



Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition



HFACT INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2013 to be the Eyes and Ears of the Fishermen

Board members, each, have 20+ years of fisheries management experience

Majority of the Board members are life-long fishers

Not funded by the State of Hawaii nor the Federal Government

Advocates for non-commercial shoreline and boat fishers, as well as with small boat (artisanal) commercial fishers

Board members were/are members of the State Fisher's Working Group, Federal American Fisheries Advisory Committee, Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (as Chairperson and voting member), and other advisory committees



HFACT principles

- ❖ Fish is Food
- ❖ Fish is a major part of our island culture and tradition
- ❖ Listen to fishers, many are multi-generational fishers
- ❖ Fishers can provide solutions to effective management
- ❖ Manage fisheries for the next generation and beyond
- ❖ Encourage fair and good management
- ❖ Collaboration with government is the key to successful management

Some of HFACT's accomplishments include increased engagement of fishers with the management of Humpback Whales (was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award by the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whales National Marine Sanctuary); created a best practice guideline for fishers to fish near dolphins; increased fishers knowledge of safely fishing near Green Sea Turtles and Hawaiian Monk Seals; worked with NOAA scientists to reduce fisheries interaction with the False Killer Whale; led an effort to develop better non-commercial fisheries data collection for the Deep 7 fishery; worked with DLNR to re-open the Bottomfish Restricted Fishing Areas after managing the fishery from a state of over-fishing to the current state of healthy sustainable yield, and many other accomplishments.



Holomua 30x30 Activities

- ❖ **October and November 2022** - held information meetings with fishers on Kauai (Lihue, Kekaha), Maui (Wailuku), and Oahu (Nanakuli, Honolulu, Kaneohe). Over 800 fishers attended meetings, over 10,000 fishers engaged via social media.
- ❖ **January 2023** - will hold meetings in Kona and Hilo to inform fishers
- ❖ **2022 and prior** - HFACT represented fishers on the Holomua 30x30 steering committee when DLNR established the committee in late 2016.
- ❖ HFACT influenced DAR to engage fishers from the earliest days.
- ❖ Reviewed and understood the Holomua 30x30 Roadmap, as published by DAR.

HFACT's presentation slides shown to the fishing public was reviewed by DAR prior to the meetings to assure that no misrepresentation could occur. Information was sourced from the Holomua 30x30 Roadmap document.



Fishers opinions regarding Holomua 30x30

Based on fisher's inputs (part 1 of 2):

- Fishers will be the stakeholders that get affected most, thus **fishers should be co-managers of the process**
- **Lack of enforcement** of existing fisheries rules has caused DAR to promulgate even more rules that will not be enforced
- 30% of waters to be effectively managed is arbitrary. The goal should be **100% effective management in partnership with fishers**

HFACT meetings resulted in high interest by young fishers who want to assure that fish is available for their children

Fishers understand that management of the ocean must be holistic, not a hodge-podge of rules. Fishers worry about increasing population, more housing development, more roads, more tourism, etc. affecting the ocean and fisheries.



Fishers Opinions, Part 2 of 2

- Designation of “Marine Managed Areas” are not necessary as all areas need to be managed, MMAs cause different rules in each MMA and may cause fishers to fish non-MMA more intensely thus voiding the purpose of management
- “Community” based management has pitted one community against another, fisheries management plans should be at the island scale, not driven by aggressive communities or individuals with an agenda
- Multiple stressors impact fish biomass - land-based pollution, over-tourism, water quality, and others

“Aggressive” communities might include wealthy homeowners or others who feel entitled to the shoreline, for example.

Designating MMAs also will allow DAR to modify rules and bypass Chap 91 public engagement, thus reduce transparency

Multiple MMAs on each island mean different rules at each location, confusing fishers and may diminish compliance to rules

Related to “Island scale” is minimization of differing rules from place to place



Recommendations

- ❖ DAR needs to work more closely with the legislature and the stakeholders
- ❖ Legislature should provide more oversight to the development of a long-term nearshore strategic plan
- ❖ “Holomua 30x30” should be scrapped and a “Laulima Ocean Planning” initiative should be started to bring stakeholders into *designing the future of nearshore management*
- ❖ Focus on “**Planning**”, DAR should not push arbitrary goals such as 30%, arbitrary deadline such as 2030, or pre-determined list of species to manage.

Holomua = “going forward”, but who’s definition of “forward”? - currently “forward” means 30% by 2030

Laulima - “together” - collaboratively as a group

“Planning” focuses on the process of getting to a plan, rather than pushing a pre-supposed plan