

DISTRIBUTION OF CRABS IN  
KANEHOE BAY, HAWAII

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE DIVISION OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN OCEANOGRAPHY  
DECEMBER 1973

By

E. Luis Trujillo

Thesis Committee:

Garth I. Murphy, Chairman

Albert Banner

Thomas A. Clarke

## ABSTRACT

The geographic distribution of five species of portunid crabs, along with one calappidae species, were studied in Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, in the period between June 1972 and April 1973. Salinity and physical parameters including water turbidity, temperature, depth and bottom type were measured at all sampling stations. Depth and type of bottom sediment were found to be the primary determinants in the distribution of the species. More open ocean-like characteristics, as opposed to enclosed bay features, are an associated factor for mature swimming crabs. The presence of clams appears to be influential on the distribution of species that can readily feed on them.