

**FOUR NEW STATE RECORDS
35.8-LB TAKO & MORE**

HAWAII FISHING NEWS

The Voice of Hawaii's Fisherman



ULTRALIGHT JIGGING BONEFISHING LEGISLATURE

THE VOICE OF HAWAII'S FISHERMAN™

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"The Voice of Hawaii's Fisherman"

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WAYNE UMLAUF.....	Mail Buoy
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Cover Story:

Kanoa Dilcher, Frank Makaimoku & Ola Fely finally had an overflowing ice box!

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New state records for Diamondback Squid, Golden Kalekale, Palonese Parrotfish and Rover.

Local Craftsman Dale Yoshida: An Inspired Life by Christina Henline

A strong work ethic and a passion for fishing turn a good idea among friends into a successful soft-bait business.

Ultralight Jigging by Kawika Chee

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Adventures in Bonefishing by Adam Dailey-McIlrath

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Fisheries Management Efforts at Maunalua Bay by Maunalua Bay Hui

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Harbor Recap 2021: Maui's top Pacific blue marlin of the year weighs 743.2 lbs!

ISLAND OF MAUI – Lahaina Seawatch by Donnell Tate

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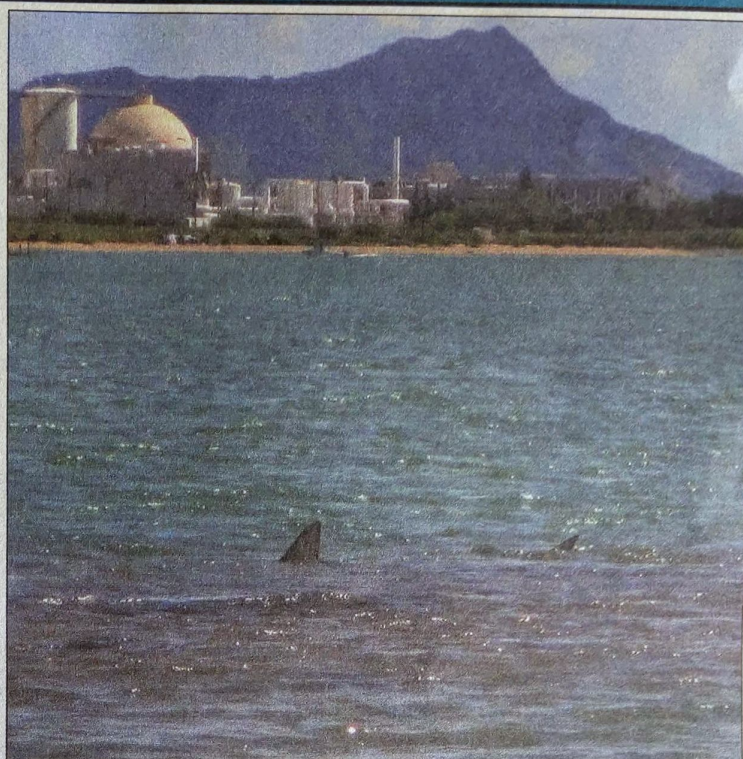
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Adventures in Bonefishing

by Adam Dailey-McIlrath



■ I have been fortunate to spend the past several years fishing with some of Hawai'i's bonefishing royalty, including captains Makani Christensen, Ed Tamai and Chris Wright. I still don't know exactly why they adopted me into their clan. It's probably not because of my flyfishing prowess. Maybe they just like my stories.

I have learned that it is something of a tradition among the local flyfishing guides to mark their first bonefish of each new year. Having the unfortunate burden of a "real job," I found myself extremely busy with work for the first few weeks of January. That put me quite a bit behind in catching my first bonefish of 2022. When I finally did get a break, Makani was off-island and Chris had a client booked, but Ed agreed to pick me up early on a Friday morning.

The morning was cool under a totally clear sky, and the winds were light and variable. The recent volcanic eruption in Tonga had started the Pacific Ocean sloshing like an enormous bathtub, and three days later the effects were still discernible. Every 20 or 30 minutes, the placid water of the bay would begin to move, all in one direction and all at once, flowing palpably around our legs and swinging the boats on their anchorlines.

Despite these strange and sudden water level changes, I felt pretty confident that I could land at least one bonefish. They were active when we arrived. Their sharp tails sliced out of the water, shining silver in the morning light, as they foraged for crabs and shrimp across the flat.

Ed hooked the first fish, which came off after its initial run. I thought for sure I was going to get a bite a short time later, but my cast ended up lining a second fish that was hidden from sight in the glare, scaring it toward the first fish, which resulted in both of them making a mad dash for the horizon.

As the tide drained and the flat got shallower, the fishing slowed down considerably. There were still some fish around, but they were mostly cruising the edges, close to deep water. Ed and I walked to one side of the flat and then split up, heading along the edge in opposite directions. I had changed my fly from a small brown crab to a black and tan mantis shrimp.

I found a couple of fish on my way up, and they responded well to the new pattern. They rushed forward when I stripped it across their paths; but I didn't manage a hookup. After almost a month away from the water, I could feel how out of practice I was.

I had turned around and was on my way back down the flat when I spotted a nice-sized bonefish in the shallows. It was facing away from me and swimming pretty quickly, which made it a tough shot. I made a long cast that somehow landed just right and almost immediately felt my line go tight. I ran forward to keep clear of the jagged edge of the flat as the fish ran out into the channel.

After managing to hold onto the fish through a few strong runs, my confidence was high that I was going to bring it in successfully. I was pleased that my first fish would be above average weight, probably more than 6 lbs.

continued...

Adventures in Bonefishing ... continued

As I reached for my backpack to grab my camera, the fish suddenly made one more strong but short run. Then the fight stopped. I could still feel weight on my line, but no movement. Puzzled, I reeled more quickly.

When the fish finally came into view, I saw a trail of blood in the water. Had I somehow hooked it in the gills? I was confused as bonefish almost never swallow an artificial fly. The truth was far more shocking. When I brought my line in, I had only the first third of the fish on my hook. The body had been cut vertically behind the pectoral fins, almost as if someone had taken a cleaver to it.

As I freed my hook, I spotted the culprit. A Galapagos shark, every bit of 7 feet long, came cruising by the edge and swimming with a purpose. Not wanting to be on the evening news, I tossed the fish head toward it and retreated to the shallows. I snapped a few photos as the shark followed the scent trail to claim the rest of its meal.

Losing bonefish to sharks is fairly common in places like Christmas Island or the Bahamas, but those are usually small bonefish and small sharks. When I met up with Ed and told him what had happened, he said he couldn't remember anyone losing a bonefish to a shark on that flat, let alone a big fish to a big shark!

I'm not sure if landing 30 percent of a fish really counts as my first bonefish of the year, but I think it will stand as my most memorable fish for a while.

... Adam



Fisheries Management Efforts at Maunalua Bay

by Maunalua Bay Hui

■ For over a couple of decades, there has been a significant deterioration in the overall health of the marine ecosystem of Maunalua Bay. *Kupuna*, fishers, and other Bay users with decades of empirical knowledge have expressed concern over this decline. Their concerns are supported by scientific studies noting that Maunalua Bay's fish biomass is among the lowest in the State.

A Hui led by fishers, and with a variety of stakeholders also involved (fishing organizations, conservation organizations, etc.), has met for over four years, and continues working collaboratively to find a path towards sustainable fishing in the bay.

The current efforts and proposal includes:

- Establishment of a Fisheries Management Area (FMA) within the Bay.
- Establishment of an Advisory Panel, that is comprised of stakeholders responsible for evaluating the impact of and recommending action to improve the effectiveness of the FMA.

- Continuous outreach, creel surveys, and *Makai Watch*.

- "Sunset" the FMA after 10 years unless otherwise recommended by the Advisory Panel. Any recommended extension period of the FMA would include stated goals and objectives.

The Hui agrees that for the FMA to be successful, it is important that no single organization is in control of resources (people and monies). And, similarly, accountability needs to be multifaceted for those involved.

Establishing a FMA within Maunalua Bay is intended to improve fisheries management, including enforcement, as a means to increase fish abundance in the Bay and ensure that sustainable fishing practices can occur now and into the future.

We are looking for individuals in the community to share their views and insights to help improve this proposal. An upcoming opportunity to join us in a discussion will be held on March 9, 2022, starting at 6 p.m. This will be an online information exchange session.

To receive a link to join the discussion, please email info@malamamaunalua.org with the subject line: MBFMA. For more information, also contact us at info@malamamaunalua.org.

... Maunalua Bay Hui

Proposal: Improved Fisheries Management Maunalua Bay 'Talk Story' Session

March 9, 2022 • 6:00 PM

An Information Exchange will be held online on March 9th at 6PM. To receive a link to the session, please email info@malamamaunalua.org with the subject line "MB-FMA". We hope to see you there!



Scan the QR code for more info

