



Development of a University of Hawaii Fisheries Program

In 2005, a *Proposal for a Graduate Program in Coastal and Marine Resources* (CMRP) was developed and submitted to the University of Hawaii (UH) School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST). While well-received, the CMRP was never realized. Alternatively, we propose that UH develop a similar program for Fisheries, but within the College of Natural Sciences at the University of Hawaii. The [mission](#) of the College of Natural Sciences and its broad scope of departments and infrastructure make it ideal for such a program. This includes the [School of Life Sciences](#), [Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit](#), the [Marine Biology Program](#), and [Departments of Information and Computer Science](#), and [Mathematics](#). Such a program would also work in concert with SOEST, the College of Social Sciences, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, programs within UH-Hilo, and other entities affiliated with UH. Cooperation with the Council, NOAA, and international fisheries organizations would also be a part of the program.

The [2005 CMRP proposal](#) outlines the salient points justifying a Fisheries Program at UH and provides a foundation for a modernized program, with some notable needs for updates:

- Differentiation between expertise in fisheries science versus ecology is warranted. Fisheries science and applied ecology also require heavy integration with mathematics, statistics, data science, and computer science.
- Since the 2005 CMRP proposal, UH has developed infrastructure for next-generation genetic methodologies at the [Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology](#) and elsewhere at UH. A fisheries program should emphasize the importance of genetics for the purpose of discerning population dynamics and stock structure.
- Increased engagement with the [William S. Richardson School of Law](#), and with faculty in political science and international studies.
- Dialogue on whether specific tracks that focus on quantitative fisheries science, life history and biology, fishery resource economics, and management/policy are warranted.

Using the 2005 CMRP proposal as a guiding document, exploration of a fisheries program could proceed by:

- 1) Updating an inventory of current UH faculty and staff that fulfill needs for a fisheries program. Also including current adjunct faculty, federal experts, and other potential partners.
- 2) Inclusion of US Pacific Territory needs and any personnel who could participate.
- 3) Work closely with the [Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center](#), the [Pacific Islands Regional Office](#), and the Council to develop or update a proposal for a program.
- 4) Adopt well-define mission and goals for a UH Fisheries Program, as to prevent the program's mission from shifting over time outside its original intent.