



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 330
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

PETER T. YOUNG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - LAND

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

March 12, 2007

Lay Gill Nets – New Rules

The following is a summary of the revisions to the rules on the use of lay gill nets. It is a summary and should not be used as a legal substitute for the official rule. The official rule may be downloaded from our website: <http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar>.

Definition: Lay Nets or Lay Gill Nets:

Stationary gillnets used in State marine waters.

These are also referred to as “set”, “cross”, “paipai” or “moemoe” net fishing. The lay net is used passively because a panel of net is set in one location and usually not actively tended. Fish are caught as they run into it and become entangled in the net. The nets are commonly made of monofilament nylon which has been manufactured into netting with floats on one length and weights on the other length.

Lay Gillnet Gear Restrictions:

For waters where lay nets are permitted, additional restrictions are:

Registration and Identification & Registration:

Nets must be registered with the Department.

Net owners must report any registered lay net that is lost, stolen, given away or otherwise no longer the property of said owner.

*** Nets must have four identification tags, one at each end of the float and lead lines.**

*** Nets must have at least two surface buoys (with registration numbers) and with reflective tape, placed at either end of the float line.**

Nets must be retrieved from the water after 4 hours; no nets may be abandoned. Any registered net that is lost, stolen, given away or destroyed must be reported to the Department.

The Department may seize any lay net found in the water that is not registered or without identification or is being fished improperly.

Net Dimensions:

Maximum net Length: 125 feet

Maximum net height: 7 feet (stretched), except as provided in West Hawaii rules.

Minimum mesh: 2-3/4” (stretched) (3” for Kailua Bay FMA, on the Big Island)

Multi-panel nets are prohibited.

Fishing Protocols:

Fishers may fish with (set) only one net at a time.

Minimum distance between any lay nets set in the same general area: 250 feet, except as provided in West Hawaii rules.

Nets may not be used at depths deeper than 25 feet; unless the fisher has a Commercial Marine License, then 80 feet, except as provided in West Hawaii rules.

Nets may not be used (set) for more than 4 hours at any one time.

Nets must be inspected after two hours of being set; fisher shall inspect and release any unwanted, threatened or endangered species, or any prohibited species.

Nets may not be used for at least 24 hours after any use.

Fishers may not fish again with a lay net for at least 24-hours after having fished with a net.

Fishers may not leave a lay net unattended for longer than 30 minutes.

Nets are to be retrieved without breaking stony corals.

No lay net fishing permitted in freshwater streams or stream mouths.

No lay net fishing is allowed between from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise.

Area Restrictions:

Molokai, Lanai and Kauai and Niihau will not have banned areas for lay net use; however, the proposed additional restrictions will apply.

Waters where lay net use are banned:

Hawaii - existing banned areas in West Hawaii.

Maui - around the entire island

Oahu - Portlock Point to Keahi Point (west of Pearl Harbor channel)

- Kailua Bay (Mokapu Peninsula to Wailea Point (northern boundary for Bellows AFB)

- Kaneohe Bay (a portion of the Bay; landward boundaries would be the main ship/sampan channels and landward of Ahu o Laka)