



Western
Pacific
Regional
Fishery
Management
Council

Shark Depredation in Hawai'i Waters

Community Discussion & Expert Panel

Sharks taking fish off the line has always happened, but fishers are sharing it is happening more often and is making it harder to fish, feed the community, and make a living. This is affecting different types of fishing, from handline, bottomfish, trolling, and divers, and may be connected to changes in the ocean, the environment, or how fisheries are managed. This public event is a chance for fishermen, scientists, managers, and community members to come together, share what they are seeing on the water, learn what is known so far, and talk about simple, practical ideas to reduce shark depredation and protect fishing livelihoods in Hawai'i's changing waters.

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Time: 5:30 – 8:00 PM

Location: Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Room 1, Parking will be validated

AGENDA

Pupu Reception & Event Overview

5:30 – 6:30 PM

- Informal networking
- Welcome and purpose of the gathering
- Overview of shark depredation trends and why this issue matters to Hawai'i's fishing communities
- Shark Deterrent Technology (25 minutes) 7 min per deterrent pitch/presentation

Facilitated Expert Panel Discussion

6:30 – 7:30 PM

- Current observations and trends in shark depredation
- Impacts on commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing
- Scientific insights and data gaps
- Current Regulations, Laws, and allowed practices - State and Federal
- Management challenges and policy considerations
- On-the-water experiences and practical perspectives
- Q&A

Open Community Discussion

7:30 – 8:00 PM

- Audience questions and comments
- Shared observations from fishers and community members
- Identifying priority concerns and potential next steps