

From: [Samuel Bales](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda items F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:29:38 AM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Samuel Bales

From: [Jennifer Boyer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:39:59 PM

To members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Last year you directed the Division of Aquatic Resources to begin the rule process on ending the catching of fishes for the aquarium trade. Rather than comply, DAR is instead planning to propose rewriting the rule to allow fishes to be caught instead of prohibiting it. DAR's briefing document is problematic, to say the least. Some examples: it does not mention the negative impacts of the proposed aquarium collection, does not disclose the substantial reduction in yellow tang abundance in collection areas, doesn't mention cultural concerns and enforcement challenges, etc. The trade conflicts with native Hawai'ian values, including pono fishing practices to only take what is needed.

DAR's flawed West Hawai'i plan to reopen the trade in its entirety is appalling for all of us who treasure wildlife and its role in our ecosystem. I urge you to please uphold your unanimous vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking and also direct DAR to hold the required public hearings on the rules at this time.

Respectfully yours,

Jennifer Boyer
Pahala, HI

From: [chris Boyles](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:58:01 AM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Sincerely,
Chris Boyles

From: [Jim Carter](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 12:04:09 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery,
and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR. We appreciate wanting to
protect the wildlife, however responsible fish harvesting has not harmed the habitat.

Signed:

James Carter

From: [Brittany Chetty](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 2:03:35 PM

Hello,

I am a concerned American citizen. I urge the Board to oppose attempts by DAR to reopen the aquarium collection trade in Hawai'i. Coral reefs are precious ecosystems that need to be protected.

Thank you,
Brittany Chetty

From: [Howard Edelstein](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:44:38 AM

Dear Board members,

I write in support of the Board of Land and Natural Resources upholding its approval of the petition for rulemaking to prohibit the taking of marine life for commercial aquarium purposes. Please direct the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to begin the rulemaking process now and to hold the required public hearings on the rules.

I know I am far from alone in wanting Hawaiian wildlife to remain in nature, not removed from it for the financial benefit of a few profiteers who will subject these animals to a life in captivity. For most of the victims, their captive life will be a fraction of what it could be in nature. Many will not even survive long enough to be sold. It is egregiously inhumane and wasteful.

My spouse and I postponed our honeymoon due to last year's tragic fire in Lahaina. We have still been planning to go, and especially to see Hawaii's marvelous coral reef residents while they are still there. (I scuba dive and my wife loves snorkeling.) We realize the hardships these animals face and the dire future consequences confronting them due to human-caused harms. To allow people to needlessly and cruelly remove these animals from their homes for private profit and pleasure is a disservice to both the wildlife and the public.

We hope the state will not allow it but instead will act for the greater benefit. In addition to the joy these animals provide to people who view them in their natural habitat, in person or through the photos and videos that others are good enough to share, they also provide essential environmental services. They belong in nature, not in water-filled glass boxes! If the state doesn't have enough respect to let them live their lives as nature intended we will have to reconsider our travel plans.

I implore the Board to do the right thing by directing DAR to begin the petition rulemaking process now and to hold the required public hearings on the rules.

Most sincerely,
Howard Edelstein
1200 Tanley Road, Silver Spring, Md., 20904

From: [Sherrill Erickson](#)
To: [DLNR, BLNR, Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Opposition to Hawaii Aquarium trade, April 12, Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:25:51 AM

Aloha Ladies and Gentlemen,

I support forever banning commercial aquarium fish taking in Hawaii.

My reasons are as follows:

1) Hawaii's underwater reef Wildlife belongs to all Hawaii's people and not just those few who would take them and sell them for commercial gain. Our reef fish are much more valuable in place, where they evolved, on the reef, intrinsically as well as for science & tourism. They are essential members of the reef ecosystem and are needed where they are. Especially in the face of climate change where reefs all over the planet, including those in Hawaii, are bleaching, dying, and disappearing.

2) We must therefore put a permanent Kapu on taking and selling Hawaii's iconic and colorful reef fish.

3) History amply shows humanity proceeding relentlessly in a state of psychological denial-whereby an individual takes from nature to benefit himself or herself as an individual for personal gain - even though humanity/life itself as a whole suffers -this is the tragedy of the commons -where we ignore nature's fundamental laws. Where we fail again and again to respect the limits nature places on ecosystems.

Humans world wide have decimated once abundant fisheries and fish species by scouring the ocean with greater and greater precision for fewer and fewer fish. We remove far more fish than can be replaced by natural processes.

Why can't Hawaii go against the tide? Why can't she protect her priceless reef fish? What or who is she afraid of?

Hawaii needs to stand up for her reef fish. Preserve and protect her underwater ecosystems that sustain us all. Hawaii should say no, for once, to short term profiteering.

Are we not the many? It is our duty to prohibit the few from taking and exploiting Hawaii's reef fish for commercial gain -at the grave expense of Hawaii's coral reefs.

Hawaii should be brave -a leader in conservation. Impose a Kapu.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

The Article below is broadly informative on this issue.

[https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://apnews.com/article/fish-saltwater-aquarium-coral-reef-580e16f3aaa6e8e7209597ff92488130_!!LIYSdFfckKA!1PyKMNmUK4VDEJaAeiUph5vZftb5kDE_ppFREjtuRAoobELbDcysh4t3WnWjW35Bsbu4ix1vOBUuL.GyrLD_TO2xr5KkdjPL\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/___https://apnews.com/article/fish-saltwater-aquarium-coral-reef-580e16f3aaa6e8e7209597ff92488130_!!LIYSdFfckKA!1PyKMNmUK4VDEJaAeiUph5vZftb5kDE_ppFREjtuRAoobELbDcysh4t3WnWjW35Bsbu4ix1vOBUuL.GyrLD_TO2xr5KkdjPL$)

Sherrill A. Erickson
Attorney at Law
Broker RB 20522
55 Beckley Lane
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
(808) 960-0921

From: [Sara Fuller](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:21:32 AM

Aloha,
My name is Sara Fuller. I have lived and worked since 1987 at :
69-1647 Puako Beach Drive
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

Aquarium Fish Collecting for Business Gain and Export Must Never be Allowed.

-Gathering for export and eventual death in the aquarium collection business : Hawaii's number one tourist attraction "the fish", is a wrong business decision.

-Gathering for export and eventual death in the aquarium collection business : Hawaiian's number one food sustenance and gathering right "the fish", is ethically, morally and whole heartedly wrong. This is a disservice to the Hawaiian people and generations well into the future.

-Your job is to protect all of Hawaii's people, their land and their ocean.

-Look deep with in your souls and to your spiritual guides to do the right thing.

God Bless the Decision Makers of Hawaii,

Sara Fuller

From: [Olivia Gemperle](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:38:27 PM

Hello BLNR,

My name is Olivia Gemperle, a local resident of Kailua-Kona and I am writing to you today in strong OPPOSITION to DAR's plan to reopen West Hawaii's reefs to the destructive aquarium trade.

Aquarium trading and any future permitting should never be allowed back on any island of Hawaii in order to protect the health of the reef ecosystem which in turn helps combat climate change. It is also important to eliminate this practice in order to respect and comply with native Hawaiian pono fishing culture practices that strive for sustainability so the oceans can thrive for future generations to come.

Specific points that support this opposition to DAR's Aquarium Plan:

DAR's West Hawaii's Aquarium Plan (Item F.2) fails to mention:

- The negative impacts of the proposed aquarium collection, just as the trade's deeply flawed EIS failed to.
- Fails to disclose the 80% - 120% reduction in yellow tang abundance in areas where collection occurred.
- Fails to disclose that the proposed level of take exceeds that taken by subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers, combined.

- Excludes any discussion of, or even a reference to, major cultural concerns, enforcement challenges, or climate change.

On December 8, 2023, BLNR unanimously accepted our petition to enact rules to close the aquarium pet trade statewide and directed the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), which opposed our petition, to begin that rule process and public hearings. Please uphold the December 8 vote and begin the rule process to end the trade.

See points below:

- The trade inherently conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values, including pono fishing practices to only take what is needed. Hawai'i's 46 moku that make up the entire state Aha Moku oppose AQ collecting.
- A published cost/benefit analysis shows Hawai'i residents receive ZERO benefits from the AQ trade, but suffer ALL the costs.
- Scientists forecast that we'll lose 70% of our reefs by 2030 due to climate change.
- Scientists agree that reefs need more herbivores if they are to have a fighting chance; and that DAR's herbivore rules for food fish are not strong enough.
- Any legal collection only provides cover for even more illegal poaching that continues even today!

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mahalo Nui,

Oliviah Gemperle

From: [Bianca Isaki](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony Opposition to Reopening Reefs to Destructive Aquarium Trade
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 12:29:39 PM

Dear Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed plan by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to reopen our reefs to the destructive aquarium trade. I urge you to uphold the December 8 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking and to hold the required public hearings on the rules promptly.

The briefing document provided by DAR regarding the West Hawai'i Aquarium Plan (Item F.2) is deeply concerning. It fails to acknowledge the negative impacts of the proposed aquarium collection, including the significant reduction in yellow tang abundance in areas where collection has occurred. Furthermore, the proposed level of take exceeds that of subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers combined, which is alarming.

Additionally, the document fails to address major cultural concerns, enforcement challenges, or the looming threat of climate change. The trade not only conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values, such as pono fishing practices, but it also disregards the opposition from Hawai'i's 46 moku that make up the entire state Aha Moku.

Moreover, a published cost/benefit analysis demonstrates that Hawai'i residents receive zero benefits from the aquarium trade but suffer all the costs. Given the dire predictions by scientists that we could lose 70% of our reefs by 2030 due to climate change, it is imperative that we prioritize reef conservation efforts. Reefs require more herbivores to thrive, and DAR's current herbivore rules for food fish are not robust enough to support reef health.

Legalizing aquarium collection would only provide cover for increased illegal poaching, exacerbating the ongoing threats to our marine ecosystems.

I implore you to uphold the December 8 vote and commence the rule making process to end the aquarium trade. Our reefs are invaluable treasures that must be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Bianca Isaki, Kane'ohe

From: [Grady Jacobsen](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 2:26:16 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Grady Jacobsen

The aquarium trade is not what threatens fish populations it is POLLUTION, ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION, and UNINFORMED PEOPLE.
Please focus on the real issues.

From: [Milena Kari](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony Opposition to Reopening Reefs to Destructive Aquarium Trade
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 1:41:45 PM

Dear Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed plan by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to reopen our reefs to the destructive aquarium trade. I urge you to uphold the December 8 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking and to hold the required public hearings on the rules promptly.

The briefing document provided by DAR regarding the West Hawai'i Aquarium Plan (Item F.2) is deeply concerning. It fails to acknowledge the negative impacts of the proposed aquarium collection, including the significant reduction in yellow tang abundance in areas where collection has occurred. Furthermore, the proposed level of take exceeds that of subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers combined, which is alarming.

Additionally, the document fails to address major cultural concerns, enforcement challenges, or the looming threat of climate change. The trade not only conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values, such as pono fishing practices, but it also disregards the opposition from Hawai'i's 46 moku that make up the entire state Aha Moku.

Moreover, a published cost/benefit analysis demonstrates that Hawai'i residents receive zero benefits from the aquarium trade but suffer all the costs. Given the dire predictions by scientists that we could lose 70% of our reefs by 2030 due to climate change, it is imperative that we prioritize reef conservation efforts. Reefs require more herbivores to thrive, and DAR's current herbivore rules for food fish are not robust enough to support reef health.

Legalizing aquarium collection would only provide cover for increased illegal poaching, exacerbating the ongoing threats to our marine ecosystems.

I implore you to uphold the December 8 vote and commence the rule making process to end the aquarium trade. Our reefs are invaluable treasures that must be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Milena Kari,
Kahului, HI

From: [Todd Lauder](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:36:39 AM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

With a sustainable approach these beautiful aquatic animals can be admired by all in their own homes. It can bring peace and tranquility to individuals that might be dealing with mental illnesses and addictions.

Sincerely,
Todd Lauder

From: [laura.l](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 12:08:01 PM

The board should

- Uphold the December 8 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking
- Direct DAR to hold the required public hearings on the rules now
- Disregard DARs fatally flawed West Hawai'i plan to reopen the trade in its entirety!

Please listen to your people and please protect our reefs and ocean!

-Laura Lenhart

From: [david lightner](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 12:43:27 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery,
and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Please email me back or call me at
Phone : [424-201-9783](tel:424-201-9783)
Email: HarrysMarineLife@outlook.com

Very Best regards ,
DAVID LIGHTNER

From: [Lecorps Mathelus](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 1:48:34 PM

Greetings,

I wanted to voice my opinion on the current state of responsible collection of fish for the aquarium trade. I oppose the ban on aquarium fishery and support the managing of resources by science provided by DAR.

Lecorps Mathelus

From: [Ricky McElreath](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 2:25:43 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery,
and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Signed:
Ricky McElreath

From: [Paul Schuldt](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns regarding agenda item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:10:24 PM

Dear Members of the Land Board,

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery, and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR. It has been repeatedly proven that the aquarium industry does not present any significant impact on the marine environment and has many positive benefits lending to a well-managed fishery. Allowing politically motivated groups with huge pockets to speak louder than proven scientific research and fact does not best serve any needs of your constituency and has many far-reaching effects nationally.

Thank you for your consideration,

--

**Paul Schuldt
Owner**

**Tropics Aquarium Professionals
12330 Los Osos Valley Road
San Luis Obispo CA, 93405
(805) 595-FISH (3474)
tropics.aquariumpros@gmail.com**

From: [Eric Schwaneman](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agends Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 1:19:50 PM

I oppose banning the Aquarium fishery, and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Thank you,

><(((°>

Eric Schwaneman | Inventory

Quality Marine

5420 W. 104th Street

Los Angeles, CA 90045

310.645.1107 x275

www.qualitymarine.com

From: [Mikena Shay](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:28:44 AM

Hello BLNR,

My name is Mikena, a local resident of Kona, HI and I am writing to you today in strong OPPOSITION to DAR's plan to reopen West Hawaii's reefs to the destructive aquarium trade.

Aquarium trading and any future permitting should never be allowed back on any island of Hawaii in order to protect the health of the reef ecosystem which in turn helps combat climate change. It is also important to eliminate this practice in order to respect and comply with native Hawaiian pono fishing culture practices that strive for sustainability so the oceans can thrive for future generations to come.

Specific points that support this opposition to DAR's Aquarium Plan:
DAR's West Hawai'i Aquarium Plan (Item F.2) fails to mention:

The negative impacts of the proposed aquarium collection, just as the trade's deeply flawed EIS failed to.

Fails to disclose the 80% - 120% reduction in yellow tang abundance in areas where collection occurred.

Fails to disclose that the proposed level of take exceeds that taken by subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers, combined.

Excludes any discussion of, or even a reference to, major cultural concerns, enforcement challenges, or climate change.

On December 8, 2023, BLNR unanimously accepted our petition to enact rules to close the aquarium pet trade statewide and directed the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), which opposed our petition, to begin that rule process and public hearings. Please uphold the December 8 vote and begin the rule process to end the trade.

See points below:

The trade inherently conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values, including pono fishing practices to only take what is needed. Hawai'i's 46 moku that make up the entire state Aha Moku oppose AQ collecting.

A published cost/benefit analysis shows Hawai'i residents receive ZERO benefits from the AQ trade, but suffer ALL the costs. Scientists forecast that we'll lose 70% of our reefs by 2030 due to climate change.

Scientists agree that reefs need more herbivores if they are to have a fighting chance; and that DAR's herbivore rules for food fish are not strong enough.

Any legal collection only provides cover for even more illegal poaching that continues even today!

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mahalo Nui,
Mikena

From: ssicsko@aol.com
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] written testimony
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 1:55:17 PM

OPPOSITION LETTER FOR THE PERMITTING OF ANY AQUARIUM FISHING IN WEST HAWAII. DATE 4.10.24

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: Submit by Thursday morning, April 11

Email: BLNR.TESTIMONY@HAWAII.GOV

Email Subject: April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3

Testimony Email Body: Give your name, town and island, and a few heartfelt sentences, including why you believe the Board should: Uphold the December 8 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking Direct DAR to hold the required public hearings on the rules now Disregard DARs fatally flawed West Hawai'i plan to reopen the trade in its entirety!

SPREAD THE WORD: Please forward this to your friends and family and share on social media.

TESTIMONY SAMPLE:

Hello BLNR,

My name is [Your Name] a local resident of [resident location] and I am writing to you today in strong OPPOSITION to DAR's plan to reopen West Hawaii's reefs to the destructive aquarium trade.

Aquarium trading and any future permitting should never be allowed back on any island of Hawaii in order to protect the health of the reef ecosystem which in turn helps combat climate change. It is also important to eliminate this practice in order to respect and comply with native Hawaiian pono fishing culture practices that strive for sustainability so the oceans can thrive for future generations to come.

Specific points that support this opposition to DAR's Aquarium Plan:

DAR's West Hawai'i Aquarium Plan (Item F.2) fails to mention:

- The negative impacts of the proposed aquarium collection, just as the trade's deeply flawed EIS failed to.
- Fails to disclose the 80% - 120% reduction in yellow tang abundance in areas where collection occurred.

- Fails to disclose that the proposed level of take exceeds that taken by subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers, combined.
- Excludes any discussion of, or even a reference to, major cultural concerns, enforcement challenges, or climate change.

On December 8, 2023, BLNR unanimously accepted our petition to enact rules to close the aquarium pet trade statewide and directed the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), which opposed our petition, to begin that rule process and public hearings. Please uphold the December 8 vote and begin the rule process to end the trade.

See points below:

- The trade inherently conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values, including pono fishing practices to only take what is needed. Hawai'i's 46 moku that make up the entire state Aha Moku oppose AQ collecting.
- A published cost/benefit analysis shows Hawai'i residents receive ZERO benefits from the AQ trade, but suffer ALL the costs.
- Scientists forecast that we'll lose 70% of our reefs by 2030 due to climate change.
- Scientists agree that reefs need more herbivores if they are to have a fighting chance; and that DAR's herbivore rules for food fish are not strong enough.
- Any legal collection only provides cover for even more illegal poaching that continues even today!

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mahalo Nui,

Shari Sicsko

From: [Jacob Snook](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 1:11:08 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery,
and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Signed:Jacob Snook

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [Richard Stone](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 12:29:07 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery,
and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Signed: Richard Stone



Virus-free www.avast.com

From: [James Twiford](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:18:01 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

With due respect to the Land Board:

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery and support managing resources as supported by DAR. I strongly believe good management of Hawaii's beautiful environment can be achieved without targeting collectors.

Sincerely,

James Twiford

Account Manager

(310) 645-1107 ext. 221

(310) 670-8837 Fax

james.twiford@qualitymarine.com

Quality Marine & Aquatropic

5420 W. 104 th St.

Los Angeles, CA 90045

www.qualitymarine.com

www.aquatropic.com



From: [Emika Ueo](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] F.2 and F.3 (Aquarium trade)
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 2:49:51 PM

Email Subject: April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony Opposition to Reopening Reefs to Destructive Aquarium Trade

Dear Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed plan by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to reopen our reefs to the destructive aquarium trade. I urge you to uphold the December 8 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking and to hold the required public hearings on the rules promptly.

The briefing document provided by DAR regarding the West Hawai'i Aquarium Plan (Item F.2) is deeply concerning. It fails to acknowledge the negative impacts of the proposed aquarium collection, including the significant reduction in yellow tang abundance in areas where collection has occurred. Furthermore, the proposed level of take exceeds that of subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers combined, which is alarming.

Additionally, the document fails to address major cultural concerns, enforcement challenges, or the looming threat of climate change. The trade not only conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values, such as pono fishing practices, but it also disregards the opposition from Hawai'i's 46 moku that make up the entire state Aha Moku.

Moreover, a published cost/benefit analysis demonstrates that Hawai'i residents receive zero benefits from the aquarium trade but suffer all the costs. Given the dire predictions by scientists that we could lose 70% of our reefs by 2030 due to climate change, it is imperative that we prioritize reef conservation efforts. Reefs require more herbivores to thrive, and DAR's current herbivore rules for food fish are not robust enough to support reef health.

Legalizing aquarium collection would only provide cover for increased illegal poaching, exacerbating the ongoing threats to our marine ecosystems.

I implore you to uphold the December 8 vote and commence the rule making process to end the aquarium trade. Our reefs are invaluable treasures that must be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Ruby, from Kailua Kona

-R.E.D

From: [Ryan Voth](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 1:22:34 PM

I opposed banning the Aquarium fishery and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

There are individuals and groups of people who have biased and self-serving interest that have to do with money for themselves, and also ideology that is not science based or data driven. These individuals and groups are ignoring what the data shows, and what science is already proven to be true through the proper reporting and studies.

- Ryan Voth

From: [Laurel Whillock](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 2:05:12 PM

My name is Laurel Whillock. I live full-time in Kailua Kona on the Big Island. I am a SCUBA diver and have been diving off the Kona coast for over 30 years.

As I have stated several times previously, I strongly urge the Board to:

- (1) uphold the December 8 unanimous vote directing DAR to begin rule making
- (2) direct DAR to hold the required public hearings on the rules now
- (3) disregard DAR's fatally flawed West Hawaii plan to reopen the aquarium collection trade in its entirety

I've personally seen how our damaged and fragile reef system has begun to recover since aquarium collecting has legally ceased. It's a beginning to regaining a healthy marine ecosystem on the west coast of the Big Island and it's far too early to pretend all is back to a sustainable level. Please don't sacrifice the future of many for the profits of a few.

Mahalo for your consideration in this vital matter.

Aloha,
Laurel Whillock

From: [Todd Yamashita](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item F2 and F3
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 1:57:52 PM

I oppose banning the aquarium fishery,
and I support managing resources by science as provided by DAR.

Signed: Todd Yamashita

From: [Erica Yamauchi](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 12; Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 Testimony Opposition to Reopening Reefs to Destructive Aquarium Trade
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:07:09 PM

Dear Department of Land and Natural Resources,

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed plan by the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to reopen our reefs to the destructive aquarium trade. I urge you to uphold the December 8 unanimous Board vote directing DAR to begin rulemaking and to hold the required public hearings on the rules promptly.

The briefing document provided by DAR regarding the West Hawai'i Aquarium Plan (Item F.2) is deeply concerning. It fails to acknowledge the negative impacts of the proposed aquarium collection, including the significant reduction in yellow tang abundance in areas where collection has occurred. Furthermore, the proposed level of take exceeds that of subsistence, recreational, and commercial fishers combined, which is alarming.

Additionally, the document fails to address major cultural concerns, enforcement challenges, or the looming threat of climate change. The trade not only conflicts with local culture and native Hawaiian values, such as pono fishing practices, but it also disregards the opposition from Hawai'i's 46 moku that make up the entire state Aha Moku.

Moreover, a published cost/benefit analysis demonstrates that Hawai'i residents receive zero benefits from the aquarium trade but suffer all the costs. Given the dire predictions by scientists that we could lose 70% of our reefs by 2030 due to climate change, it is imperative that we prioritize reef conservation efforts. Reefs require more herbivores to thrive, and DAR's current herbivore rules for food fish are not robust enough to support reef health.

Legalizing aquarium collection would only provide cover for increased illegal poaching, exacerbating the ongoing threats to our marine ecosystems.

I implore you to uphold the December 8 vote and commence the rule making process to end the aquarium trade. Our reefs are invaluable treasures that must be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Erica Yamauchi, Honolulu