

# New NOAA study to value recreational fishing in Hawaii

by Justin Hospital NOAA Fisheries

By the time you read this, the 2011 Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Expenditure Survey will be underway.

We know that fishing is important to you and fishing-related expenditures are also a very important contribution to the Hawaii economy. You spend money every time you launch your boat, put a line in the water, or go out with your spear. All of this fishing-related expenditure enters the Hawaii economy and generates sales revenues, value-added benefits and supports jobs here in Hawaii. The purpose of this research is to show the economic impact of recreational fishing to the State of Hawaii.



Sterling Kaya



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## How 15 minutes of your time Will support fishing in hawaii

It is no secret that our right to fish in Hawaii is being threatened on many fronts. Increasing legislation, beach access, and zoning issues seek to place ever increasing limits on our rights to fish. One of the questions I am frequently asked is, "What can I do to help support the fishing community?". I can appreciate that many of you have busy lives and may not be comfortable in a vocal role. Well, here's something you can do that is simple, and will take very little of your time.

NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is conducting a survey that is of great importance to all of us. Titled the "HAWAII RECREATIONAL FISHING EXPENDITURE SURVEY", it attempts to determine the economic contribution fishing makes within Hawaii's economy. This survey promises to be extremely empowering, as it determines the financial impact of your recreational fishing purchases. The study seeks to determine not only the value of your tackle purchases, but also includes expenditures on vehicles, fuel, clothing, food and drink, club and tournament dues and other indirect but related purchases. It also considers how these monies are recycled back into the economy as other non related purchases. You may have participated in Hawaii's last survey which was conducted in 2006.

So, how does this affect you? Quite simply, it gives us a voice. Based on the 2006 survey results, Hawaii's fishermen supported over 7000 jobs and generated \$772 million dollar in sales and \$380 million dollars in value added benefits. It is clear that any pending legislation to limit fishing would have to be weighed against these numbers. This survey empowers us and demonstrates our contribution to the health of our fragile economy. It is the easiest way to unify us as a political force. It can be a valuable weapon in our battles at the state capitol. I cannot impress upon you enough the value of this survey and your participation. I'll say that again, participation! Without your contribution, the survey loses accuracy and with it, credibility. I maintain that it is your obligation to fill out this short 15 minute questionnaire.

You can help by reaching the NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center representative Justin Hospital at: (808) 944-2188 or [Justin.Hospital@noaa.gov](mailto:Justin.Hospital@noaa.gov). Surveys can be mailed to you or taken online. Please help by doing your part in insuring the preservation of our sporting lifestyle. Mahalo.

This information will lead to a better understanding of how these economic relationships may be affected by environmental factors, regulatory changes, or changes in the broader economy.

NOAA Fisheries conducted the first national survey of marine recreational anglers in 2006. The 2006 survey collected information on fishing-related expenditures in each coastal state and was used to estimate the economic effects of marine recreational fishing on the economies of each coastal state and the nation. Many of you helped with this study. Results from the 2006 survey found US angler expenditures generated \$82 billion in sales and \$24 billion in personal income. Moreover, they supported over 530,000 jobs across the country. For complete 2006 survey results visit: [http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5/publication/marine\\_angler.html](http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st5/publication/marine_angler.html). As you know, the costs of fishing have continued to rise over the years and this 2011 survey will help us update our estimates of angler expenditures and the economic impacts to Hawaii's economy.

### You have many different ways to participate:

- Throughout 2011, across the State of Hawaii, recreational fishermen contacted by the Hawaii Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (HMRFS) at boat ramps, harbors and shorelines will be asked about their expenses for that day's fishing trip. Be sure to provide them with a mailing address so that you can participate in a short follow-up survey about your annual expenses.
- If you have signed up with the National Saltwater Angler Registry <http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov>, you will be invited to participate in the survey.
- Several tackle shop owners across the State of Hawaii have volunteered to provide sign-up sheets for you to provide contact information and ensure that you are given the opportunity to participate.
- Contact me at [Justin.Hospital@noaa.gov](mailto:Justin.Hospital@noaa.gov) and I will make sure that you receive a survey.

You only need to submit your name once through any of these methods, and you have until the end of 2011 to participate. You will have the option to complete the survey online or through the mail and you only need to complete one survey. All personal contact information and survey responses will remain strictly confidential. All results published from the survey will be in summary form with no personally identifiable information used.

If you fish in Hawaii, your response is important! Help us to show the economic impacts of recreational fishing in Hawaii. The more participation we get, the more accurate our results, and the stronger the voice for the fishing community.

Mahalo for your help with this important fisheries research.

Brian Kimata, Brian's Fishing Supply