

Mission: The mission of the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is to manage, conserve and restore the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations.

The DAR manages the state's aquatic resources and ecosystems through programs in ecosystem management, place-based management, and fisheries management. Major program areas include projects to:

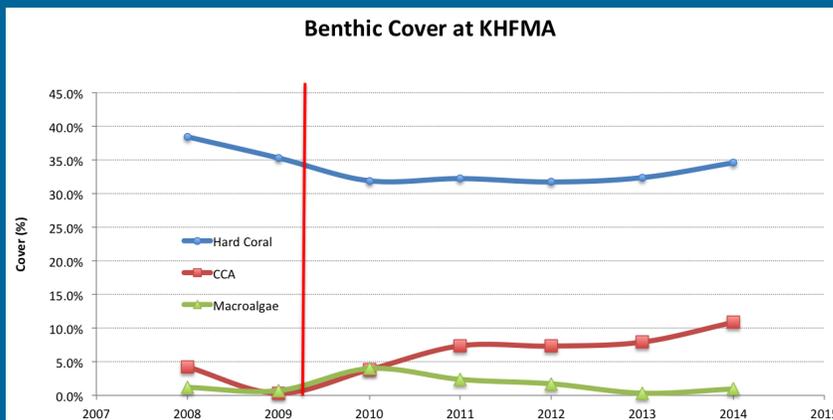
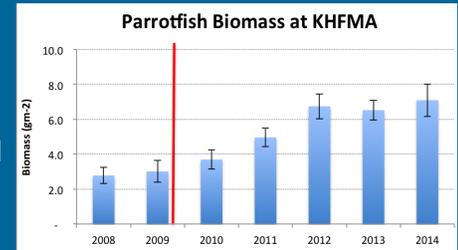
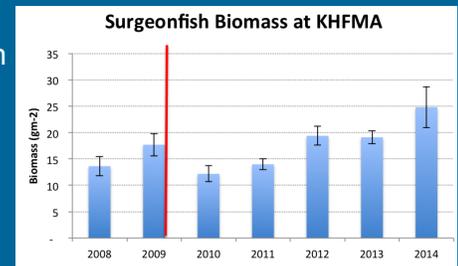
- protect and restore the aquatic environment;
- protect threatened and endangered aquatic species and their habitat;
- conserve and restore endemic and indigenous aquatic species and their habitat;
- combat the introduction of invasive species and reduce their impact on ecosystems;
- effectively manage fisheries; and
- carry out education and outreach to the public.

Kahekili Herbivore Fisheries Management Area

Background: The Kahekili Herbivore Fisheries Management Area (KHFMA) was established by DAR in 2009 to control the overabundance of alien and native marine algae by increasing the abundance of herbivorous fishes and sea urchins. Under KHFMA rules, it is illegal to take any herbivorous species and fish feeding is prohibited.

2014 update:

- Increasing trend of surgeonfishes biomass. Biomass increased 40% 2009 – 2014
- Consistent upward trend in parrotfishes biomass, which has more than doubled since 2009.
- Increased parrotfish biomass in the shallow, nearshore reef areas, which had previously shown few signs of recovery.
- Coral cover has marginally increased in 2014 and CCA has shown a strong upward trend.



Looking Ahead: The recent small upturn in coral cover may be an early sign that protection of herbivores is leading to improved conditions for coral growth and survival in the KHFMA. It is very important to recognize the full effects of herbivore protection on fishes and benthic conditions will only become clear over longer time frames.