

HAWAIIANS SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FISH COLLECTION

Executive Summary

Animal rights and environmental extremists are lobbying and litigating to try to ban the collection of fish for home aquariums from the waters of Hawaii. However, Hawaiians overwhelmingly reject a ban on fish collection, instead preferring regulators permit sustainable collection of fish.

POLLING: NOVEMBER 2023

Question 1: Are you aware of the debate about collection of tropical fish offshore of Hawaii for home aquariums?

	Total Pct
1. Yes	47%
2. No	53%
TOTAL	100.00%

Question 2: Hawaii generally practices 'sustainable use' of natural resources. This means the government regulates harvesting of natural resources so that not too much is taken and the resource has time to recover. This allows for continued harvesting over time and saves the jobs and income it provides to Hawaii residents. Do you generally agree or disagree with the idea of sustainable use?

	Total Pct
1. Agree	96%
2. Disagree	4%
TOTAL	100.00%



Question 3: Some animal rights activists want Hawaii to completely ban the collection of fish for home aquariums. They claim this practice is harmful to the environment. However, marine scientists with the University of Hawaii and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration point to data showing that the fish populations have been growing for many years while collection has occurred. They conclude that fish collection is sustainable in Hawaii. Who do you think has more credibility in this debate?

	Total Pct
1. Marine scientists	72%
2. Animal rights activists	13%
3. Don't know	15%
TOTAL	100.00%

Question 4: Which best describes your point of view?

	Total Pct
1. Hawaii should allow sustainable collection of fish	73%
2. Hawaii should prohibit all collection of fish	17%
3. Don't know	10%
TOTAL	100.00%

Question 5: Do you believe regulators such as the Board of Land and Natural Resources should be managing resources based on science, or prohibiting sustainable resource usage based on the opinions of special interest groups?

	Total Pct
1. Manage resources in a science-based way	78%
2. Prohibiting resource usage because of special interest groups	7%
3. Don't know	15%
TOTAL	100.00%

POLLING: JULY 2023

Question 1: Hawaii generally practices “sustainable use” of natural resources. This means the government adopts regulations to ensure that whatever is taken can be replenished, to allow for continued use over time. Do you agree or disagree with sustainable use?

	Total Pct
1. Agree	93.86%
2. Disagree	6.14%
TOTAL	100.00%

Question 2: Some activists want Hawaii to ban the collection of fish for home aquariums. They claim this practice is harmful to the environment. However, marine scientists point to data showing that the fish populations have been growing for many years while collection has occurred. Existing regulations also establish many protected areas where fish can breed and cannot be collected. Based on this information, what best describes your point of view?

	Total Pct
1. Fish collection should be allowed if it is done sustainably	79.42%
2. Fish collection should be banned	20.58%
TOTAL	100.00%



POLLING: FEBRUARY 2023

Question 1: Hawaii generally practices “sustainable use” of natural resources. This means the government adopts regulations to ensure that whatever is taken can be replenished, to allow for continued use over time. Do you agree or disagree with sustainable use?

	Total Pct
1. Agree	92.57%
2. Disagree	7.43%
TOTAL	100.00%

Question 2: There is a debate in Hawaii over the collection of fish for home aquariums. Have you seen anything about this? Select all that apply.

	Total Pct
1. Yes, on social media like Facebook and Twitter	28.00%
2. Yes, on TV news	28.86%
3. Yes, in the newspaper	14.29%
4. No	48.29%
TOTAL	100.00%



Question 3: Some activists want Hawaii to ban the collection of fish for home aquariums. They claim this practice is harmful to the environment. However, marine scientists point to data showing that the fish populations have been growing for many years while collection has occurred. Existing regulations also establish many protected areas where fish can breed and cannot be collected. Based on this information, what best describes your point of view?

	Total Pct
1. Fish collection should be allowed if it is done sustainably	85.14%
2. Fish collection should be banned	14.86%
TOTAL	100.00%

Question 4: Hawaii has banned the collection of live fish for home aquariums in some areas. However, in those same areas, fishermen can still catch and kill the same species of food. Which describes your point of view?

	Total Pct
1. Both should be allowed, if practiced sustainably	69.71%
2. Live catching should be allowed, but not catching for food	5.43%
3. Catching for food should be allowed, but not catching live fish	18.86%
4. Both should be banned	6.00%
TOTAL	100.00%

AGENDA ITEM : F1.

I OPPOSE THE BOARD ISSUING AQ PERMITS.

I OPPOSE DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR.

I am a Big Island waterman. For decades I have spend 3 to 4 days each week diving, swimming, and snorkeling. I am at peace in the ocean. I always wanted to be just like Duke Kahanamoku : Ambassador of Aloha. He was the big kahuna.

I have personally watched the stress of climate change, coral bleaching events, storms, and the Aquarium Trade dramatically reduce the fish populations on our reefs. The Aquarium Trade financed EIS is extremely bias and presents a rosy picture for their plunder of the reef fish. It is 1585 pages long. It looks convincing on paper. Only it misrepresents what I see in the ocean. Our reefs are struggling for their very survival. The herbivorous fish are not recovering in larger numbers. There are very few juveniles. The schools of Yellow tang are small in numbers and are few. That is only one example.

Support our corals. Coral bleaching is becoming a big problem in Hawaii, 2014, 2015, and 2019. As climate change warms the oceans coral bleaching events are on the rise worldwide. How can you help save our reefs? Let the fish protect the reefs. Avoid taking herbivorous fish. They help control algae growth. It is the mission of Department of Aquatic Resources to work with the people of Hawaii to conserve and restore the state's unique aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations. Work with us! Do not allow the Aquarium Trade's biased EIS sway your decision. We already have too few herbivorous fish on our reefs to consider selling them at the expense of our reefs. Did you know that Yellow Tang live up to 45 years in the wild, but usually less than one year in hobby tanks. That is not all. The Kole lifespan is greater than 18 years in our ocean, the Orangespine Unicornfish 30 to 50 years and very vulnerable to overfishing, Bird wrasse 30 years.

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