

Hawaii Coral Reef Fishery Management Workshop *Workshop Summary*

The Hawaii Coral Reef Fishery Management Workshop met at Koolau, Kaneohe on November 6 and 7, 2003. The workshop was sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service and was held under the auspices of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force. The workshop responded to the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Management Initiative and was developed by a steering committee comprised of Federal, State, and non-governmental coral reef managers.

Pre-workshop meetings were held on Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii to introduce the concept of local action strategies (LAS, three year plans to address a number of key threats including overfishing, land-based sources of pollution, and recreational overuse). Information gathered at these meetings were used to draft Hawaii's Coral Reef Fishery Management LAS and develop the agenda for this larger coral reef fishery workshop.

The goal of this Hawaii focused workshop was to allow island resource managers, fisheries, educators, enforcement personnel, and stakeholders to identify successful and not-so-successful coral reef fishery management approaches. The workshop provided an open forum to exchange information and discuss current coral reef fishery management practices in the Hawaiian Islands, to continue a broader discussion on the development and implementation of Coral Reef Fishery Management LAS and to enhance stakeholder involvement in the formulation and implementation of this LAS. Throughout the workshop attendees were able to provide recommendations to improve upon current fishery management activities and suggest alternative actions. These recommendations will be considered by local and Federal agencies to incorporate into and to improve upon the current local action strategy and management efforts.

The participants of the workshop heard over 30 presentations and participated in four breakout sessions. Over 60 (70?) State, Territorial, and Federal managers, fishermen, academics, students, representatives from non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders participated in workshop discussions and breakout sessions.

Each day began with a series of presentations that followed by a question and answer period for the panel of presenters. There were 7 areas of presentations:

1. *State of the Coral Reef Fisheries Resources*: This session discussed the types of fishery information that is being collected through surveys, landing reports, and catch forms. The information provided through these tools allow resources managers to assess the amount of fish harvested,

the type of fishing pressure (shoreline, boat, hook and line, or net), alter regulations when needed, and to revise forms/surveys to improve information gathering.

2. *Current Management Initiatives:* The State of Hawaii has an array of initiatives that regulate and manage fishing activities to help improve or maintain fish populations. These include setting minimum size limits, lay gill net regulations, stock enhancement program, and local resource management (West Hawaii Initiatives).
3. *Species of Special Concern:* Throughout the pre-workshop meetings a number of species were constantly being highlighted by fishermen and concerned citizen. These species included Opihi, Lobsters, Ulua/Papio, and Moi. This session was dedicated to discussing what is know about each of these species in terms of population, life history, and management activities if applicable.
4. *Hawaii's Marine Managed Areas:* Marine managed areas, as a tool for fishery management, are a hot topic in Hawaii. Therefore an entire session was dedicated to this topic. It focused on recent studies related to marine managed areas, the types of marine managed areas found with in the Hawaiian Islands and where they are found, and the results from West Hawaii where there are marine managed areas for the aquarium fishery.
5. *Locally Managed Areas from Elsewhere:* Presenters were invited from American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and Fiji to discuss their activities related to marine managed areas.
6. *Enforcement, Community Outreach and Stakeholder Involvement:* Throughout the pre-meetings, attendees were concerned about the ability of enforcement personnel to adequately enforce marine regulations, as these officers enforce all natural resource laws (land and sea). This session provided an opportunity to discuss the role of enforcement personnel and the opportunities for stakeholders to get involved in community watch program or marine conservation activities.
7. *Impacts from Alien Species on Coral Reef:* One of the most noticeable threats to many Hawaiian reefs in the introduction of alien algae.

Each afternoon, there was two breakout sessions to discuss: 1) Improving data collection, 2) Research needs and management recommendations for species of special concern, 3) Enforcement, community outreach, and stakeholder involvement, and 4) Assessing current management initiatives and developing recommendations for improvements. These breakout sessions provided an opportunity participants voice concerns and provide recommendations to the

local resource managers. Reoccurring themes through out these breakout discussions included the need for:

- Increasing stakeholder participation in the decision process and improving upon communication;
- Improving enforcement through effectively enforcing current regulations and community involvement; and
- Integrating fishery management activities with land-based sources of pollution.

While the workshop focus was on coral reef fisheries management activities, it was widely recognized that other impacts, such as non-point source pollution, play a critical role the degradation of coral reef habitats and need to be simultaneously addressed.