

World Conservation Congress Legacy Commitment: “Hawai‘i 30 by 30 Oceans Target”

30% of Hawai‘i’s nearshore waters effectively managed by 2030



Hawai‘i’s coral reefs are a local and national treasure, providing cultural, economic, and recreational opportunities to our residents and more than eight million visitors annually. They are a driver of our local and tourism economy, generating more than \$360 million each year.

Recent worldwide bleaching events are a stark reminder of the devastating effects of rising sea surface temperatures on coral reefs around the world. Hawai‘i experienced its first statewide mass-bleaching event in 2015. Given continuing rising greenhouse gas levels and sea surface temperatures around the globe, scientists predict additional bleaching in 2016 and beyond.

A strong base of scientific evidence suggests that the health and function of at least 30% of nearshore reef areas are necessary to sustain the productivity of a reef region like the Main Hawaiian Islands. To improve the resilience of corals and ensure they continue to provide benefits to Hawai‘i’s people and economy, we need to effectively manage the local stressors that are within our control, including sediment and nutrient runoff from land, invasive species, and illegal and unsustainable fishing. To meet this challenge, we are committed to *effectively manage 30% of Hawai‘i’s nearshore waters by 2030*, complementing the State’s current commitment to protect 30% of our priority watersheds and other lands.

- “Effective management” includes a suite of adaptive management approaches balancing sustainable use, restoration, and conservation measures such as community-based management, time and area closures for fisheries replenishment, reasonable laws to encourage sustainable fishing practices, and effective enforcement, combined with systematized monitoring to assess effectiveness. This is not an effort to make 30% “no take.”

- This serves as a significant culminating event for the Polynesian Voyaging Society's *Mālama Honua* Worldwide Voyage, and our collective commitment to ensure our islands are better when Hōkūleʻa returns than when she left in 2014.
- *30 by 30* provides an overarching target that pulls together the State's current aims to improve the capacity and coverage of enforcement, support community-based marine management, develop a plan to address coral bleaching, and strengthen statewide regulations, monitoring, and other adaptive management measures.
- This effort will be an open, inclusive process balancing fisher and other ocean user interests with the State's restoration and conservation needs.
- Effective management will be measured by a broadly agreed-upon set of biological parameters for "healthy" reef systems developed by scientific expertise, traditional knowledge, and user input. This collaborative effort is currently underway.
- Effectively managed areas will also include those areas that are already healthy, not just those that are formally designated.
- This new measure and target of *30 by 30* will be interwoven into the existing *Aloha+ Challenge* measures process and if approved by the Challenge signatories, will be published on the dashboard where it will be tracked and measured.

In these increasingly uncertain times, a healthy and resilient economy will depend wholly on a healthy and resilient environment. By committing to effectively manage 30% of Hawai'i's waters, we are joining the Pacific community and doing our part to ensure we all have sustainable reefs and fisheries to support our people and economy into the future.

Additional Resources:

- Division of Aquatic Resources: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/>
 - <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/marine-managed-areas/about-marine-managed-areas/>
 - <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/fishing/fishing-regulations/>
 - <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/marine-managed-areas/hawaii-marine-life-conservation-districts/>
 - <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/announcements/ha%ca%bbena-cbsfa-management-plan-finalized/>
 - <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/announcements/marine-reserve-established-at-kaupulehu-west-hawaii/>
- Interactive map of marine managed areas in the main Hawaii Islands: <http://histaegis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c0dc296ff373486baa9e041e40f445b2>
- *Aloha+ Challenge* Dashboard (check back for updates): <https://dashboard.hawaii.gov/en/stat/goals/5xhf-begg/4s33-f5iv/ydtj-mhwg>

