

GLOSSARY

Ahupua‘a: land division usually extending from the uplands to the sea, so called because the boundary was marked by a heap (*ahu*) of stones surmounted by the image of a pig (*pua‘a*), or because the pig or other tribute was laid on the altar as a tax to the chief.

Ballast Water: water carried in ballast tanks in the hold of ships to help keep the ship stable. Water is usually discharged and taken up in port, which can facilitate the spread of invasive species.

Biological Diversity or Biodiversity: the variety of all biological life – plants, animals, fungi, and microorganism – and the ecosystems on land or in water where they live; the diversity of life on earth or in a particular location.

Biological Integrity: defined by the Environmental Protection Agency as “the ability of an aquatic ecosystem to support and maintain a balanced, adaptive community of organisms having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to that of natural habitats within a region.”

Congener: belonging to the same genus.

Conspecific: belonging to the same species.

Critical Habitat: term defined in the Endangered Species Act. Critical habitat is defined as (1) the specific areas within the geographic area occupied by a species at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features (a) essential to the conservation of the species and (b) which may require special management considerations and (2) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed upon a determination that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act prohibits the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat with regard to actions carried out, funded, or authorized by a Federal agency.

Depredate: prey on.

Ecosystem: an ecological unit that is composed of interacting organisms in their environment.

Endemic: adjective or noun used to describe species found only within a specified region or locality and thus unique to that area.

Epiphytes: a plant growing on another plant for support or anchorage rather than for water or nutrients.

Euryhaline: adjective indicating ability to tolerate a large range of salinities.

Eutrophication: water pollution caused by excessive nutrients that stimulate excessive plant growth.

Extant: alive, existing, not extinct.

Extirpate: not existing, extinct, wipe out or destroy completely.

Feral: adjective used to describe domesticated animal that has reverted to an untamed state.

Habitat: the area or type of environment where an organism or a biological population lives or occurs.

Holotype: the single specimen for which a species is named and described.

Hull Fouling: the attachment and/or colonization of ship hulls by organisms such as barnacles and mussels; can be a major vector for invasive species introduction.

Hypogeal: underground. Used to describe the underground, water-filled spaces where anchialine fauna live in addition to anchialine ponds.

Indigenous: species that occur naturally in a particular area (e.g., not introduced by humans or human activity). All endemic species are considered indigenous species; however, the term “indigenous” is sometimes used to describe native species that are not endemic or whose endemic status is unknown.

Interstitial: space between structures. Used to refer to the spaces where anchialine fauna are found in the hypogeal environment.

Introduced Species: species that do not arrive into ecosystems through natural means (e.g., air, wind, water, animals), but through human-assisted activities. The terms “alien,” “non-native,” or “exotic” species may also be used interchangeably with introduced species.

Invasive Species: an animal pest or weed that negatively impacts indigenous species and ecosystems.

Kupuna: grandparent, ancestor, relative or close friend of the grandparent's generation, grandaunt, granduncle.

Lo‘i: irrigated terrace, especially for taro, but also for rice: paddy.

Maui Nui: the islands of Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, Maui, and Kaho‘olawe.

Native: species that occur naturally in a particular area (e.g., not introduced by humans or human activity). The term “native” is commonly used to describe both endemic and non-endemic indigenous species.

Niche: the function or role of an organism in an ecosystem or the habitat an organism occupies in the ecosystem.

Non-Point Source Pollution: water pollution that comes from many diffuse sources rather than from a specific point, such as an outfall pipe, and is often the result of human activities.

Phenology: temporal aspects of a species’ biology (e.g., timing of a species’ reproductive cycle).

Philopatry: the characteristic of remaining near or returning to a particular area (e.g., natal territory). Used to describe species that tend to remain in, or return to, their home area.

Phytophagous: same as herbivorous (plant eating), but often associated with insects that pierce and suck liquids from plants.

Phytoremediation: the process of cleaning up pollutants especially in water or soil using plants.

Point Source Pollution: pollution from any discernible, confined, or discrete conveyance from which pollutants are or may be discharged, including, (but not limited to) pipes, ditches, channels, tunnels, conduits, wells, containers, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operations, or vessels.

Precocial: offspring that exhibit a high level of independent activity from hatching. Usually applies to birds or mammals.

Recovery Habitat: term used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for areas identified in Recovery Plans and determined to be necessary for long-term survival and recovery of endangered species.

Shield Volcano: defined by the U.S. Geological Service to refer to volcanoes with broad, gentle slopes, built by the eruption of fluid basalt lava.

Species: a group of closely related, interbreeding organisms that produce fertile offspring.

Stochastic: unpredictable or by chance.

Subsidence: the downward movement of the earth’s surface in relation to a reference point such as sea level.

Taxa (plural of taxon): groupings of organisms given formal taxonomic names such as species, genus, family, etc.

Ungulates: hooved animals such as cattle, goats, deer, sheep, and pigs.

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<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/cleanwater/reports/reports.html>.

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