State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

December 8, 2006

Board of Land
and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO BOTTOMFISH RESTRICTED FISHING AREAS COORDINATES AND MAPS FOR HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (HAR) CHAPTER 13-94, BOTTOMFISH MANAGEMENT

Submitted for your consideration is a request for final approval of changes to the bottomfish restricted fishing areas in the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI). On May 27, 2005, the Regional Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) notified the State of Hawaii and the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (Council) that overfishing of the bottomfish species complex was occurring in the MHI, that is to say, a greater effort to catch bottomfish was being expended than is sustainable. Under the provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the State and the Council were required to develop a mutually acceptable plan by May 2006 for ending such overfishing. An analysis by NMFS indicated that a minimum 15% mortality reduction above current levels would be necessary to end overfishing in the MHI bottomfishery. At the same time, the Department was required to evaluate the effectiveness of its bottomfish restricted fishing areas as provided in Chapter 13-94, HAR.

Using recent research findings and data analysis, including eight years of extensive multibeam sonar mapping of deep sea bottomfish habitats, discussions with federal fisheries managers, research fishing, and input from fishermen, the Department refined its closed area network, and now proposes to revise the current system of 19 bottomfish fishing restricted areas to 12 areas (attached). Analysis by Department staff indicates that this new network of closed areas will be sufficient to meet the 15% mortality reduction target determined by NMFS, a conclusion independently verified by the NMFS Pacific Islands Region Fisheries Center.

Fifteen public meetings were held statewide in January 2006 to obtain public input in regard to these proposed restricted area revisions; these meetings were attended by over 400 people. Suggestions from these public meetings have been incorporated into the current proposed revisions to the bottomfish restricted fishing areas. In some communities, multiple meetings occurred, and the proposed new restricted area boundaries were shifted in location several times in response to local concerns. Despite the reduction in the total number of restricted areas, the newly selected areas increase habitat protection for bottomfish overall within the MHI by incorporating particularly high quality habitat.

At the 131st meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (of which the State of Hawaii is a voting member) on March 13-16, 2006, a resolution was adopted to end overfishing in the MHI that included revisions to the current restricted bottomfishing areas. Implementation of these measures is contingent upon complementary State action in regard to revising its restricted areas so as to meet the 15% mortality reduction target specified by NMFS. The revisions proposed herein will meet this mortality reduction requirement, will protect spawning areas, and will still allow fishermen to fish for bottomfish year-round in areas outside the closed zones.

Upon approval, the maps and coordinates for this revised system of bottomfish restricted fishing areas will be filed with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board approve the revisions to the bottomfish restricted fishing areas coordinates and maps for Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 13-94, Bottomfish Management."

Respectfully submitted,

DAN POLHEMUS
Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

PETER T. YOUNG
Chairperson

Attachment: Revised coordinates and maps for Bottomfish Management HAR

Exhibit A

Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas (BRFA) 12/8/06

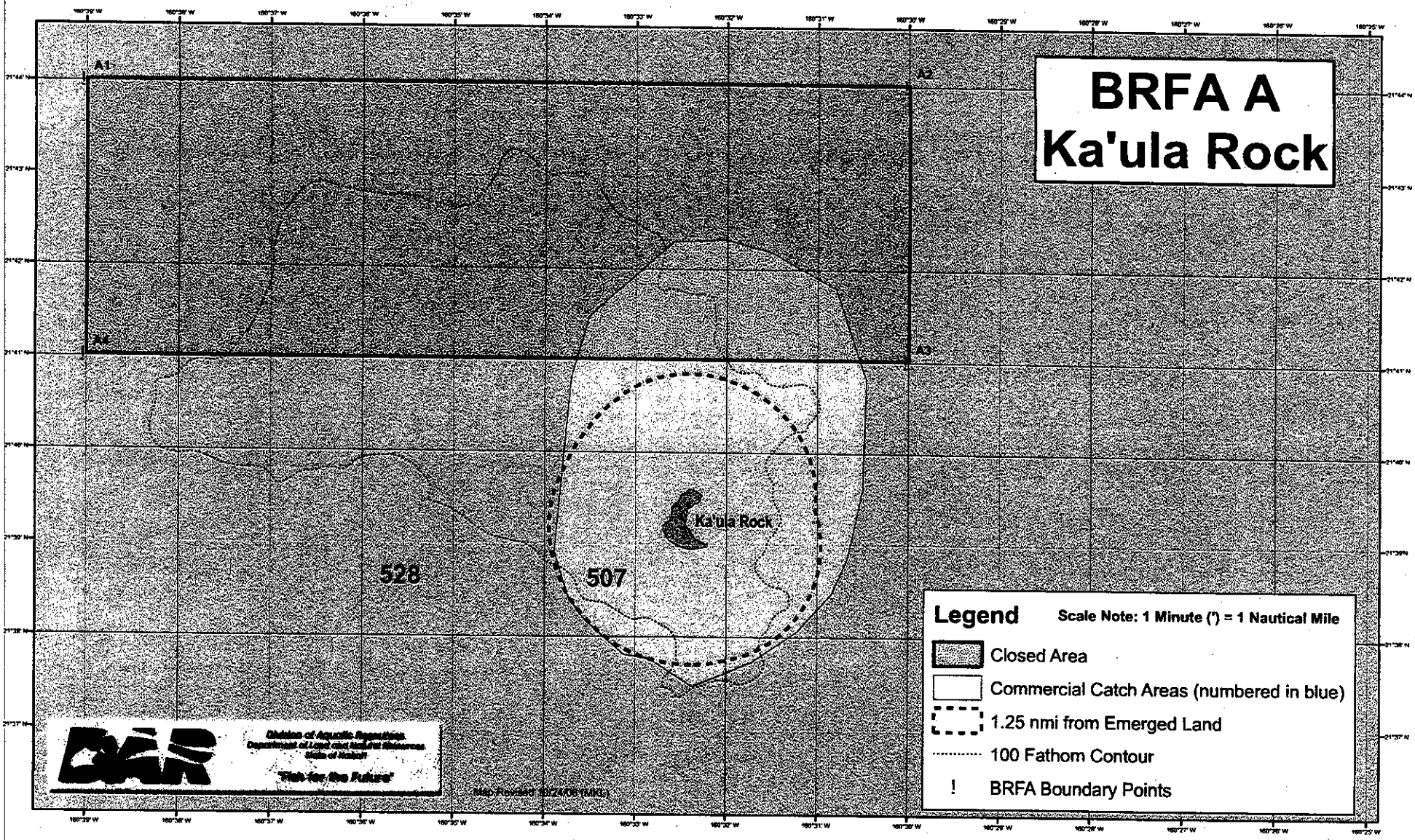
Coordinates (endpoints)

BRFA	Northwest (1)	Northeast (2)
A	21° 44' N Lat, 160° 39' W Long	21° 44' N Lat, 160° 30' W Long
B	21° 50' 25" N Lat, 160° 07' 30" W Long	21° 51' 22" N Lat, 160° 04' 30" W Long
C	21° 52' 30" N Lat, 159° 32' W Long	21° 52' 30" N Lat, 159° 23' W Long
D	21° 39' N Lat, 158° 24' W Long	21° 39' N Lat, 158° 15' W Long
E	21° 25' N Lat, 157° 41' W Long	21° 25' N Lat, 157° 32' W Long
F	21° 02' N Lat, 157° 34' W Long	21° 02' N Lat, 157° 22' W Long
G	21° 14' N Lat, 156° 58' W Long	21° 14' N Lat, 156° 52' W Long
H	21° 07' N Lat, 156° 42' W Long	21° 07' N Lat, 156° 38' W Long
J	20° 55' N Lat, 156° 08' W Long	20° 55' N Lat, 155° 59' W Long
K	20° 21' N Lat, 155° 53' W Long	20° 21' N Lat, 155° 25' W Long
L	19° 44' N Lat, 154° 59' 50" W Long	19° 44' N Lat, 154° 54' W Long
M	18° 54' 13" N Lat, 155° 41' W Long	18° 57' N Lat, 155° 37' W Long

BRFA	Southeast (3)	Southwest (4)
A	21° 41' N Lat, 160° 30' W Long	21° 41' N Lat, 160° 39' W Long
B	21° 46' 30" N Lat, 160° 04' 30" W Long	21° 46' 30" N Lat, 160° 07' 30" W Long
C	21° 50' 30" N Lat, 159° 23' W Long	21° 50' 30" N Lat, 159° 32' W Long
D	21° 36' 18" N Lat, 158° 15' W Long	21° 36' N Lat, 158° 17' 10" W Long
E	21° 17' N Lat, 157° 32' W Long	21° 17' N Lat, 157° 37' 47" W Long
F	20° 55' N Lat, 157° 22' W Long	20° 55' N Lat, 157° 34' W Long
G	21° 10' N Lat, 156° 52' W Long	21° 13' 08" N Lat, 156° 58' W Long
H	21° 03' N Lat, 156° 38' W Long	21° 03' N Lat, 156° 42' W Long
J	20° 47' N Lat, 155° 59' W Long	20° 52' 03" N Lat, 156° 08' W Long
K	20° 05' 30" N Lat, 155° 25' W Long	20° 16' 03" N Lat, 155° 53' W Long
L	19° 35' N Lat, 154° 54' W Long	19° 35' N Lat, 154° 55' 02" W Long
M	18° 51' N Lat, 155° 37' W Long	18° 51' N Lat, 155° 41' W Long

	Additional (5)
D	21° 36' N Lat, 158° 24' W Long
E	21° 23' 38" N Lat, 157° 41' W Long

Exhibit A Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas 12/8/06



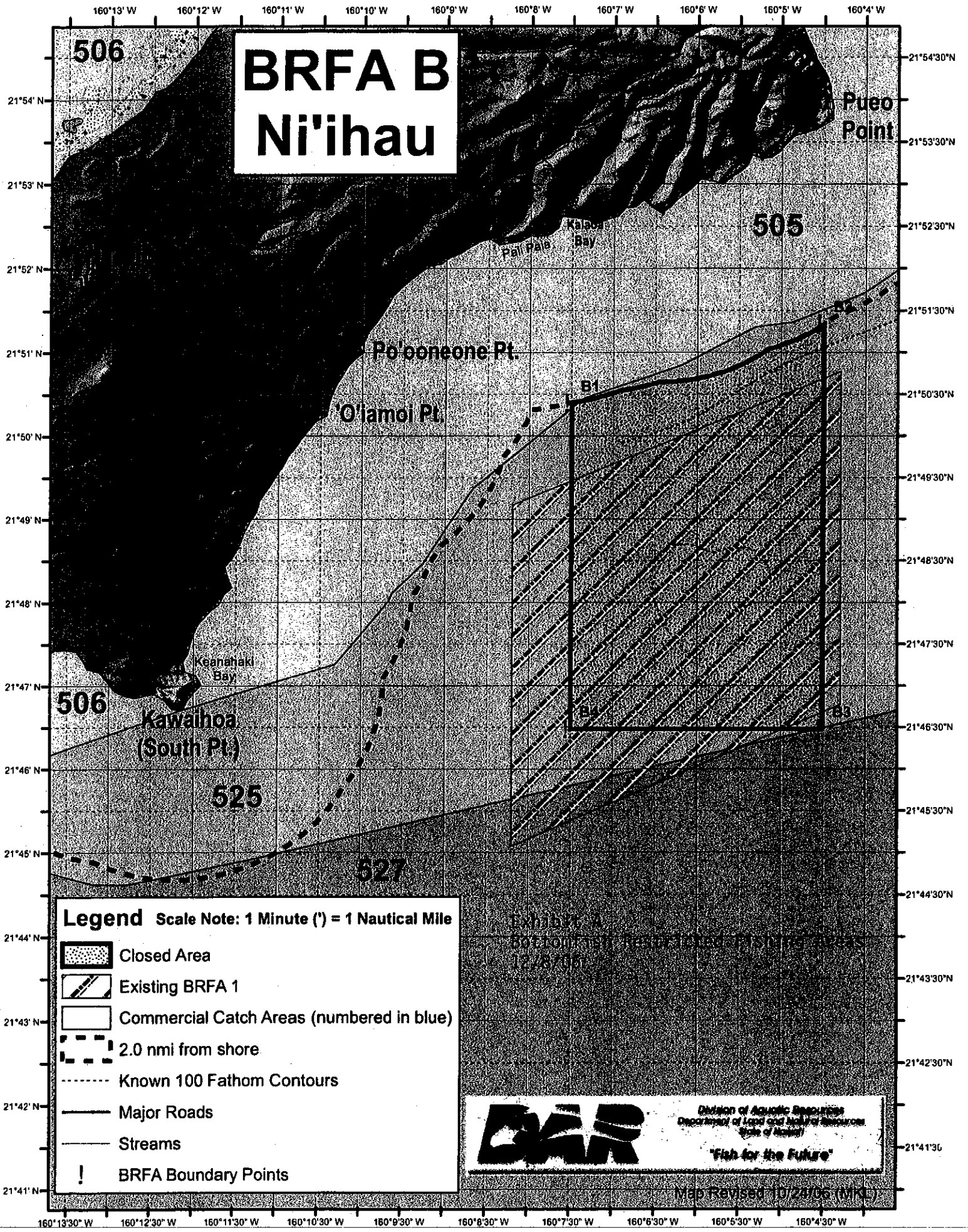
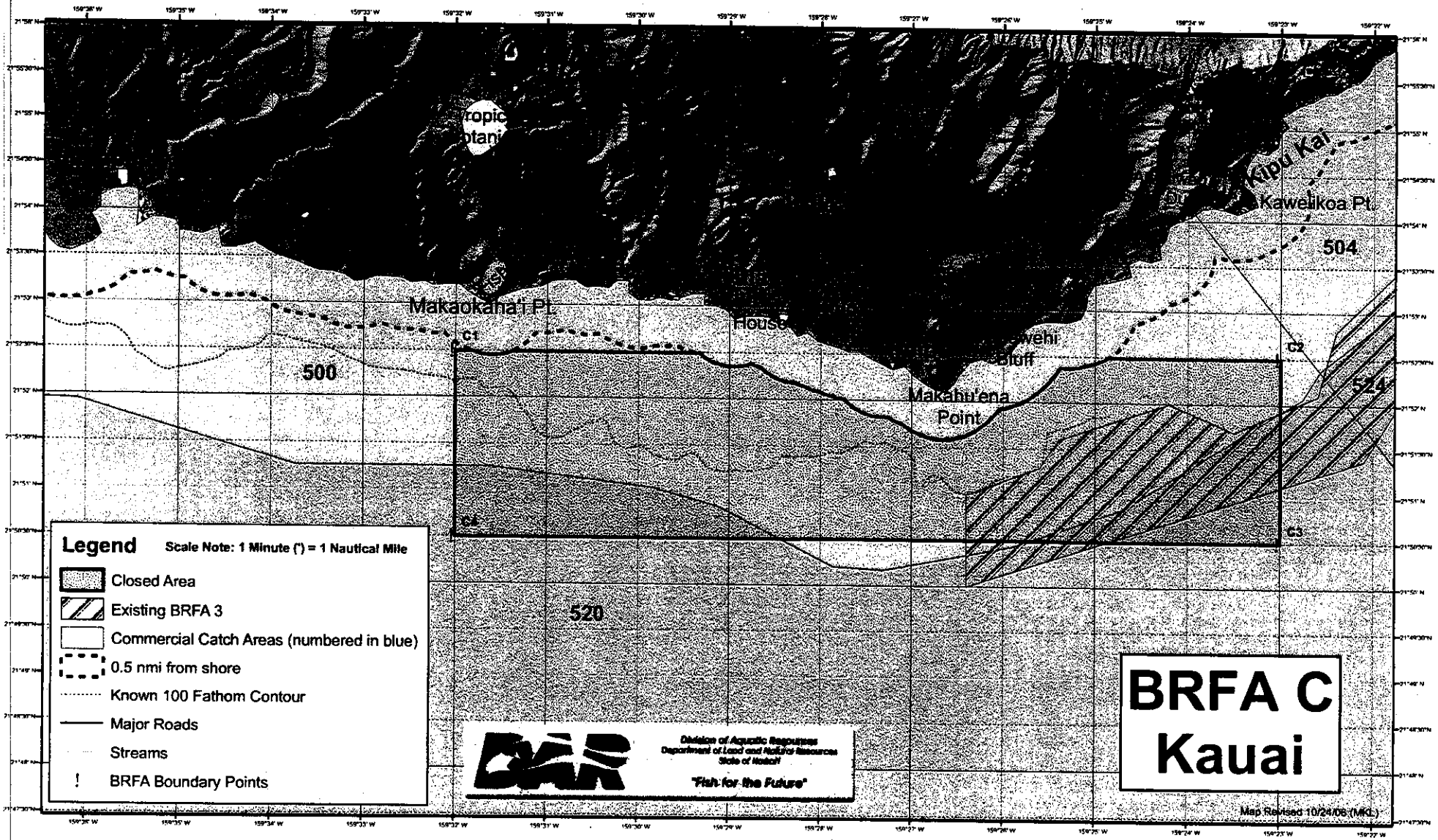

BRFA B
Ni'ihau
506
505
525
527
Pueo Point
Kalaoa Bay
Pali Pala
Po'ooneone Pt.
'O'iamoi Pt.
Keanahaki Bay
Kawaihoa (South Pt.)
B1
B2
B3
B4
Legend Scale Note: 1 Minute (') = 1 Nautical Mile
Closed Area
Existing BRFA 1
Commercial Catch Areas (numbered in blue)
2.0 nmi from shore
Known 100 Fathom Contours
Major Roads
Streams
BRFA Boundary Points
Exhibit A
Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas
12/8/06
Division of Aquatic Resources
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
"Fish for the Future"
Map Revised 10/24/06 (MKL)

Exhibit A Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas 12/8/06



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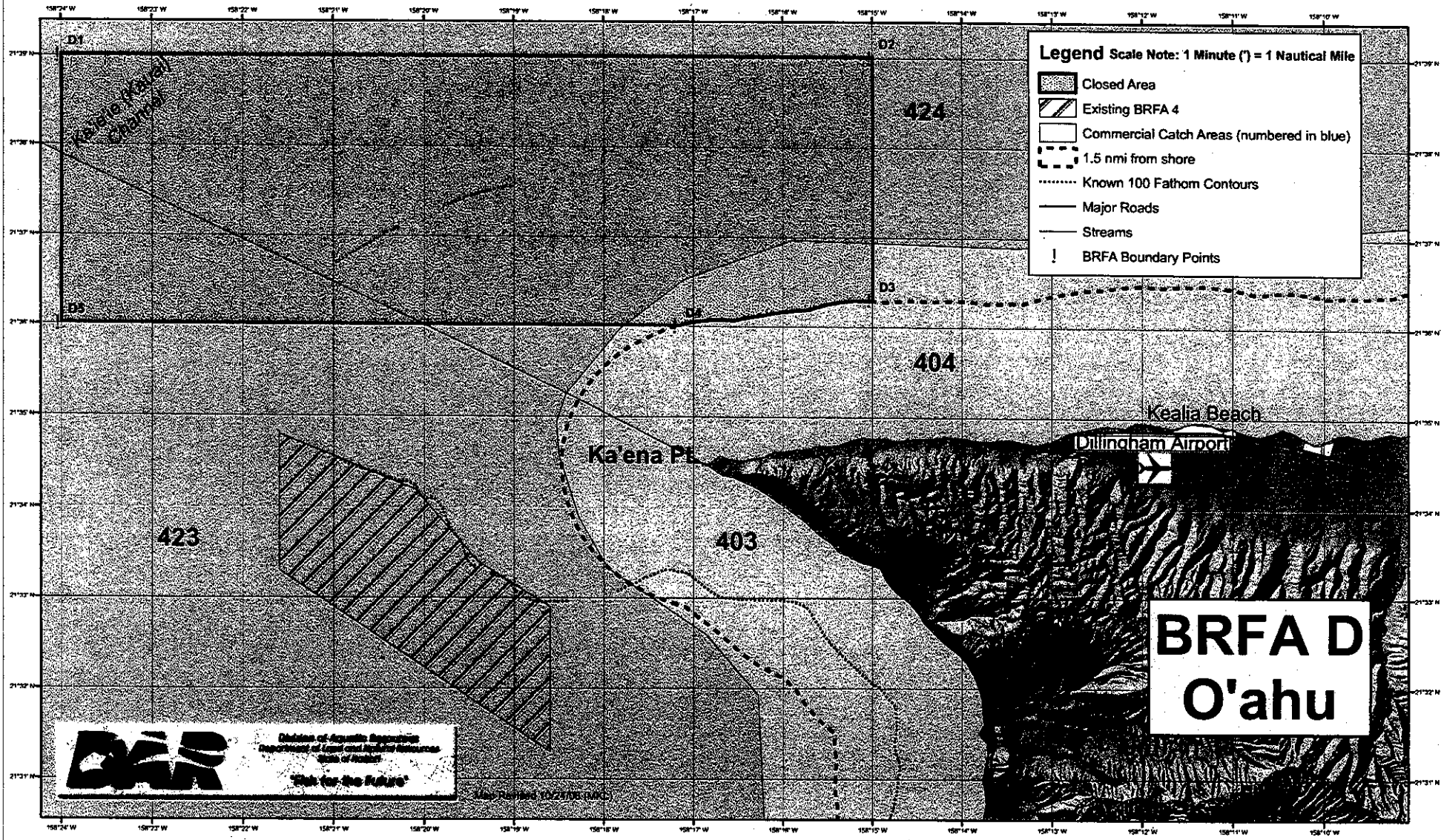

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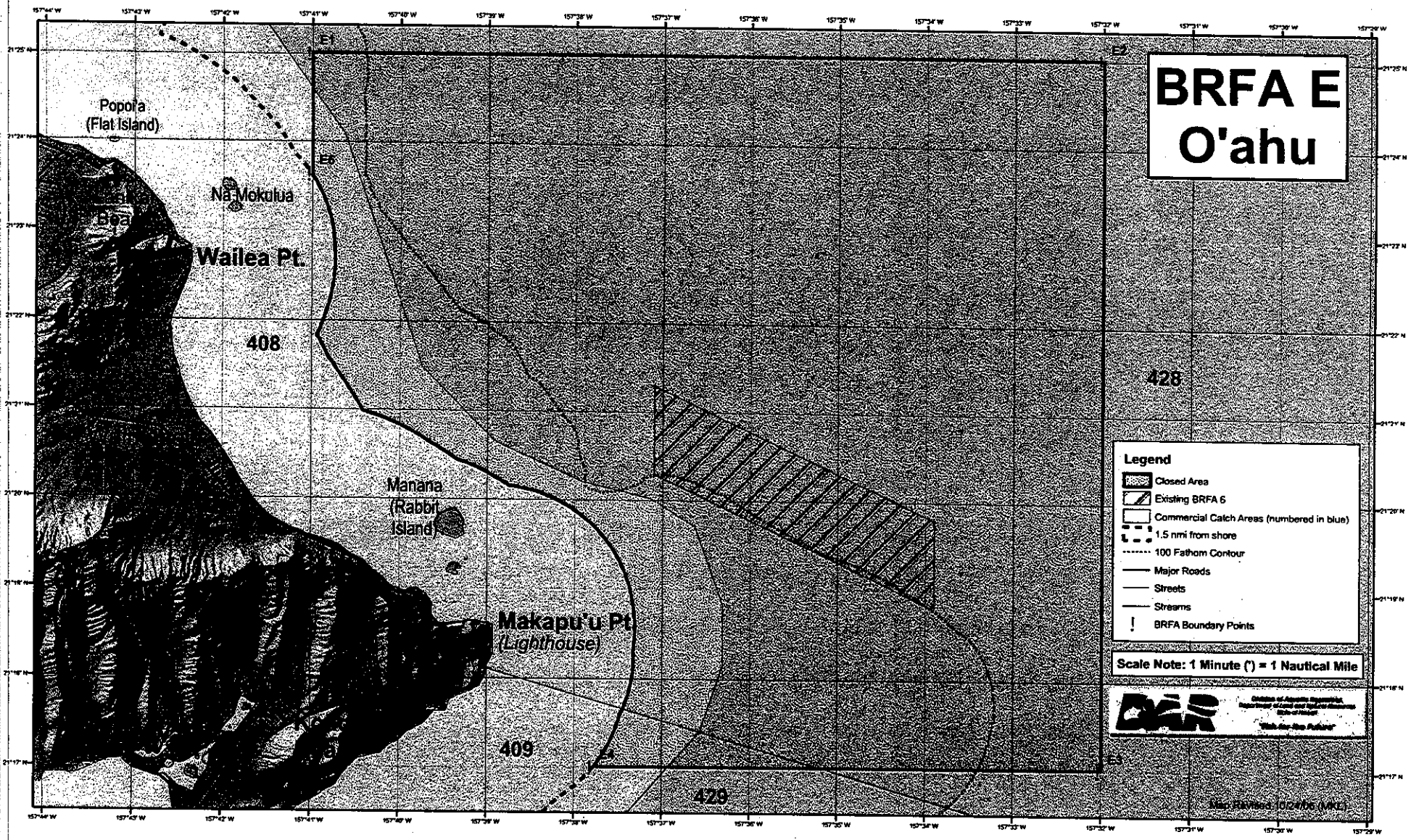

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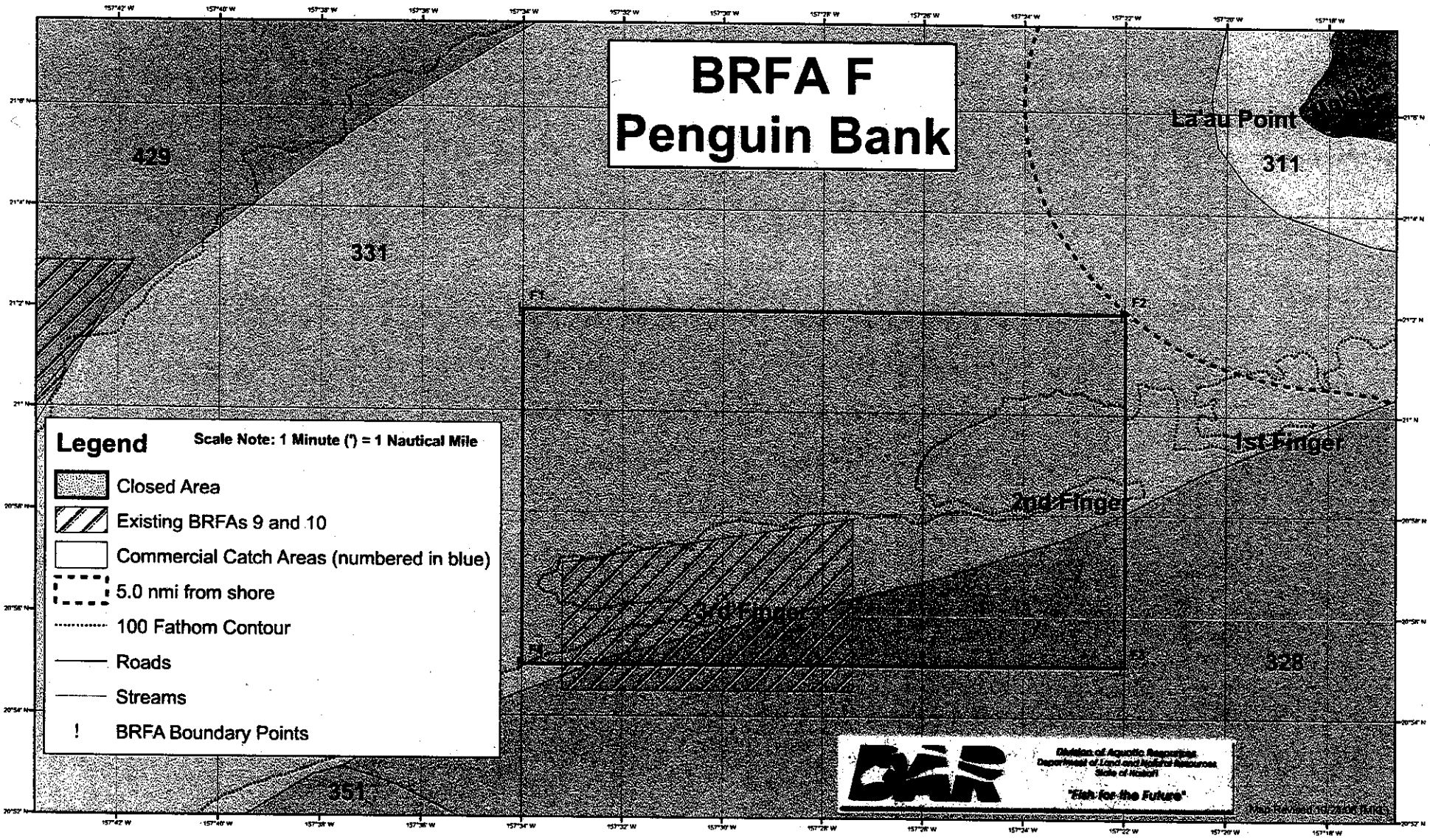

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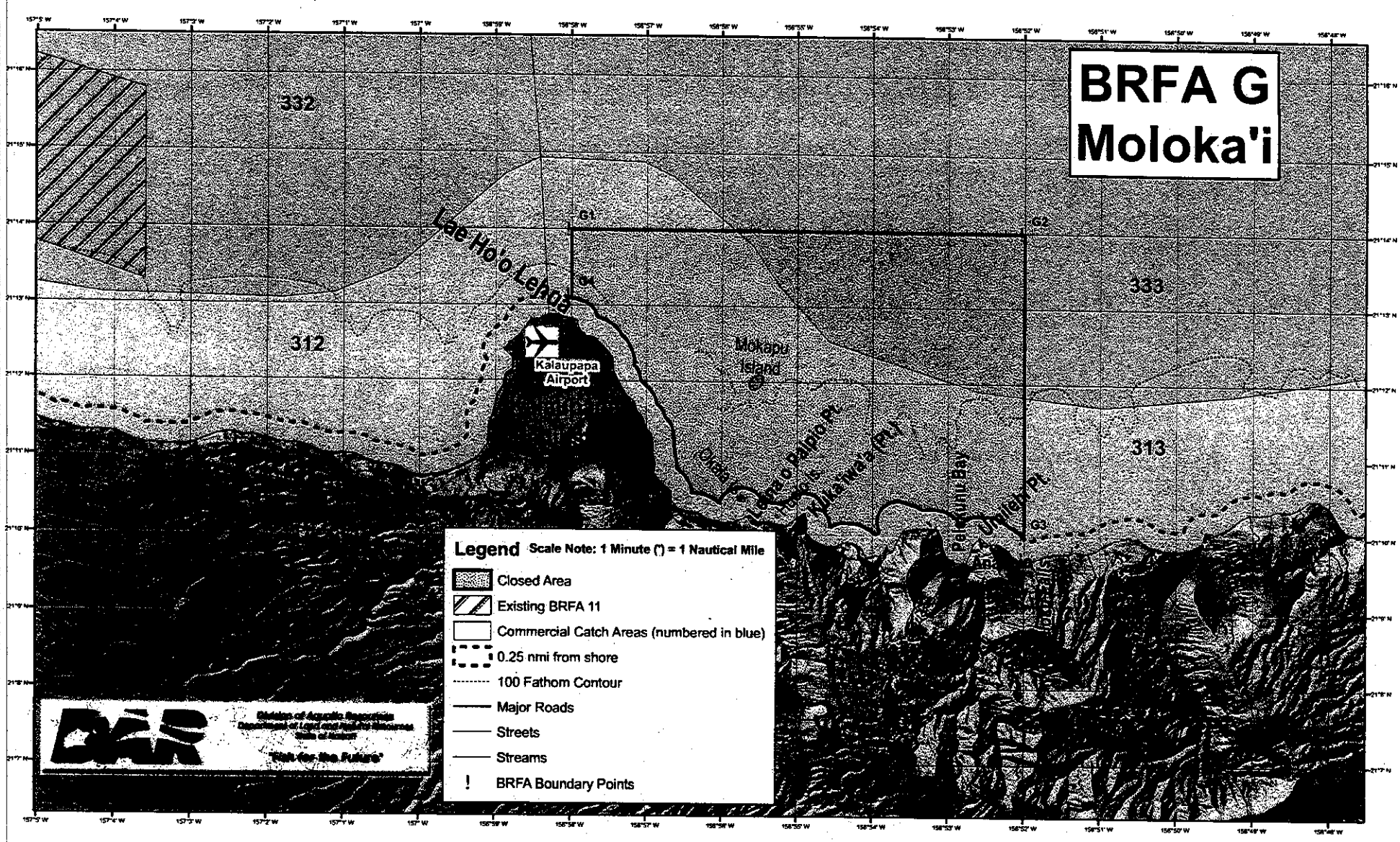

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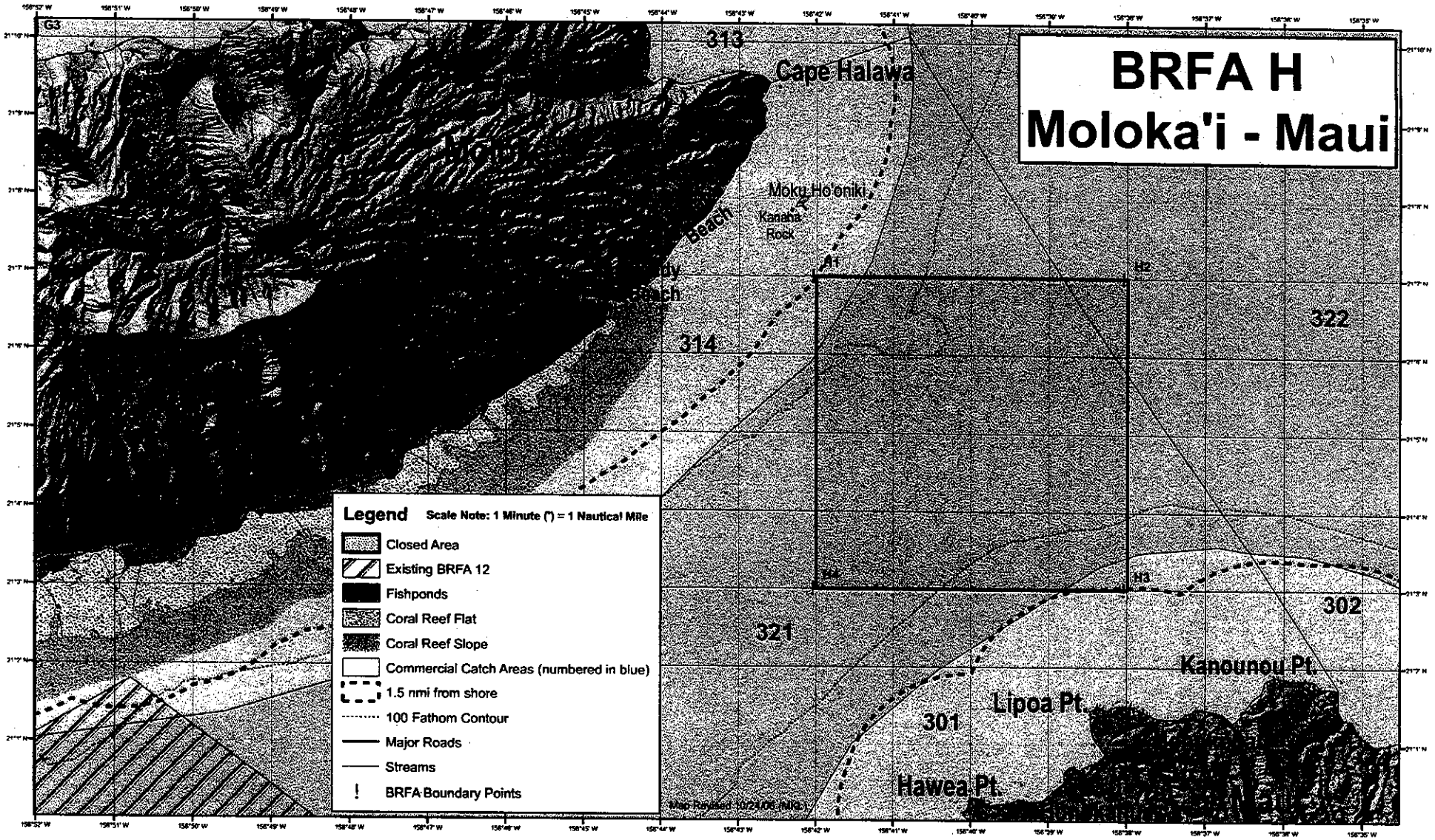

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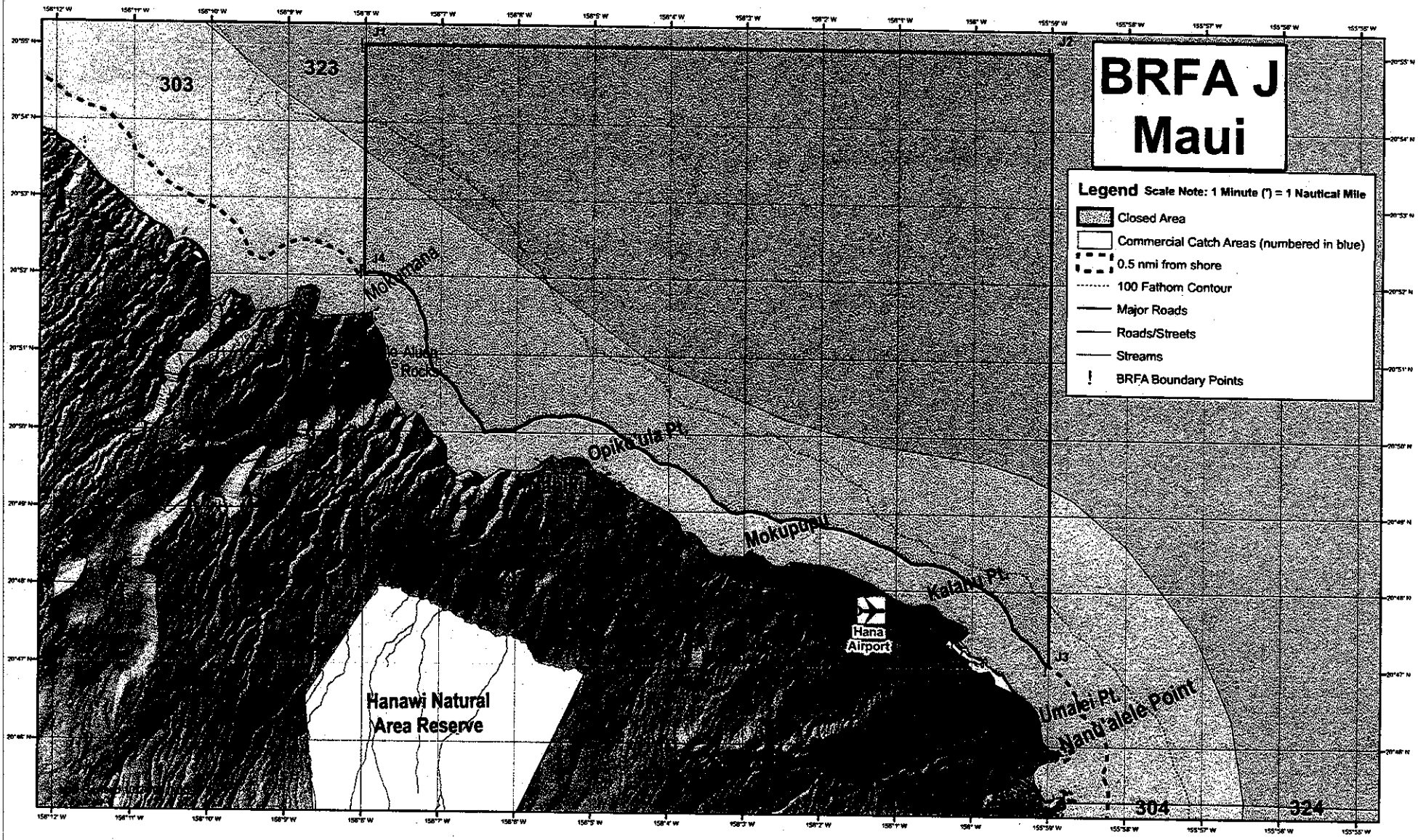

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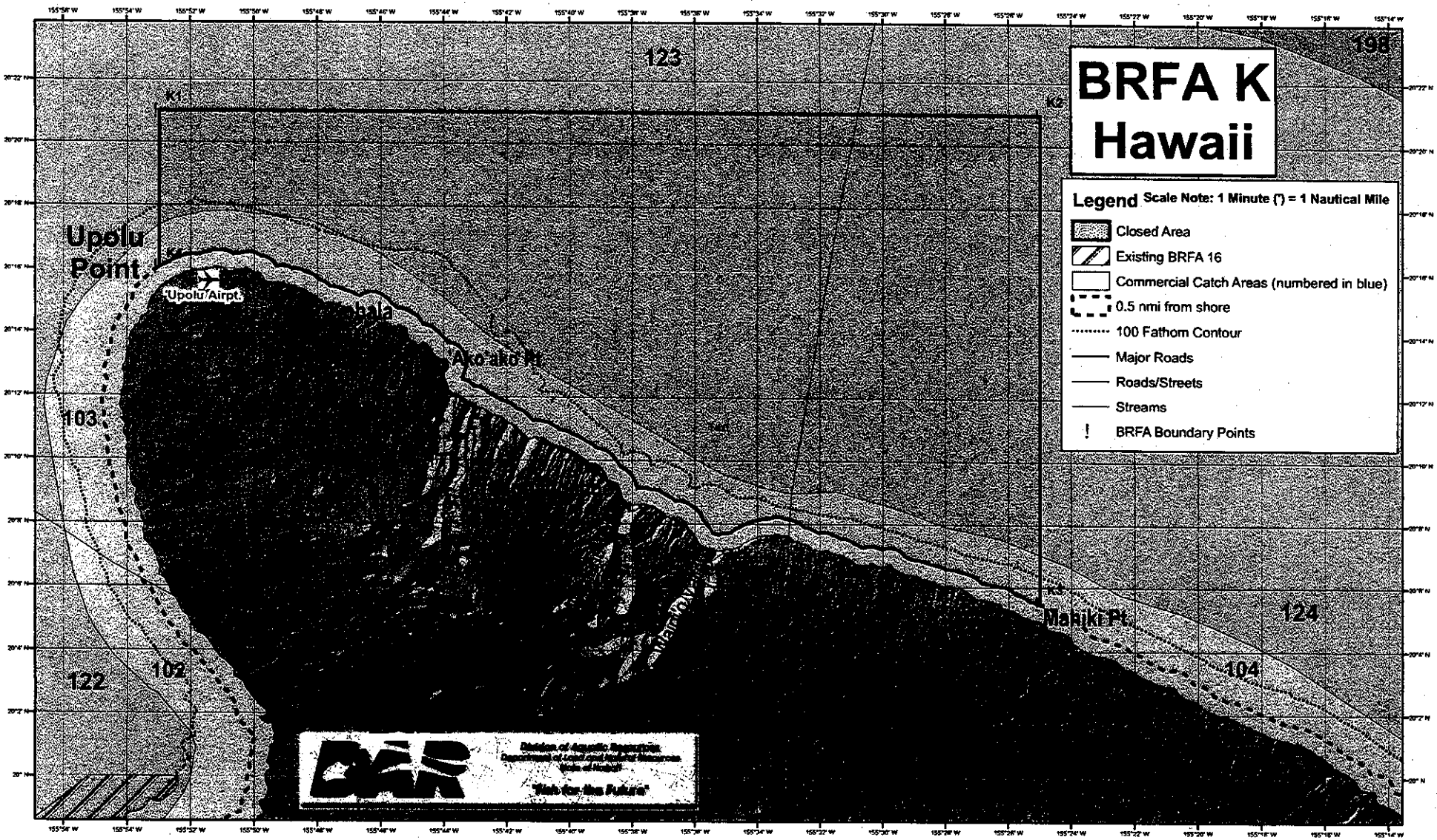

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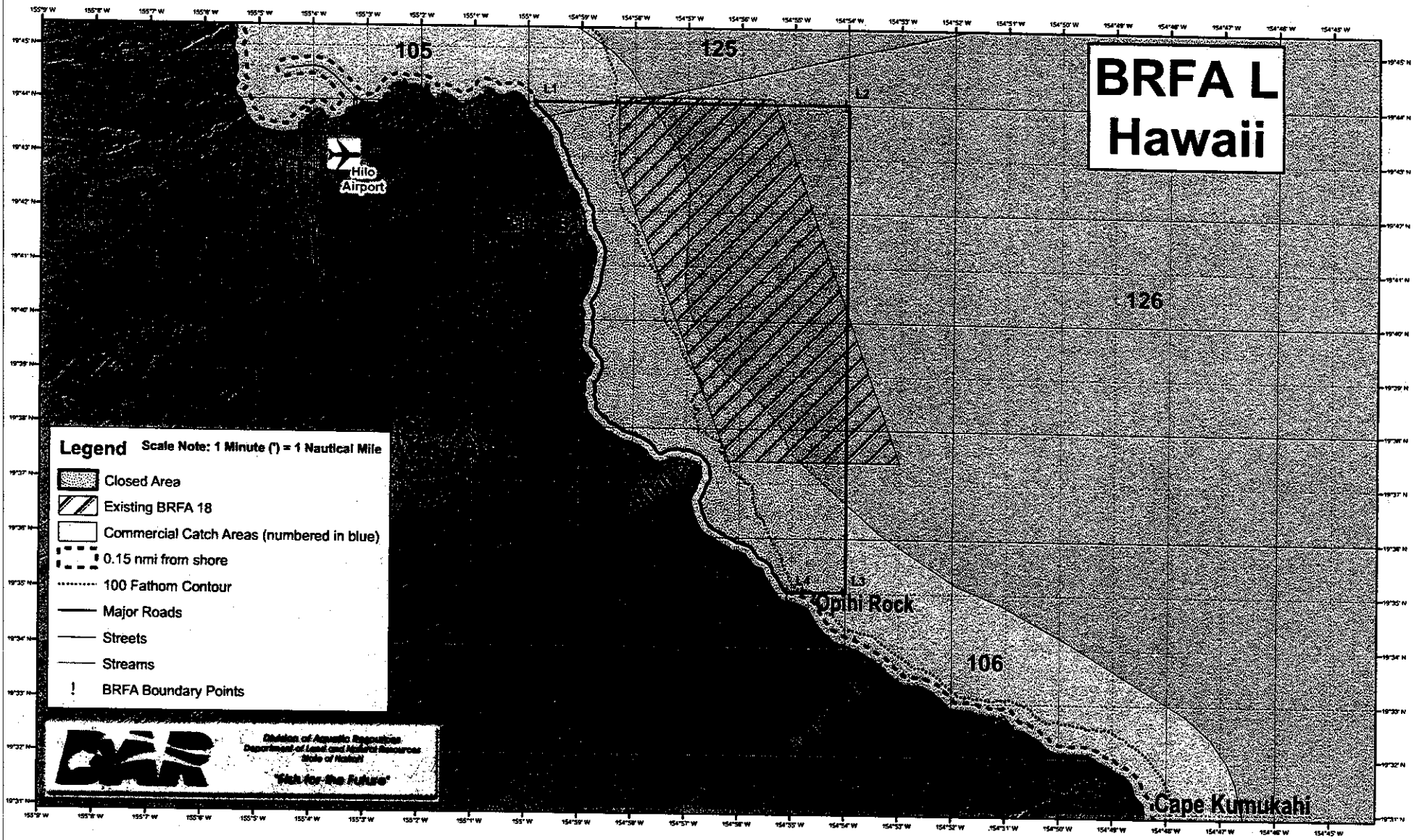
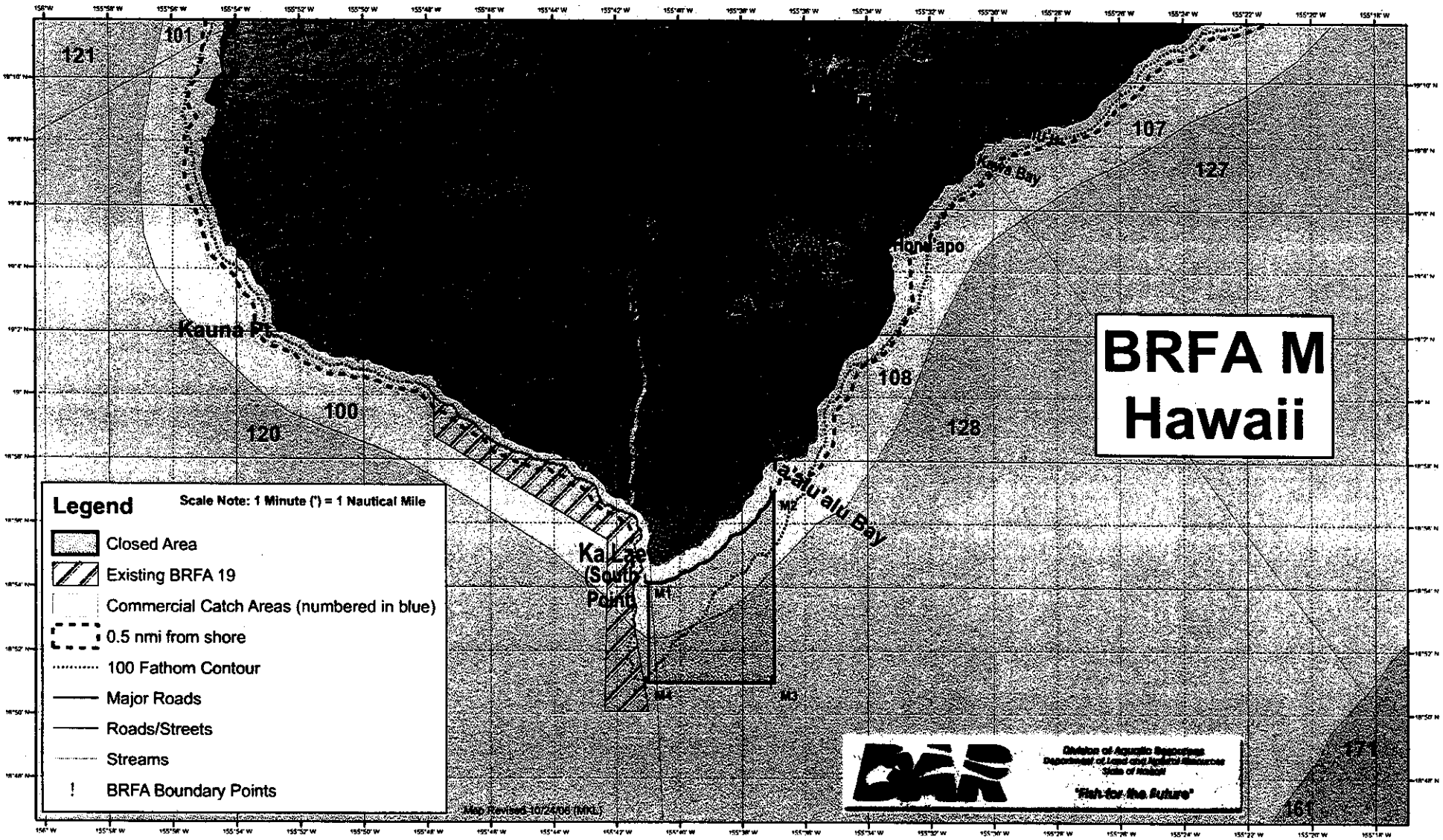
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