
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FISHING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's marine life
2 is fundamental to the cultural identity of the State and the
3 health of its ocean environment. Marine species hold deep
4 spiritual meaning for many communities, and the well-being of
5 those communities reflects the balance and resilience of
6 Hawaii's marine ecosystems. Protecting ocean life is critical
7 to maintaining ocean ecosystems for the future.

8 The legislature further finds that jug line fishing and jug
9 rig variant fishing methods are non-selective fishing practices
10 that pose significant threats to marine life. These methods
11 frequently result in the hooking, entanglement, or injury of
12 non-target species, including sharks and protected green sea
13 turtles, and present a severe risk to endangered species, such
14 as the Hawaiian monk seal and hawksbill sea turtle.

15 The legislature further finds that jug lines often become
16 marine debris when they are lost, cut, or otherwise left in the
17 ocean. Once in the water, this gear can persist for years,



1 continuing to pollute coastal and offshore areas, damage
2 delicate coral reefs, and pose a serious threat to marine life
3 through entanglement and injury long after it is no longer in
4 use.

5 The legislature notes that in September 2025, the
6 department of land and natural resources reported the death of
7 RS34, a two-year old female Hawaiian monk seal known as Moana,
8 which was caused by a jug rig variant fishing method. Wildlife
9 officials determined that the use of heavy pound-test line and
10 buoyant jugs significantly increased the risk of gear loss and
11 entanglement, resulting in fatal consequences for the Hawaiian
12 monk seal. This incident shows the unsustainable nature of jug
13 line fishing and its impact on non-target marine life.

14 The legislature determines that the continued use of jug
15 lines and jug rig variant fishing methods is incompatible with
16 responsible resource management and the State's obligation to
17 protect marine wildlife for present and future generations.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
19 division of aquatic resources of the department of land and
20 natural resources to begin the rulemaking process no later than



1 July 1, 2026, to regulate or ban jug line fishing and jug rig
2 variant fishing methods.

3 SECTION 2. The division of aquatic resources of the
4 department of land and natural resources shall begin the
5 rulemaking process no later than July 1, 2026, to regulate or
6 ban jug line fishing and jug rig variant fishing methods.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Jug Line Fishing; Jug Rig Variant Fishing Methods; DLNR; DAR;
Rules

Description:

Requires the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to begin the rulemaking process no later than 7/1/2026 to regulate or ban jug line fishing and jug rig variant fishing methods. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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