

# West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area

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# Overview of the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area

- Act 306 (SLH 1998) (H.B. 3457)
- H.R.S. 188F
- H.A.R. §13-60.3
- DLNR (DAR, DOBOR, DOCARE)
- WHFC

# Purposes of Act 306

- (1) Ensure the sustainability of the state's nearshore ocean resources.
- (2) Identify areas with resource and use conflicts

# Purposes of Act 306

(3) Provide management plans as well as implementing regulations for minimizing user conflicts and resource depletion, through the designation of coastal waters in the West Hawaii regional fishery management area as fish replenishment areas where certain specified fish harvesting activities are prohibited and other areas where anchoring and ocean recreation activities are restricted;

# Purposes of Act 306

(4) Establish a system of day-use mooring buoys in high-use coral reef areas and limit anchoring in some of these areas to prevent anchor damage to corals;

# Purposes of Act 306

(5) Identify areas and resources of statewide significance for protection;

(6) Carry out scientific research and monitoring of the nearshore resources and environment;

(7) Provide for substantive involvement of the community in resource management decisions for this area through facilitated dialogues with community residents and resources users.

# West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Plan

(1) Designates a minimum of 30% as fish replenishment areas in which aquarium fish collecting is prohibited;

(2) Establishes a day-use mooring buoy system along the coastline of the WHRFMA and designates some high-use areas where no anchoring is allowed;

# West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Plan

(3) Establishes a portion of the fish replenishment areas as fish reserves where no fishing of reef-dwelling fish is allowed; and

(4) Designates areas where the use of gill nets as set nets shall be prohibited.

# West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Plan

- A review of the effectiveness of the plan shall be conducted every five years by DLNR in cooperation with UH.
- DLNR shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations based on the review to the legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the regular session following the review.

# West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Plan

- By October 1, 1998: Designate a minimum of 30% as fish replenishment areas where no aquarium fish is allowed;
- By July 1999, establish a day-use mooring buoy system along the coastline of the WHRFMA and designate some high-use areas where no anchoring is allowed;

# West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Plan

- By October 1, 1999, establish a portion of the FRAs as fish reserves where no fishing of reef-dwelling fish is allowed. These reserves will extend out to a depth of two hundred meters, the edge of the insular shelf, or as otherwise designated by the department;

# West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Plan

- By July 1, 2000, designate areas where the use of gill nets as set nets shall be prohibited.

# West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Plan

- The DLNR shall identify the specific areas and restrictions after close consultation and facilitated dialogue with working groups of community members and resource users.

# West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area

## DLNR Divisions Relevant to WHRFMA

- Division of Aquatic Resources
- Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation
- Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement

## ***West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area***

### **Ongoing Work**

- Continue to secure the funding to support ongoing monitoring surveys of coral reefs and fish populations.
- Prepare comprehensive report to the legislature every five years.

The next report is due January 2015.

# ***West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area***

## **Ongoing Work**

- Modify rules periodically based on monitoring results and stakeholder advice

## ***West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area***

### **Ongoing Work**

- Designate FRAs where no fishing of reef-dwelling fish is allowed

## ***West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area***

### **Ongoing Work**

Establish a limited entry program for aquarium fishery in WHRFMA.

- HB 185 introduced in 1/18/13 and never heard.
- HB 2379 authorizes DLNR to set up a statewide limited entry program and rules for aquarium fish collectors. Sets cap of 100 aquarium fish permits issued statewide, 25 permits per county.

***West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area***  
**Ongoing Work**

Authorize DOCARE administrative inspections in the WHRFMA.

- HB 359 HD1
- passed by OMH on 2/1/13
- Heard by JUD on 1/21/14
- Deferred by JUD on 1/24/14
- Deferred by JUD on 2/11/14

## ***West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area***

### **Ongoing Work**

#### State Agency Engagement:

- Governor
- BLNR Chair
- BLNR members
- DAR
- DOBOR
- DOCARE

## ***West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area***

### **Ongoing Work**

#### Stakeholder Engagement:

- Recruit members of the WHFC to represent different geographic areas, user groups, community groups, stakeholder groups such as coastal fishers including aquarium fish collectors, divers, boaters, knowledgeable native Hawaiian and kama`aina practitioners.
- Educate West Hawaii community about these coastal marine resources and engage their commitment of stewardship responsibility.

## ***West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area***

### **Ongoing Work**

#### **Program Partners Engagement:**

- Malama Kai Foundation
- Harold Castle Foundation
- West Hawaii Recreational Dive Industry
- University of Hawaii Sea Grant Program
- Others.....

## ***West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area***

### **Other things to do.....**

- Establish in rules all of the day-use mooring buoys in the WHRFMA.
- Establish rules prohibiting anchoring within designated distance from day-use mooring buoys in WHRFMA.
- Establish rules prohibiting using an illegally installed day-use mooring.
- Secure funding and staffing for DLNR to take over long term management, repair and maintenance of the WHRFMA day use mooring buoy system.