

## **Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights Association Herbivore Scoping Event**

March 17, 2021, 5:30pm –7:30pm via Zoom: number of attendees unknown

**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:**

Participants opposed presented regulations due to bag limits and size minimums hindering their culture and livelihoods and their already healthy fish populations in their areas. They did not agree that regulations should be enforced on people who have managed their resources for generations. However, they suggested closed seasons allowing for rest and reproduction and supported a ban on nighttime fishing. In addition, they voiced a need for enforcement at night.

Participants shared a willingness to work with DLNR to manage resources in a way that will work for their place. They emphasized how local communities such as those in Moloka'i, take care of their own resources in their own way. They did not agree with statewide management due to different fisheries issues on each island. They spoke about a need to feed 'ohana and put food on the table, which makes it difficult to follow bag limits and size minimums. In addition, they did not want to cause divides in the fishing community by regulating various forms of gathering.

Many felt that management should focus on restoration, mālama, and pono practices of nearshore resources and promote education about proper standards of conduct. They observed limu declining due to foreign harvesting practices. Participants requested traditional and customary practices based on generational knowledge be incorporated into management conversations, procedures, and strategies.

Participants viewed discrepancies between the data presented and what they observe in their nearshore environments. They added that the data was not specific enough to each place and the issues that may occur there regarding locations, gathering, and gear. Participants requested data come from non-biased collectors and include influence of 'ike and Hawaiians. It was recommended that a hui be created for each moku to advise on any place-based rules and ensure customary and traditional knowledge is included in monitoring data. They encouraged leaning on those who spend most of their time in those nearshore areas for their expertise.

Participants brought up other issues to the ocean besides fishing, such as runoff, sediment, currents, development, tourism, and invasive species that also impact the fisheries. They requested to see more community voices come to the table to avoid overregulation and blame on fishers. Participants suggested DAR restart the roi round up to get more support from fishers. In addition, they suggested monk seals are depleting fish populations. Some fishers voiced opposition for fencing to manage mauka impacts.



**Urchins:**

No comments.

**Nenue:**

No comments.

**Surgeonfish:**

No comments.

**Uhu:**

Participants opposed the ban on blue uhu.

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.