

Ballyhoo Workgroup Update

Insert photo of a ballyhoo

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History of Ballyhoo fishing in the SPAS

- In the first FKNMS management plan, an exemption to in four Upper Keys SPA's to allow cast netting (by permit) for ballyhoo. (SPA's included were Conch Reef, Hen and Chickens, Davis Reef, and Alligator Reef)
- Commercial ballyhoo fishermen were also allowed to drift into SPA's as they pulled in their nets, but were not allowed to set the nets in SPA's.

Hair Hooking Exemption History

- Islamorada Charterboat Association approached the SAC in early 2000's with a request to consider allowing hairhooking for ballyhoo in four different Upper Keys SPA's
- A ballyhoo working group was formed, and recommendations were presented to the full SAC in 2003/2004
- SAC modified the recommendations and suggested to the FKNMS superintendant that a trial, permit system be developed to allow hairhooking for ballyhoo in 3 Upper Keys SPA's

SPA Hairhooking Rules

- Permitting system put in place beginning 2004
- FKNMS permit required to fish in the SPA's
- FKNMS Approves flag must be flown during hair hooking
- No hairhooking after 10:00 am
- Annual permits indicating number of fishing events, location of effort, and any bi-catch
- Only allowed in three SPA's (Conch, Davis, Alligator)
- Seasonal only (October 15 to April 15)

2004 to 2011 Activity summary

**FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
HAIR-HOOK BAITFISH PERMIT LOG DATA
Summary of all seasons**

Parameters	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
Permits issued	19	21	30	30	27	31	96
Total log form returns	14 (74%)	17 (81%)	19 (63%)	27 (90%)	24 (89%)	13 (42%)	22 (23%)
Non-respondents	5 (26%)	4 (19%)	11 (37%)	3 (10%)	3 (11%)	18 (58%)	74 (77%)
Logs returned on time	12 (86%)	17 (100%)	19 (100%)	22 (81%)	24 (100%)	13 (100%)	11 (50%)
Number of respondents stating they did not use the permit	6 (43%)	6 (35%)	6 (32%)	8 (30%)	6 (25%)	2 (15%)	3 (14%)
Total fishing events	70	164	156	206	243	100	171
Average # fishing events per permit holder	8.75	14.9	12	10.8	13.5	9.1	9
Alligator SPA	14%	16%	26%	30%	26%	29%	37%
Conch SPA	7%	10%	21%	14%	12%	25%	21%
Davis SPA	34%	20%	10%	23%	14%	20%	22%
Outside-SPA locations	45%	54%	43%	33%	48%	26%	20%

Current status of the Work Group

- Catch and effort data is compiled and reviewed annually
- Email/teleconference polls members to see if there are any problems that need to be addressed
- Annual report to the SAC