

MARINE DEBRIS AND EPIPELAGIC FISHES

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ABSTRACT

Two species of epipelagic fish caught in 1987 and 1988 by commercial fishing vessels operating in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Archipelago display the impacts of marine debris. The first specimen is a male mahimahi, *Coryphaena hippurus*, 77.5 cm total length and weighing 2.06 kg. Captured during albacore trolling operations, the mahimahi had monofilament net fragments attached to its gills and opercular area. The other instance involves a swordfish, *Xiphias gladius*, measuring approximately 140 cm total length and weighing 10 kg caught during tuna longlining operations. A rubber band cut approximately 3 cm deep into its caudal peduncle; otherwise, the swordfish appeared normal. Presented are photographs of both specimens and speculations as to the possible origins of the impacting debris.