

### **KUA Community Networks Herbivore Scoping Event**

March 11, 2021, 4:00pm –6:00pm via Zoom: 19 attendees

**Purpose of Meeting:** Targeted meetings were held with a key stakeholder group of fishers, and their close networks to receive feedback about the presentation materials representing herbivore species data, scientific justification for management, and potential rule options. The feedback received at this meeting is intended to help DAR improve messaging, better communicate the herbivore management effort, and facilitate effective discussions at the next round of scoping to a wider range of stakeholders.

### **General Comments:**

The group had many suggestions regarding the rules presented. Slot limits were supported, but feasibility with spearfishers was discussed due to the inability to catch and release with a spear. It was suggested that spearfishers be exempt from slot limits. Time-limited rules and incorporating adaptive management strategies were discussed and supported. Participants requested to include opihi and lobster in the plan, since they also eat limu.

The group voiced that it would be good to have regulations in place to manage fish before they decline and the populations become a problem, allowing people time to shift their eating habits, target different fish, and adaptively manage. They also inquired about the flexibility to manage at a place-based level to better tailor management towards individual areas.

Participants made suggestions regarding how DAR can present information related to this effort moving forward. The group supported a broad increase in education regarding pono fishing practices. They suggested maps of pollution concentrations from septic systems be added to the presentation and a deeper explanation of the roles each herbivore plays on the reef. They recommended a list of literature and data that DAR is using to justify this effort be publicly available for transparency.

### **Urchins:**

Participants opposed the bag limit of 5 per person per day for being too low and suggested seasonal protections be implemented to correspond with spawning cycles. Though there are not that many people who collect wana, a few will typically gather to share with a bigger group. Participants supported implementing a bag limit to prevent overtake and additionally proposed a regulation against commercial take of wana.

### **Nenu:**

Participants supported nenu regulations. They also expressed concern for current efforts to farm-raise nenu due to possible impacts on the natural populations and cycles if released.



**Surgeonfish:**

There was support for manini and kole regulations (size minimums and bag limits), with participants sharing that the species are highly fished and targeted. It was even mentioned that a bag limit of 20 for kole would be too much. Participants suggested incorporating spawning cycles of kole into regulations. Participants supported the bag limit of 2 for black kole, given that the yellow-eye has a bag limit of 20. Moloka'i fishers shared that not much black kole are seen on their island. Upon bringing up pāku'iku'i, they mentioned it is mostly caught by aquarium fishers and the group supported regulation. Umaumalei regulations were also supported.

**Uhu:**

Participants supported large-bodied and small-bodied uhu regulations in addition to a ban on nighttime take of uhu. They shared that large uhu taste bad, but have now become a trophy fish for most divers and require protection. Participants suggested communicating how scrapers contribute to vital sand production in future presentations.

Targeted stakeholder feedback above was compiled and summarized by DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources. DAR will be considering the input from these meetings in the next steps of our process.