

What are fisheries?





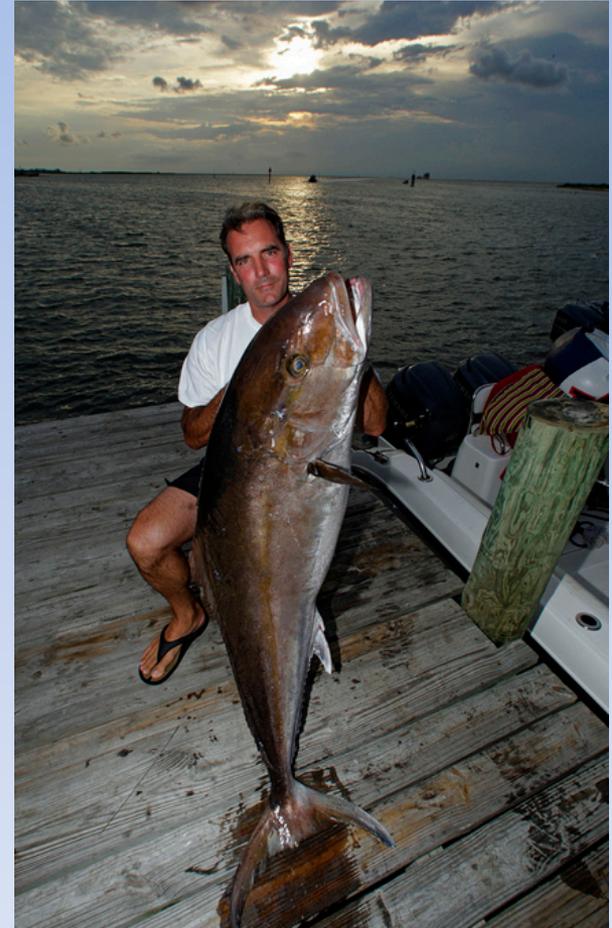
**What do you think of when
you hear the word
“FISHING”?**



**Why do people
"FISH"?**

Types of fishing

Commercial Fishing



Recreational Fishing



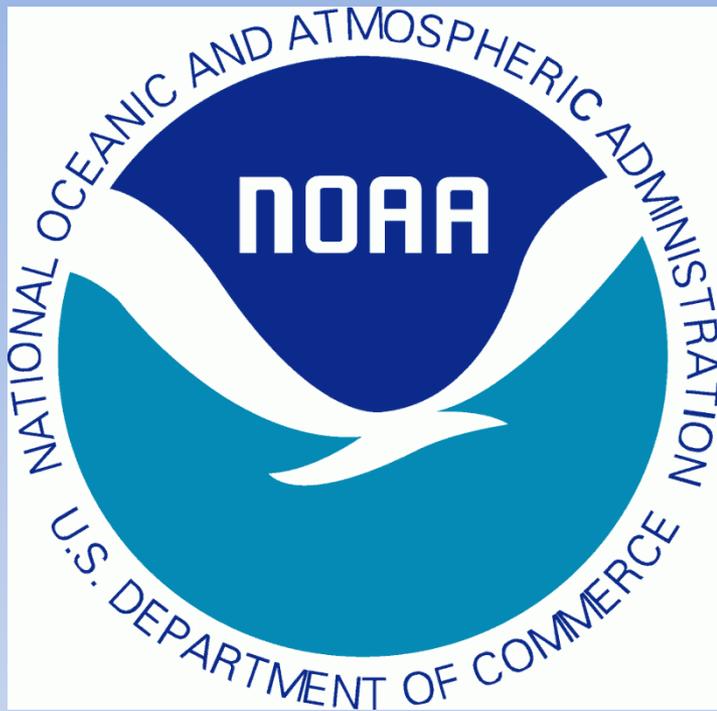
What are fisheries?

A geographic area that is associated with a population of aquatic organisms (fish, mollusks, crustaceans, etc.) which are harvested for their commercial or recreational value.

Hawaiian Fishery

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NFMS) regulates 105 longline fishing vessels that operate in Hawaiian waters.





Who monitors the fisheries?

NOAA Fisheries Service is the federal agency responsible for :

- the management
- conservation
- protection of living marine resources within the United States.



Fish populations around the world are in decline, primarily due to overfishing. Recent studies have shown that approximately 90% of the biggest fishes in the world's oceans have been taken by big commercial fishing fleets.



How does the Fisheries Service help?



NOAA Fisheries Service is guided by more than 100 federal laws that were established to ensure our marine resources are properly managed and conserved through regulations and enforcement activities.



**Under these laws,
NOAA Fisheries
Service prevents
overfishing by limiting
the total harvest in
every fishery through
the establishment of
annual catch limits.**





It is often said that “fisheries managers manage fishermen not fish.” Fisheries management is usually applied to harvesters in the form of regulations.





Earlier this year, NOAA published a rule limiting fishing days by vessels and restricting the use of floating objects known as fish aggregation devices, in an effort to reduce the catch of certain species of fish.



What are Fish Aggregation Devices?

A fish aggregation device or (FAD) is a man-made object used to attract ocean going pelagic fish such as marlin, tuna and mahi-mahi.



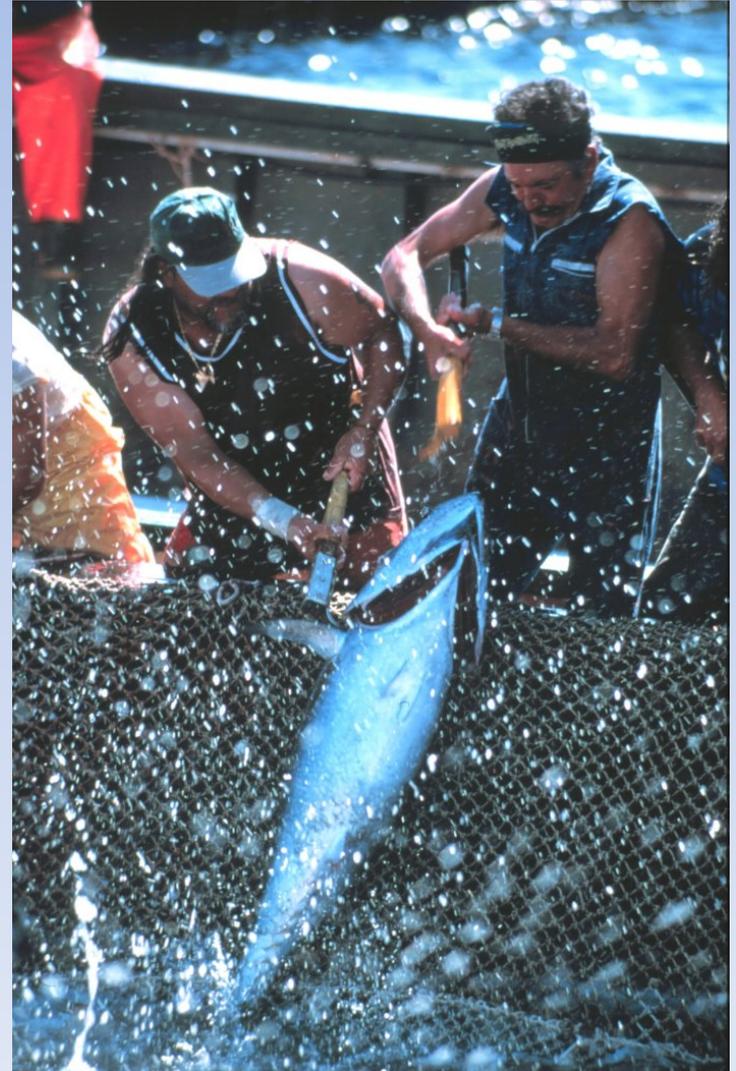
How do we know if a fish population is declining?

One of the critical pieces of information required to manage fish populations is having an idea of how many fish are out there.



Catch-per-unit-effort

This method utilizes records kept by fishing vessels and fishermen on how many fish they have caught, relative to how much effort they put into catching those fish.



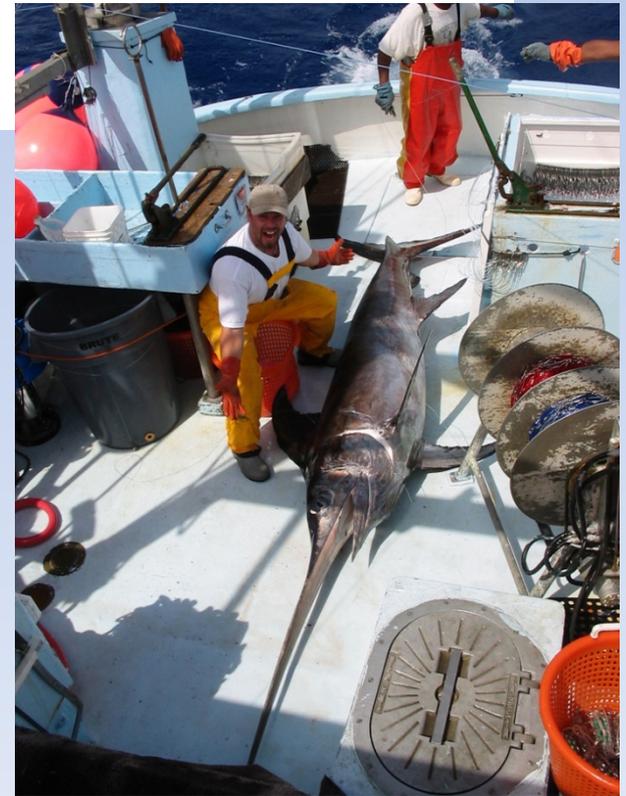


Capture and recapture method

A researcher visits a study area and uses traps to capture a group of live fish. Each of these fish is marked with a unique identifier (e.g., a numbered tag or band), and then is released unharmed back into the environment.



By monitoring fish populations through catch-per-unit-effort and capture and recapture method scientists are able to keep an eye on whether particular marine species are thriving or on the verge of extinction.



This information then helps NOAA Fisheries Service determine if new laws or regulations need to be created in order to sustain marine populations.

