PIFSC Bottomfish Research Program: Bottomfish fishery independent survey and gear calibration and feasibility study

Cooperative research efforts between US and Chinese scientists have investigated the feasibility of collecting fishery-independent abundance estimates for fishes occupying untrawlable habitat. This study was conducted off the Hawaiian Islands and considered four surveying approaches: 1) Boat-based hook-and-line survey; 2) A stationary video camera ("BotCam"); 3) A roving autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV); 4) acoustic survey. Each approach was conducted over different habitat types, depths and slopes. Data are currently being examined a will soon provide insight as to which method can be recommended for ongoing application.

Tropical fish stock assessments and conservation advice

The art of stock assessment in tropical environments have undergone much development over the last decade, but the last volume to capture these advances was published in 1998. The need to discuss and document these approaches in a form that can be shared will help promote capacity-building. The time is now to convene a tropical reef fish assessment and conservation symposium to provide the arena to promote new and updated approaches to stock assessment in data-limited situations. Training sessions should be conducted prior to the symposium to maximize its effectiveness. Such training sessions should be on-going to ensure the success training and facilitation of advances in managing tropical reef fishes.