

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RESPONSE TEAM: HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE FOR 2007

During 2007, the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Response team made significant progress on all target species. Accomplishments included:

- Completion of new “Supersucker” Barge
- Successful eradication of an introduced Mushroom Anemone
- Remote surveys for the Snowflake Coral, *Carijoa riisei*

Three of the priority species for the AIS Response team are alien algae (5 species), the Mushroom Anemone, *Actinodiscus musciformis*, and the Snowflake Coral, *Carijoa riisei*.

Alien Algae:

- New “Supersucker” barge was constructed in 2007.
- New barge allows alien algae removal in areas outside Kaneohe Bay and can be transported and launched at any boat ramp.
- Barge has two pumps and can remove nearly 10 lbs of algae per minute.
- Increased capacity allows larger areas of alien algae to be managed.
- Operation is a strong partnership between Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, University of Hawaii and The Nature Conservancy.



New “Supersucker” barge off Waikiki.

Mushroom Anemone:



Mushroom Anemone before eradication.

- **First successful marine eradication in Hawaii.**
- Staff worked over one year to remove this organism.
- Two discreet populations are believed to be eradicated.
- Zero animals have been found since spring of 2007.
- Official declaration will be made late in 2007 or early 2008.

Snowflake Coral:

- Continuation of eradication attempt in Port Allen, Kauai.
- Additional surveys for Snowflake Coral were made in summer of 2007.
- In Kauai County, four populations are known to exist outside Port Allen.
- Surveys on Niihau did not detect Snowflake coral in highly suitable habitat.



Black coral colony on Niihau in suitable Snowflake Coral habitat.