
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BOTTOMFISH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in the late 1990s,
2 the federal government determined that certain bottomfish were
3 being overfished around the main Hawaiian islands. In response
4 to that determination, the department of land and natural
5 resources adopted bottomfish restricted fishing areas and
6 various administrative rules to protect bottomfish from being
7 overfished. In 2007, the department of land and natural
8 resources reduced the number of bottomfish restricted fishing
9 areas, but increased the spatial area covered by bottomfish
10 restricted fishing areas.

11 The legislature further finds that the bottomfish that are
12 subject to fishing regulations in the Hawaii Administrative
13 Rules are no longer being overfished, and that the department of
14 land and natural resources has not established a validated
15 scientific basis upon which to continue restricting the fishing
16 of bottomfish.



1 The purpose of this Act is to direct the division of
2 aquatic resources to allow bottomfish fishing in six of the
3 bottomfish restricted fishing areas, where bottomfish fishing is
4 currently prohibited, but where the restriction is not supported
5 by scientific evidence of environmental necessity, and to ensure
6 that rules on the fishing of bottomfish are supported by
7 scientific evidence of environmental necessity.

8 SECTION 2. The department of natural resources shall allow
9 bottomfish fishing in six of the existing bottomfish restricted
10 fishing areas where the restriction is not supported by
11 scientific evidence of environmental necessity. The department
12 shall also amend its rules on bottomfish management to include
13 scientific information of environmental necessity as one of the
14 criteria used to restrict a fishing area.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DLNR; Bottomfish; Administrative Rules

Description:

Requires the DLNR to allow bottomfish fishing in six of the Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas and to amend any administrative rules to provide that any restriction on fishing shall be based on scientific evidence of environmental necessity. (HB998 HD2)

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