Tides are affected by many factors, such as gravitational pull of the moon and the sun, benthic formations, sea water temperature, coastal area and geographic and storm activity. In general, the highest and lowest tides occur during the Poepoe full moon phases and Muku and Hio (no moon and new moon) phases.

Hawaiians over many generations observed the effect on the ecosystem and incorporated this knowledge into their understanding of the environment and the species of cultural importance to them. Their natural resource management practices were sensitive to the lunar and solar cycles and the cycle of nature. Only the correct practices endured to become tradition.

Cultural Practices

Culture developed from a long oceanic, island-based lifestyle. Communities lived in a harmonious, reciprocal relationship with the environment and considered themselves part of the ecosystem. Conflicts were resolved through cultural protocols. Retribution was strict and severe. Management responded to community needs and was conducted by experts with knowledge of the ecosystem, gained through generations of observation and interaction with the resources. Custom and tradition controlled the conduct of activities.

Customary access to resources by the native land and sea system is not an open access.

Conservation and resource utilization were linked to’Ohia lehua, a traditional canoe, artesian, artist, author, philosopher.

By doing things Hawaiian, you learn, you are taught, you are shaped.

Tradition & Culture

Traditional Pacific island communities survived by managing natural resources with an understanding of the cycles of scarcity and abundance. All of their food, materials and supplies came from their environment. Kilokilo, a professional class of astronomers and observers, developed this calendar. The moon’s effect on the ecosystem was learned through generations of observing its phases and the environment.

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Sacred Periods

The Kapu-Moku period honored the god Kala. It was spent at sea. No one planted or fished. After the Kapu-Moku was abolished in 1819, the kapu period was good for planting and certain kinds of fishing.

The Kapu-Taua period was spent worshiping the god Ku. Kapu-Taua was planted and certain kinds of fishing were practiced.

The Kapu-Ro period honored the god Ku. Life, fishing and planting were restricted. Ohana Lone, the night after Kuhe was given and observation was given in the god Ku and the kapu. It was planted and offered to both gods in marine kapu on 15 days a month.

Unproductive Periods

The ‘Ohia period in the ‘Ohia and ‘Anahulu were unproductive.

2. POEPOE (rounding, full) Full moon phases are not a good time for fishing near shore and deep sea.

3. EMI (diminishing) Full moon phases are not a good time for fishing on the reef and deep sea.