

Spawning Guide

for the Leeward Coast of Hawai'i Island.

A VOLUNTARY GUIDE TO HELP PROTECT SPECIES AT VULNERABLE TIMES IN THEIR LIFE CYCLE, SUCH AS DURING PEAK BREEDING SEASONS.

Please be respectful and responsible; only take when the species is not spawning.

E Mālama I Ke Ao Honua

Let us care for our environment.

Peak SPAWNING Months

This guide references each species scientific, common, and Hawaiian name, its spawning months and if known, its legal size.

LEGAL SIZE LIMIT KEY: HC Home Consumption CS Commercial Sale

Fish sizes are in Total Length, Fork Length, Curved Fork Length & Inches:

TL TOTAL LENGTH: Straight line distance from tip of snout to tip of tail FL FORK LENGTH: Straight line distance from tip of snout to fork of tail CFL CURVED FORK LENGTH: Tip of the upper jaw to the fork of tail measured along the contour of the middle of the body

SPECIES	MONTHS	SPECIES	MONTHS	SPECIES	MONTHS
LAU'IPALA Yellow Tang <i>Zebrafasciatus</i>	MAR - JUL	'ĀLO'ĀLO' Hawaiian Dascyllus <i>Dascyllus albiflatus</i>	JUL - OCT	LAU WILIWILI Millettised Butterfly Fish <i>Chaetodon milleti</i>	FEB - MAR
MANINI Convict Tang <i>Acanthurus triostegus</i>	FEB - JUNE	KŪMŪ Whitesaddle Goatfish <i>Parupeneus porphyreus</i>	JAN - JUNE	'Ū'Ū Menpachi <i>Myrionis species</i>	APR - JUNE
WEKE'A Yellowstripe Goatfish <i>Mullonichthys flavolineatus</i>	APR - JUNE	WEKE'ULA Yellowfin Goatfish <i>Mullonichthys flavolineatus</i>	MAR - JUNE	KOLE Golding Surgeonfish <i>Ctenochaetus strigosus</i>	MAR - JUNE
ŌPELU Mackerel Scad <i>Decaptenus microlepis</i>	APR - AUG	AKULE Bigeye Scad <i>Scomber crumenophthalmus</i>	JULY - OCT	AHOLEHOLE Hawaiian Flagtail <i>Kuhlia sandvicensis</i>	DEC - JUNE
UHU Parrotfish <i>Scaridae</i>	JUNE - NOV (BULLHEAD PARROT) AUG - NOV (PALENOSE UHU)	KALA Bluespine Unicornfish <i>Naso unicornis</i>	MAY - JUNE	AKU Skipjack Tuna <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	APR - AUG
ULUA & PĀPIO Giant Trevally <i>Caranx ignobilis</i>	MAY - AUG	A'U KŪ Swordfish <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	MAR - JULY*	'AHI Yellowfin Tuna <i>Thunnus albacares</i>	MAY - SEPT
A'U Striped Marlin <i>Kajikia audax</i>	MAY*	ONO Wahoo <i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>	APR - SEPT*	A'U Shortbill Spearfish <i>Tetrapturus angustirostris</i>	MAR - JULY/NOV*
A'U Blue Marlin <i>Makaira nigricans</i>	JULY - SEPT*	'ŌPIHI MAKAIAULI Black-foot 'Ōpihi <i>Cetina exarata</i>	DEC & JUNE		

* Spawning months for pelagic species, such as Swordfish, Shortbill Spearfish, Blue Marlin, Striped Marlin, and Wahoo, were determined through the collection of eggs and larvae from surface plankton tows in waters adjacent to the Kona coast, where Leeward, Hawai'i spawning information wasn't available, and data from other Main Hawaiian Islands was used. For more information regarding legal size limits, see http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/admin_rules.html

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<http://kohalacenter.org/kahalubay/spawningguide/>

Hawaiian MOON Phases

Source: Kalei No'uhima

The Hawaiians in traditional times used a calendar that was based upon the moon. The year had twelve months of 29.5 phases and began every three to six years a thirteenth lunar month was added. Each month started with the new moon Hilo and ended with Maali or Muku, the dark moon.

The moon phases continue to guide fishermen of the present time. Below is a description of the moon phases and the fishing activity that took place according to that particular phase.

HILO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hawaiian word Hilo has three meanings: Hilo was a famous Hawaiian navigator; Hilo can mean "twisted" or "broaded"; Hilo is the "first night of the new moon." Good beach and reef fishing; women hand-filled, men torch-fished. Low tides in the evening; rough seas during the day; calm, warm nights with little wind. The Kapu: Ka period of calm days, in honor of the god Ka, forbade planting or fishing during this time, which continued through Ku Lua.
HOAKA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As with all words in Hawaiian, the word Hoaka has many meanings. The most literal meaning is "crossed" and this is, indeed, the first half crescent moon. Other meanings have to do with spirits and ghosts. The Hawaiians believed the spirit of this moon—the first moon bright enough to cast a shadow—would frighten fish away. Thus, this was not a good night for fishing.
KO KAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 3rd-6th moon phases correspond with the first four nights of Ku. The end of the first moon, <i>Kū Kah</i> ends the <i>kāpu</i> (forbidden) period of Ku. This series of four days also indicates good fishing.
OLE KŪ KAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 7th-10th moon phase names all start with 'Ole which translates into "hoisting" or "uplifting." These days were named because fishing is poor due to high tides and rough seas.
HUNA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huna means "small" or "hidden." This is a good time for fishing, as the fish tend to hide in their holes. Have a good time to test someone's knowledge, as answers sought will remain huna or hidden.
MOHALU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 12th phase marks a sacred night to the god Kane. This night is also good for fishing. The tides are very low in the early morning hours.
HUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hua means "egg, fruit," and "seed," and among other things, refers to the near full egg shape of the moon. This night is good for fishing, especially at sea. Spoke run during Kōka (January - early February). Reef fishing is good in the evening with indefinite tides. The Hawaiians believed in four full moons. Hua marked the first of the four full moons.
AKUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akua means "god, godlike" or "spirit." This is the second full Hawaiian moon and is near the full round shape. This is a good night for fishing, especially at sea and on reefs in the evening. Indefinite tide with high waves.
MOHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 3rd day of the four Hawaiian full moons was believed to be the fullest moon. Fishing is good at sea, not onshore. Watch for high waves.
MAHALANI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 16th lunar phase was the last night of the four Hawaiian full moons and was good for all types of work, planting, and fishing. Excellent fishing. Tides are low in the late morning and late evening, making shoreline fishing easy.
KĀLU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kālu means "to drip, drip," or "to pass time." Deep sea fishing is considered good during this time. The currents run strong.
LAUKU KAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hawaiian word <i>Lāukū</i> means just about any type of vegetation, trees, etc. Fishing is fair and the sea starts to become rough again. The low rising moon can be seen in the morning hours.
OLE KŪ KAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Again we enter a series of three unproductive 'Ole nights. Avoid planting and fishing; repair gear and equipment. Watch for box jelly fish and Portuguese Man-of-War on O'ahu.
KĀLOA KŪ KAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 26th-28th lunar phase mark the three nights of Kāloa. Good fishing offshore, especially for shellfish. Watch for box jelly fish and Portuguese Man-of-War during these phases.
KĀNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 27th lunar moon marks a two-day period of worship to the gods Kane and Lono. This was a very strictly enforced <i>kāpu</i> and most of this period was devoted to prayer to the gods. Good reef fishing with pole and torch. Very low tides.
LONO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 28th lunar moon continues from the previous night of worship to Kane and Lono, with emphasis switching to the god Lono and prayers for rain. Excellent pole fishing, torch fishing, and diving. Low tides and calm seas.
MAALI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The moon usually rises with daylight. All types of fishing were good on this day due to lower tides. Marriages were often performed on this day.
MUKU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final lunar phase finds the moon rising completely in the earth's shadow. Excellent for all kinds of fishing, including diving for squid and octopus. The tides are low, which makes trapping fish in tide pools and <i>faka'ia</i> (fishponds) easy.

PONO Practices

Source: Kelson "Mac" Pospoie

Hō'ohulihe Hawaiian Homestead

Native Hawaiian resource management practices are not driven by written regulations, but by an unwritten social code reinforced by extended family and community. People do the right thing by their people, by their ancestors. Here are some of the core tenets that drive that code.

- Concern about the future generations.** Meet present food needs without compromising the ability of future generations of people to meet their needs. Irresponsible resource use is tantamount to denying future generations their means to survival.
- Self-restraint.** Take only what you need for immediate personal and family use and use what one takes carefully and fully without wasting. A good Hawaiian fisher is not the one with the largest catch but the one who can get what he or she needs without disturbing the natural processes.
- Reverence for ancestors and sacred places.** Hawaiians inherited valuable knowledge from their ancestors. At one time, that knowledge was crucial to survival. Ancestors are worshipped because the survival of Hawaiian culture depends on knowledge and skills passed from generation to generation.
- Mālama.** The Hawaiian perspective is holistic, emphasizing relationships and affiliations with other living things. Accountability, nurturing and respect, important for good human relationships, are also beneficial in relationships with marine life.
- Pono behavior.** Hawaiians are expected to act properly and virtuously in relationships with past, present, and future generations and with the food sources that sustain them.