



Marine Fishes

Whitesaddled goatfish Kūmū

Paurupeneus porphyreus

SPECIES STATUS:
IUCN Red List – Not Considered
Endemic

SPECIES INFORMATION: Kūmū are goatfish that feed on invertebrates in the sediments around reefs. They reach about 38 centimeters (15 inches) in length. They may be found in schools during the day.

DISTRIBUTION: They are found throughout the State.

ABUNDANCE: They are looked for in surveys of coral reef fishes in the Main and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, both by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Division of Aquatic Resources. Commercial landings in the Main Hawaiian Islands have dropped from about 1,800 to 2,300 kilograms (4,000 to 5,000 pounds) a year to 1,040 kilograms (2,300 pounds) in 2003, the most recent year of data.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Young are common in shallow water in the summer. Adults can be found throughout reef habitats.

THREATS:

- They are fished commercially and recreationally. In traditional Native Hawaiian culture they were sometimes substituted for pigs when certain offerings were called for. They could only be consumed by men.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are to not only protect current populations, but to also establish further populations to reduce the risk of extinction. Regulations set minimum catch size at ten inches (25 centimeters). In addition to common statewide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Maintain healthy populations with appropriate fishing regulations and education.

MONITORING:

- Continue surveys of population and distribution in known and likely habitats.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES:

- Improve understanding of factors affecting the species population size.

References:

Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources, State of Hawaii. Commercial marine landings data. 1997 – 2003. Honolulu, HI: Division of Aquatic Resources.

Hoover J. 1993. Hawaii's fishes. Honolulu, HI: Mutual Publishing. 183 pp.

Tinker S. 1978. Fishes of Hawaii. Honolulu HI: Hawaiian Service, Inc. 532 pp.