

## **Summary: Kauai Public Meeting on the draft Mau Zone Amendment**

Thursday January 29, 1998  
Wilcox Elementary School  
4319 Hardy Street  
Lihue, Kauai

Council Member Frank Farm opened the public meeting at 6:00 pm. The start of the meeting was delayed 30 minutes to give fishermen more time to attend. Mark Mitsuyasu reviewed the history of the Northwestern Hawaiian islands bottomfish fishery, current management regulations for both the Ho-omalua and Mau Zones and the reason for establishing a limited access system for the Mau Zone. Don Schug and Dave Kalthoff summarized the elements of the draft amendment, including the 1) initial qualifying criteria; 2) target number; 3) community development program; 4) vessel ownership restrictions; 5) use-it or lose-it requirement; 6) transferability; 7) vessel replacement; 8) annual and five year review; and 9) permit duration.

Mr. Steve Wheeler, full-time Mau Zone fisherman, raised a question about the 50% ownership provision and how it applies to corporations when one person decides to sell his portion of the business. Dave Kalthoff responded that the same provision occurs in the Ho-omalua Zone limited access program. Alvin Katekaru added that corporations need to provide NMFS with the names of the share holders and the percent that each holds in the business. Frank Farm recommended that the Task Force examine that provision again.

Mr. Jonathan Hurd, Mau Zone fisherman, noted that the Council may establish new or additional requirements if the current use it or lose it requirement does not result in an adequate level of attrition and asked what those additional requirements might be. Mr. Kalthoff said that the Task Force recommended that the number of trips and/or pounds landed be increased. Mr. Hurd noted that some fishermen will be shut out of the fishery. Mr. Kalthoff responded that only a limited number of slots will be available in the fishery and that fishermen who have participated in the Mau Zone fishery should get preference over people who may have intended to but never took the initiative. Mr. Hurd asked about the possibility of combining the two zones. Mr. Kalthoff responded that the Task Force discussed this issue but felt that the two fisheries are sufficiently different at this time to keep them separated. Allowing larger Ho-omalua Zone boats access to the Mau Zone would handicap the Mau Zone fishermen because most don't have the vessel capacity or size to travel to the Ho-omalua Zone.

Mr. Hurd asked if the Task Force and Council considered making the Mau Zone larger by including French Frigate Shoals. Mr. Kalthoff noted that this was initially recommended by the Task Force but later dropped due to concerns about possible fishing interactions with endangered monk seals. Mr. Hurd suggested that the Council notify fishermen long before they change any regulations so that fishermen can plan for the changes and make informed business decisions. Mr. Farm noted that the proposed

amendment requires an annual and five year review of the fishery. All suggested changes will be brought before the public before any Council decisions are made. The Council also mails all relevant information to bottomfish Federal permit holders and all State of Hawaii C-3 license holders who report bottomfish landings.

Hearing no additional questions, Frank Farm thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.