will be held at the school cafeteria on Sunday April 27. The BCH project will be there for all the excitement and the potluck spread of tasty food.

Mililani Middle School Fishing Club Tournament April 27, 2014

The BCH project supported the Mililani Middle School Fishing Club's annual fishing tournament. This year there were approximately 15-20 students and their parents who participated. Most of the fishing was done at Haleiwa's Alii Beach on Saturday. The emphasis was on sustainable fishing so catch and release was promoted as well as our barbless circle hooks or barbless hooks in general. There



More Kids' Activities



were lots of small fishes caught and released. A few of the larger ones were brought to the scales to be weighed and measured. There were 10 categories and all but the oio category had qualifying fish. The new adult (parents) division went unfilled as only the kids caught fish this year. There was one fish that was recorded under the barbless category. Austin used a barbless hook to catch and release an aholehole.

Mililani Middle School STEM Night, May 2, 2014



The BCH project participated in the Mililani Middle School's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) night where

the school showcases their efforts related to promoting these subjects. The BCH project was fortunate to be invited by the school Security Officer Mr. Tracy Momohara who runs the Fishing Club. The Fishing Club and the BCH project had a joint display on our activities.

The STEM night attendance was rather good despite the very rainy conditions. A couple hundred interested students, parents, and other interested persons attended the event in the cafeteria. On display were student projects which ranged from robotics to science fair projects to 3-D printers to GMO displays, etc. There was a very diverse field of interests on display. The joint fishing club/barbless booth drew many families to inquire about joining the club and "why barbless?" which made starting the conversation easy. As always information on turtles and seals were shared along with the barbless information.

Moanalua Summer Fisheries Course, June 10, 2014

The Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council's Moanalua High School Summer Fisheries Course educated their eager students in various aspects of the local fisheries. Each student participates in hands on activities

as well as hearing from experts in the field. Each year numerous subject matter experts from all of the Hawaii fisheries agencies volunteer their time and expertise to help educate the class. This year the BCH project made two presentations to the class. One on fishery dependent monitoring and the other on barbless circle hooks. The students were very attentive and asked a lot of questions on both subjects as well as a whole lot of other things that they were interested in. A few of them were interested in finding out about internship opportunities at our facility or at NOAA since they will be graduating soon.

4th Annual Keiki Fishing Tournament—Molokai Style, June 28, 2014



The 4th Annual Keiki Fishing Tournament – Molokai Style held their activities at Morris Beach on the east side of Molokai. This year 180 keiki showed up bright eyed, bushy tailed, and ready to fish. This totally catch and release



bamboo pole tournament brings together the parents and their children for some quality family time. All necessary fishing equipment including the bait and weigh in bucket is provided at no cost. Just sign up to fish, eat the free lunch, and the mouthwatering Molokai watermelons. This tournament is a highlight for the keiki many of whom get their first taste of fish-

ing at this give back to the community event.

After the morning pule and the starting horn a frenzy of fishing activity ensued. There were lots of many kinds of reef fish caught and the weigh in station was busy for most of the time. The more numerous catches were of hinalea, kupipi, and poopaa. There were also humuhumu, butterfly fish,



nenue, and moray eels among many other species. Everyone went home winners including those that did not catch anything at all. There were prizes galore with more than enough for all. The organizers had it all covered so every child went home with a prize and big smile on their face.

New Hope Hawaii Kai, July 19, 2014

The New Hope Hawaii Kai's "Fishing Minister" Mike Kim brought everyone together at the





4th Annual NHHK Keiki Fishing Tournament (<http://newhopehawaii.org/events/>). More than 150 keiki were signed up before the event and there were many more keiki that registered during the event. At this family friendly event Mike announced that this was an “all barbless catch and release tournament”. All fish were to be released after being measured to determine the winners. There were lots of fish caught by

the mostly pint sized bamboo pole wielding competitors who were backed up by their families. Many



of the young competitors caught their first fish ever on this sunny day of fishing fun and fellowship.

Mililani Mauka School Fishing Club, August 26, 2014

The Mililani Middle School Fishing Club just welcomed a lot of new members. The BCH project made a presentation on using barbless circle hooks and sustain-



able fishing practices. The fishing club has now expanded to over 40 members. They just recently had a successful outing at Waimea bay catching lots of halalu, oama, and papio. These are all young of the year sized fish which have just recruited to the calm nearshore waters so the club members had their hands full. This year looks to be a very good year for reef fish recruitment in Hawaii.

Upon request Earl Miyamoto also made an introduction to fly fishing presentation to the club. Earl had done this previously and the club members loved it. Fly casting lessons were held outside and bags of barbless circle hooks and Lawaia magazines were given away as prizes for those lucky enough to put the fly in the hoop. Regardless of that everyone was welcomed to take a bag of barbless circle hooks and a newsletter home with them.

The club’s next outing is a fishing trip to the shoreline behind the Kahuku Golf course. This is an area





known for good fishing. Access to the shoreline is controlled thru the community association. The path to the shoreline runs right thru the golf course (watch out for those flying golf balls!). The club will be exclusively using barbless hooks during this outing.

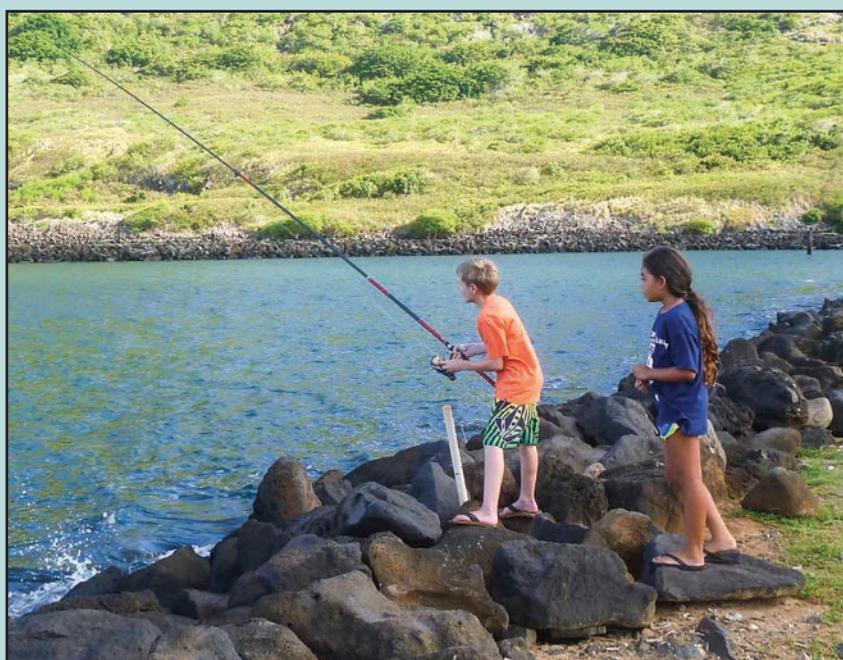
Kalaheo Elementary School Fishing Club, September 5, 2014

The BCH project went to the Kalaheo Elementary School on Kauai to do outreach at 4th grade teacher Joel Kawate's school fishing club. The team of Earl Miyamoto, Mimi Olry, and Kurt Kawamoto made a presentation to the club on barbless circle hooks and answered many questions on fishing, turtles, and monk seals. Mimi provided up to date information on monk seals around the Kauai shoreline and answered questions until the class period was up. Barbless circle hooks, newsletters, and keiki barbless packs (provided by Miyamoto/State) were distributed. After the class period was over a



few lucky club members who did all their homework and behaved for the week were taken on a fishing trip. This is standard operating procedure every Friday and if they are lucky sometimes on Mondays

too. This incentive to do well in class provides motivation to keep up with all of their school work. On the fishing outings the club members use only barbless hooks.





OTHER EVENTS

Annual Hawaii Fishing and Seafood Festival, October 13, 2013



Dean Uyetake, winner of the 2013 S. Tokunaga Ulua Challenge, flew to Oahu to give a hand in the BCH booth. Dean caught his 93.4 lb ulua on a barbless circle hook, won the tournament, and got a free trip to the Hawaii Fishing and Seafood Festival for catching the largest ulua using a barbless circle hook in 2013. Dean shared his experience at the awards ceremony during the lunchtime presentation. The story is that during the fight his huge ulua had gotten pinned down for about 20 minutes during which time his other pole took an ulua strike which he landed. While fighting the other ulua the big one unpinned itself and the fight resumed. It was quickly landed after that. Dean, his wife, and his father all helped out in the booth throughout the morning hours. Thank you very much for sharing your knowledge and barbless experiences with the fishermen.



Due to the federal government shut down NOAA had to forgo doing major outreach at the Fishing and Seafood Festival this year. Luckily for some projects NOAA's partner agencies and groups were allowed to do outreach. The State Marine and Wildlife program and the Pacific Island Fisheries Group (PIFG) helped out by putting up the BCH display and helped out with the outreach.

Hana Limu Festival, November 9, 2013



Earl Miyamoto outreached at the Hana Limu Festival. The community festival itself promotes the deeper understanding of native limu, its nutrition, and for its vital importance to the health of the ocean. Miyamoto con-

ducted barbless circle hook outreach and had the kids smashing hooks at the table for some hands-on activity at the 2 day event.

Hawaii Ocean Expo, April 6, 2014



The Hawaii Ocean Expo was held this weekend at the Blaisdell exposition hall. The BCH outreach was fully successful giving away all of the outreach material that had been prepared. This year the outreach gave away the popular FAST (Fishing Around Sea Turtles) tackle box stickers provided by Irene Kelly and information on monk seal diet and consumption was provided by Rachel Sprague. The many booth volunteers each contributed by bringing their personal as well as job related experience and expertise to the outreach and sharing it with the public. They did a great job contributing to





the overall experience for the public and answering their many and varied questions.

Kalaupapa Tournament, July 5, 2014



The BCH project was invited by tournament organizer Edward “Eddie” English thru the National Park Service (NPS) personnel to attend the 2014 Kalaupapa fishing tournament over the 4th of July weekend.

The Kalaupapa peninsula is a designated National Park and the tournament was themed as a conservation type event. All fish weighed in were to be donated to the tournament for use at the post tournament party. Any fish

not weighed in (and donated) were to have been released to promote conservation of the area’s resources that the residents rely on throughout the year. After all is said and done and even in this day and age the ocean still remains as their icebox. Allowed fishing times and areas were strictly enforced by the NPS.

Participation was by invitation only thru a sponsor. It was planned that as many as 80 entrants could be allowed this year. Due to the competing activities on island as well as off island the turnout was not as large as anticipated. Nonetheless the fishermen tried their best. The BCH team hiked with Eric Brown, NPS Marine Ecologist, from one end of the peninsula to the other in an effort to talk to the fishermen during their daytime fishing activity and to count and ID the monk seals seen along the way.

The fishermen mentioned to us as we made our rounds that the Hawaiian Moon Calendar described the fishing days as poor during the tournament. It seems that it was correct as many fishermen had no catch or strikes while others had strikes but no catches. Fortunately there were a number of small fishes that were landed. At the weigh-in station the enenue made up the majority of the landings. There were also 4 sharp jawed oio landed using our barbless circle hooks. Two of these were released. Other species weighed in were a mamo and a table boss. It looks like the Hawaiian Moon Calendar was spot on with its prediction of

poor fishing regardless of the richness of the fish resources in an area. The next tournament is scheduled to be held in 2016.

BCH TOURNAMENT CHALLENGES

9th Annual Pat Hose Memorial Oio Tournament November 10, 2013



The 9th Annual Pat Hose Memorial Oio Tournament weigh-in was held on Sunday Nov 10. The tournament honors the memory of long time Atlapac member Pat Hose. With this tournament he, his brother Dan, and his AFC family is still providing challenges and excitement for the Club and the fishing community. The participants gathered at the AFC President Roland Galacgac’s house for the weigh-in on a wet Sunday morning. The fishing conditions were very challenging with times of high winds and lots of rain as well as cloudy with no wind. Everyone who went fishing had stories of



being repeatedly soaked to the skin while fishing. Congratulations to all the tough fishermen who made the effort and weathered the wind and torrential rain, catch or no catch.

The barbless participation was high at 82%. In spite of the weather conditions there were 13 oio weighed in by 7 anglers. The 3rd place fish, a 5.69 lber, was caught on a barbless circle hook by Huang-Chi Kuo. Angler Larry Villegas came in 1st place with a 5.96 lb oio. Angler Jason Todt took 2nd place with a 5.75 lb oio. There were a few papios caught but none of them made the minimum weight of 3 lbs so they were all released by the anglers. An interesting fact about this 9-year-old tournament is that it has never had a repeat winner.

Atlapac Obake Halloween Shootout November 25-29, 2013

Atlapac's annual Halloween Obake Shootout attracted 241 participants with nearly 40% signing up for the "barbless challenge". The weigh-in started at 11 and ended at 1 with a line of anglers still going around the corner at the POP weigh-in site even



after the official weigh-in time had elapsed. The line of anglers with coolers of fish started early and provided a constant source of entertainment for the large crowd. The barbless anglers weighed in 9 fishes of five different species caught by kids and adults. Eddie Villaruel III caught his 5th place 7.99 lb oio on a barbless circle hook.



The largest ulua was a 47 lber caught on a standard circle hook. There were lots of places in all the tournament categories and lots of raffle prizes to keep the crowd entertained throughout the weigh-in and awards ceremonies.



GT Masters Cup, April 6, 2014

The GT Masters Cup fishing tournament that is held in conjunction with the Hawaii Ocean Expo had 312 entrants, the largest number of fishermen competing in any year. The "Barbless Challenge" also had the largest



of entrants for this tournament. Unfortunately the fish weren't caught in record numbers like last year. The fishermen reported that the early season's consistently good bite had shut off just before this weekend. The sizes of the uluas caught were consistent with the previously reported 20-40 lb range caught during the early run. The tournament winning ulua weighed in at 43.1 lbs and was caught by Francis "Gani" Ganitano. Gani won the very first GT Masters Cup competition in 2009 by catching a 67.9 lb white ulua using a barbless circle hook. This year there were a couple of respectable



Tournament Activities—2014



fishes caught on barbless. One 5.7 lb oio and a 10.3 lb white ulua were caught on barbless and weighed in. As usual

there were a few stories of losses using barbless but the seasoned fisherman's comment was "that's fishing". A highlight from last year was the \$1000 bounty that was given away for the 100.4 lb ulua weighed in by Preston Maze.

First Annual Haaheo "Best of the Best" Fishing Tournament, June 1, 2014

The BCH project was honored to be invited to participate in the first annual Haaheo Fishing Club's "Best of the Best" Fishing Tournament. The thought behind the "Best of the Best"



format was to toughen the challenge to the anglers while supporting conservation. The most challenging part for the anglers was a jump in the minimum qualifying size. The minimum size was upped to 7 lbs providing more incentive to catch and release or to tag and release the smaller sized catches. To promote conservation many tourna-

ments and clubs have also eliminated a popular category—total weight—from their tournaments and club standings. This category has been eliminated by the majority of the tournaments across the State for more than 10 years with the exception of the newly minted invasive species category which is very popular.

The higher minimum size made the oio and papio categories very challenging. The papio category was



made especially challenging as it restricted the qualifying catches to a slot range from 7.0 lbs to 9.99 lbs. The ulua category starts at 10 lbs and goes up from

there. Most oio commonly caught are between 2-6 lbs. This year the result was that only one oio qualified and only one papio qualified. There were 13 qualifying uluas consisting of 2 species, white and omilu. There were no qualifying catches using barbless circle hooks in this first annual tournament. Congratulations to Haaheo for starting up this new and exciting tournament.



Tournament Activities—2014



S. Tokunaga Ulua Challenge 2014, June 8, 2014



The 11th annual S. Tokunaga Ulua Challenge did not fail to treat the crowds to viewing some big fish this year. The Ulua Challenge is the State's largest shoreline fishing tournament. This year, 567 anglers entered of which 266 anglers signed up for the "Barbless Challenge". The largest ulua on barbless was a 72.9 lber caught by Davin Sumic-8th place in the Ulua Division. That was followed up by Bernie Llanes' 64.7 lber and Franklin Rivera's 51.9 lber. Jason Vierra caught a 16.6 lb omilu to place 9th in the Omilu division while Sean Giron took 10th place with a 16.1 lber.



The barbless anglers did well catching 15 qualifying fish.

The overall winner of the tournament was Marcus Roberts with a huge 104.8 lb white ulua. Gerald Llanes was just a lb behind at 103.8 making for an exciting finish to this tournament. The 3rd place ulua weighed in at 87.3 lbs and was caught by Seaycen Aguiar. Woman angler Kylie Kiriara showed the men how it's done with a 77.1 lb white ulua that place 7th in the Ulua division. That's the largest ulua I've ever seen caught by a female angler in this tournament. "Fisher Chic" Kiry G. also showed what



the women can do by weighing in a respectable 11.1 lb omilu, a 13.9 lb white ulua, and a big barracuda.



Tournament Activities—2014



KMart 17th Annual Shoreline Fishing Tournament, July 20, 2014



The 17th Annual KMart Shoreline Fishing Tournament held its weigh-in on Sunday morning under ominous skies. This long running event sponsored by KMart shows its commitment and support for the local community.



The event attracted entire families from keiki to the kupunas with its many categories and species groups. There were 212 total barbless sign ups representing over half of the competitors. The weigh-in went long with many anglers still in line at noontime cutoff. There were 8 fishes weighed in that were caught using barbless hooks. Some of the anglers said that they had caught more fish but disqualified (DQ) them because of the rule of not removing the barbless hook from the fish. Being barbless the hook is easily dislodged during the struggle after landing. The honest fishermen had no problem DQing their own fish even if the fish themselves threw the hooks. The tournament has its own barbless hook category in addition to the NOAA "Barbless Challenge". The largest ulua of the tournament was a 55.5 lber caught by Samson Rapozo. All of the tournament results can be found at <http://thegardenisland.com/sports/catching-some-big-ones/>



article_6c06b64a-1168-11e4-9451-001a4bcf887a.html.

Loli Agliam Molokai Masters Ulua Fishing Tournament, Pt 1, August 16, 2014



The 2nd Annual Lolly Agliam Molokai Masters Fishing Tournament weigh-in was held at beautiful Moomomi beach on Saturday afternoon. The weigh-in site was coordinated with the Moomomi beach cleanup efforts that were held earlier that day. The cleanup resulted in more than 12 huge bags of ocean deposited beach wash type trash being taken off the beach. This is the same type of nets etc. that sometimes result in entangled monk seals or turtles.

Loli Agliam Molokai Masters Ulua Fishing Tournament, Pt. 2, August 31, 2014

The Lolly Agliam Molokai Masters Ulua Fishing Tournament Part 2 was held over the Labor Day weekend. The Sunday weigh-in was again held at



Tournament Activities—2014



the beautiful Moomomi beach pavilion. The weather was great and the fish were hungry. Round 2 enticed additional participation from the fishing community and this time everyone signed up to try using barbless circle hooks. The fishing produced some fine uluas this weekend.

There were 3 barbless caught fish that were hung. Imua Mawae and Kama Demello caught qualifying uluas. Travis Fernandez also weighed in a nice omilu which unfortunately did not qualify but looked really ono. Congratulations to these anglers who caught using the barbless circle hooks. The overall tournament was won by a 65.3 lb white ulua. In addition there were 4 other ulua that were weighed in.

Parks and Recreation Ohana Shoreline Fishing Tournament, August 17, 2014

It was a beautiful Sunday morning in Honokaa. The weigh-in for the Park and Recreation Ohana Shoreline Fishing Tournament started off slow but

quickly picked up steam. As usual there were well over 300 entries in this popular family event which hosts a men,



women, teen, children, kupuna, and ohana divisions. There were many categories and ways to win in this family event. This tournament has supported the BCH project since 2010 and has featured a "Barbless Challenge" since 2012. This tournament gives back to



the community thru this fun for all event while promoting family values and responsible fishing. This was a fun tournament for all ages. The fish were biting and there were lots to see. The barbless anglers caught their share of fish again this year. There was one family that fished all barbless and weighed in a bunch of fish. Also weighed in



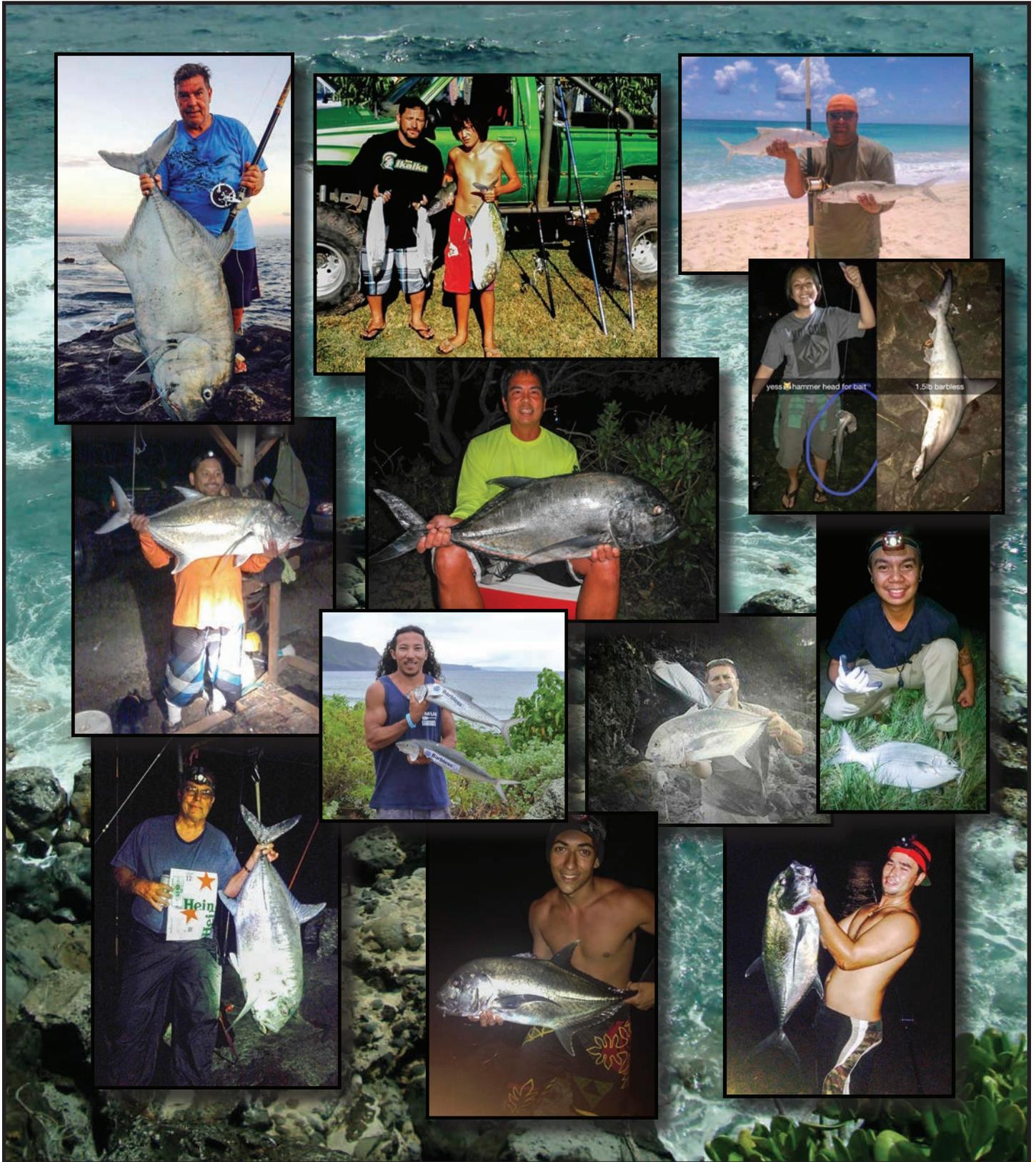
was a very unusual barbless catch, a kala. The largest ulua of the tournament weighed in at a whopping 101.4 lbs and was caught by Bobby Akana. According to tournament officials this is perhaps the 5th 100 lber weighed in since the tournament began. Go get 'em next year!



**MARINE TURTLE
STRANDINGS
HOTLINE:
808-725-5730**

**MONK SEAL
SIGHTINGS
STRANDINGS
HOTLINE:
808-220-7802**

Barbless Circle Hook Catches By You!



Barbless Circle Hook Catches By You!



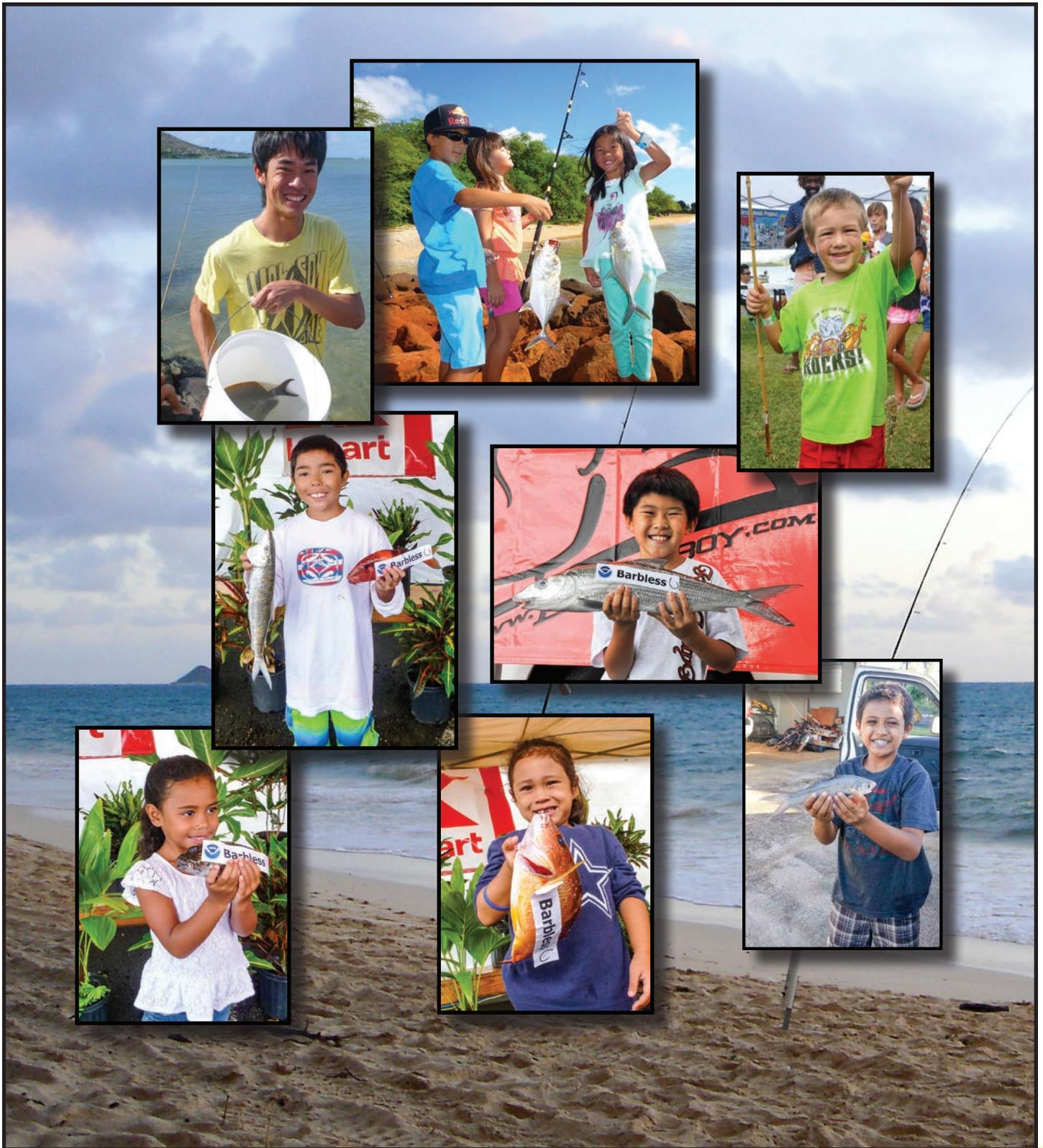
Barbless Circle Hook Catches By You!



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.

NOAA BARBLESS CIRCLE HOOK PROJECT

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

