
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONSIDER IMPOSING AN ANNUAL PERIODIC CLOSURE PROHIBITING OR
RESTRICTING BY BAG LIMIT THE NIGHT TIME COMMERCIAL HARVEST
OF PARROT FISH.

1 WHEREAS, parrot fish, *scarus* sp., are an important food
2 fish culturally in Hawaii and are caught by subsistence and
3 commercial means using various harvest methods; and
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5 WHEREAS, parrot fish abundance varies from year to year
6 depending on optimum spawning conditions, weather, and
7 recruitment; and
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9 WHEREAS, the life history of parrot fishes are largely
10 known, including the behavior of building mucous envelopes
11 around themselves during nighttime periods of sleep; and
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13 WHEREAS, parrot fish while sleeping at night are harvested
14 by dive spear-fisherman; and
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16 WHEREAS, commercial catch rates of parrot fish have
17 steadily increased through the 1980s, remained stable through
18 the 1990s, but have recently shown signs of decline; and
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20 WHEREAS, parrot fishes made up of 32 percent of the
21 commercial dive spearfish landings during the 5 year period of
22 1995 to 1999; and
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24 WHEREAS, the recreational and subsistence harvest of parrot
25 fishes remains unknown; and
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27 WHEREAS, the only existing State regulation for parrot fish
28 is the prohibition of taking fish under 12 inches in length; and
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1 WHEREAS, the unregulated night time take of sleeping
2 parrot fish could reduce the stock to unsustainable levels; and
3 now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
6 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
7 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
8 Land and Natural Resources is requested to conduct analysis,
9 using the best available parrot fish fishery, biological,
10 economic and social information, to consider imposing an annual
11 periodic closure prohibiting the night time commercial harvest
12 of parrot fish during the months of February through October, or
13 bag limit on the night time commercial harvest of parrot fish;
14 and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
17 engage the dive and spear fishing community throughout the State
18 to solicit comments and input on the proposed measures; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
21 Natural Resources is requested to report its findings and
22 recommendations, including any suggested legislation to the
23 Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
24 the Regular Session of 2008; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
27 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board
28 of Land and Natural Resources, who is requested to transmit
29 copies of the Concurrent Resolution to prospective members of
30 the panel and any other interested party.
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