

**Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)  
Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)**

## **Online Herbivore Feedback Form Responses**

Three virtual scoping sessions were held on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> of 2021 to discuss new updates to the Statewide Herbivore Management Strategy, which included amendments to existing regulations and the proposal of new regulations. An online feedback/survey form was provided as an alternative method to provide comments, and was shared through various methods including email, social media, flyers, and the DAR [Holomua: Marine 30x30](#) website. A total of 33 comments were submitted online. This document summarizes the overall responses from these submissions, and are not a representation of DAR. Frequently asked questions (FAQ) from the scoping sessions are also available on the website [here](#), and summary notes from the meetings are posted on the [Participate in the Process](#) webpage.

### **Kala**

The majority of survey participants (75%) expressed concern for the status of kala in Hawai'i, with these specific comments:

- Concern for the use of commercial gill nets vs. commercial bag nets was shared
- Support for slot limits
- Decrease in kala observed on Kaua'i, West Hawai'i, and South Shore of O'ahu
- Allow commercial take with a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limit
- Ban lay nets
- Catch of undersized kala is one of the top cited resource use violations

78% of participants supported an increase in minimum size limit for kala from 14 inches to 15 inches, with additional comments below:

- Some opposed a minimum harvest size limit increase but supported a bag limit instead
- General support for some kind of regulation that would lead to a decrease in catch
- Support for these regulations for commercial catch, but not for recreational and subsistence fishing
- Too many commercial lay nets observed
- Just keep the current rule

73% of participants supported a bag limit for kala, with specific comments, including:

- Support for regulations that would result in a decrease of catch numbers, including a ban
- Suggestions for bag limit of 3-4, two participants suggested a bag limit of one instead of the proposed limit of two
- No support if commercial fishers are exempt from these rules
- Support for an annual catch limit, as opposed to a bag limit that is per person per day
- Provision for commercial catch to have different limits than non-commercial

### Uhu

92% of survey participants expressed concern for uhu populations, with these specific comments:

- Decrease in abundance observed on Kaua‘i and in general elsewhere
- Concern with commercial night divers and SCUBA leading to unsustainable harvests
- Concern with unsustainable harvests using lay nets
- No take of uhu at night should be implemented
- Keep minimum harvest size limit with added maximum size limit of 16 or 17 inches (slot limit)
- Full no take for 1-2 years (ban)
- No commercial sale of uhu with puncture wounds
- Should have commercial take with TAC limits

79% of participants supported an increase in a minimum size limit for uhu, with specific comments:

- Support for a complete ban of taking uhu
- Keep current minimum harvest size limits but add a maximum size limit (slot limit)
- Suggestion for minimum harvest size limit of 15 inches

88% of participants supported a bag limit for uhu, with specific comments:

- Suggestion of bag limit of 3 per person per day
- Suggestion of bag limit of 4 per person, if freediving
- Suggestion of bag limit of 1 per person
- Support a complete ban of uhu
- Suggestion that it should not be allowed to take or possess uhu at night

74% of participants supported the no take of blue uhu (identical to the Maui rules):

- Observation from Kaua'i- Blue uhu are rarely ever sighted

### **Manini**

Just over half the survey participants (52%) had concerns over manini, with specific comments:

- Decreased abundance observed on Kaua'i
- General decrease in sizes observed
- Suggestion to ban laynets
- Concerns stated about laynets
- Suggestion to add a bag limit

78% of participants supported a minimum size limit increase for manini:

- Suggestion to ban take of manini
- Suggestion to increase minimum harvest size limit to 7 inches
- Observation provided- Rarely see any 6 inch manini

### **Kole**

59% of survey participants showed concerns about kole populations:

- Seeing smaller kole and not that many large ones
- Seeing fewer kole
- Decreased abundance reported on Kaua'i
- Plenty still present in West Maui
- Suggestion to include a bag limit
- Concern raised: Why is DAR proposing regulations with no stock assessment?

74% of participants supported a 5 inch minimum size limit of kole:

- Suggestion to ban take of kole
- Suggestion that there should be no take of kole using spear
- Suggestion to include bag limits
- Suggestion of 4 inch minimum harvest size limit instead