

# HOLOMUA MARINE 30x30

EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF HAWAII'S  
NEARSHORE WATERS FOR HEALTHY REEFS,  
FISH, AND COMMUNITIES



**H**awaii's culture, economy, and way of life are intimately tied to our marine environment. We depend on healthy oceans and coral reefs for food, recreation, tourism, protection from storms which defines our island lifestyle.

However, our marine environment faces many growing pressures from polluted runoff, unsustainable fishing practices, and warming and rising seas. High ocean temperatures in 2014 and 2015 caused the most severe loss of corals ever recorded in Hawaii. Changing ocean conditions will lead to continued warming of our oceans causing more frequent and severe high temperature events. These events can lead to a greater threat of coral bleaching and mortality. At the same time, scientific analysis recently revealed declines of up to 75% in some of our key reef fish populations.

Our marine environment is resilient and can bounce back if we take action now. Across the state, many fishermen are embracing and promoting *pono* (sustainable) fishing practices, taking only as much fish as they need, and communities are already working to strengthen management of nearshore waters. Building on this momentum, the state launched a multi-pronged initiative to increase sustainability for Hawaii's environment and communities. In an effort to restore abundance to our nearshore environment (from the high tide mark out to a depth of 160 feet), the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is committed to achieving the marine component of this initiative to ***effectively manage Hawaii's nearshore waters with 30% established as marine management areas by 2030.***

## Our Ocean Matters...

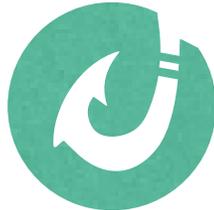
- 90% OF HAWAII RESIDENTS VIEW CORAL REEFS AS IMPORTANT TO HAWAIIAN CULTURE.
- MORE THAN 60% OF RESIDENTS PERCEIVE THE LEVEL OF THREAT TO CORAL REEFS AS LARGE OR EXTREME.
- 60% OF RESIDENTS ANTICIPATE THE OVERALL RESOURCE CONDITION—SUCH AS FISH AND CORAL—WILL GET WORSE OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS.
- THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS SUPPORT TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF OUR NEARSHORE ENVIRONMENT BY MORE EFFECTIVELY MANAGING IT.

As the state agency tasked with "managing, conserving, and restoring Hawai'i's aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations," the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is leading the ambitious initiative. Ultimate success, however, relies on the involvement of individuals and communities across the state. Building on Hawai'i's rich and effective traditional management practices and knowledge, along with guidance from fishers, cultural practitioners, and scientific partners, DAR has outlined a path hinged on four components:



### **PLACE-BASED PLANNING**

Convene fishers and community members to work with the State to build a cohesive, ecologically-connected network of areas for improved marine management encompassing at least 30% of nearshore waters surrounding each of the main Hawaiian islands.



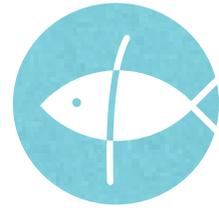
### **PONO PRACTICES**

Encourage responsible behavior through education and outreach, update regulations and strengthen enforcement, and enhance local partnerships to manage human activities in nearshore waters.



### **PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

Build on existing efforts to prevent further damage to fragile nearshore ecosystems and expand efforts to restore and enhance areas in need.



### **MONITORING**

Measure current conditions and track progress following implementation of new management approaches; use data to identify areas where management actions need to be further adapted.

## **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

In the summer of 2020, DAR will commence a series of open houses across all islands to inform communities and stakeholders about "Holomua: Marine 30x30" and seek input on the design of a public process. In 2021, DAR will return to each island to further engage with communities in an inclusive, transparent process that will help the people of Hawai'i work together to achieve effective management of Hawai'i's nearshore waters for healthy reefs, fish, and communities.



Holomua: Marine 30x30 invites Hawai'i's residents to work with DAR and its partners to achieve our shared goal of a healthy nearshore ecosystem. Let's work together to restore the abundance of our marine resources so that the people of Hawai'i can enjoy our nearshore waters, support local livelihoods, and feed our families for many generations to come.

**To learn more, share ideas, or find out how you can get involved, email [Marine30x30@Hawaii.gov](mailto:Marine30x30@Hawaii.gov) or call (808) 587-0100.**