**Hawai‘i Ocean Health Index**

**Background**

While Hawaiʻi has a wealth of information, research, and management, there is a need for collaboration, communication, and common goals. This model has proven to be successful in Hawaiʻi such as the Promise to Paeʻāina, a collaboration of # agencies and nonprofits to that set targets to achieve to make Hawaiʻi a better place before Hōkūleia returns from its worldwide voyage. These cross-sector collaborations are needed to build resilience between our social, economic, and environmental needs.

Hawaiians have a long history of sustainable management and resource use. They recognized that their wellbeing and health relied on the status or availability of the resource. Today, the same is true; the health of our communities and our environment is intertwined. Healthy communities are more equipped to be stewards of their environment and a health environment supports community wellbeing. The core of mālama aina and ocean health is through supporting community wellbeing and health. The strong sense of place or connection to the place that we have in Hawaii drives conservation and sustainability in Hawaiʻi and is a model for the rest of the world. This sense of place and social awareness can be seen in every goal assessed in the Hawaiʻi Ocean Health Index, from the restoration of traditional Hawaiian fishponds as a means to sustainably provide seafood under the Food Provision Goal to the added goal on Sustainable Tourism. Hawaiʻiʻs unique social and cultural practices and values are the foundation for the development of every goal and are also tracked in their own goal, Sense of Place (The Sense of Place Goal accounts for the importance of the relationship between people and aina and relationships among people with regards to the past, present and future).

Goals

This assessment is being done to build a common message and set targets for sustainable ocean use in Hawaiʻi.

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**Learn** Ocean Health Index and its applications 2014-2016

**Plan** the assessment to achieve local objectives and involve stakeholders Jan 2016 – August 2017

Meetings with agencies and goal experts

August 2016 Workshop in Honolulu

December 2016 Workshop in Kailua-Kona

July 2017 Workshop HCC

Ocean perceptions and values survey June 2017 – August 2017

**Conduct** assessment with adapted framework and local data on status, pressures, and resilience. Review draft OHI with stakeholders and managers.

July 2017 – December 2017

**Inform** testing management options, support sustainable actions,

and increase collaboration/communicationDecember 2017 – June

2018.

**Repeat** assessment process incorporating updated science and policies to track progress towards a healthy ocean.

**Scale**

The Hawai‘i OHI+ will use the scientifically robust framework of the Ocean Health Index at the scale of the Hawaiian archipelago. We will focus our development of the Hawaii Ocean Health Index at two scales:

1. The West Hawai‘i region; and
2. Statewide, for coastal waters

The Hawai‘i Statewide assessment will focus on the Main Hawaiian Islands and will be by county. Regions will be Hawai‘i Island, Maui Nui, Oahu, and Kauai & Ni‘ihau. The county scale is being used simplifying incorporation into policy and management for the State of Hawai‘i.

The West Hawai‘i Regional OHI assessment will be at the scale of West Hawai‘i. West Hawai‘i may be divided into two regions North and South West Hawai‘i.

Table 1. Locally defined goals for the Hawaiʻi OHI+ assessment.

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| --- | --- |
| Goal | Definition |
| Food Provision | Seafood from fisheries catch and aquaculture (local production of seafood including shrimp ponds and fishponds). This goal contains two subgoals: Fisheries and Mariculture. Fisheries measures the amount of wild-caught seafood from pelagic, bottomfish, coastal pelagic and nearshore fisheries that can be sustainably harvested. Mariculture assesses the sustainable production of seafood from aquaculture and the number of active or restored traditional Hawaiian fishponds (loko i‘a). |
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| Artisanal Fishing Opportunities | The opportunity for fishers to supply seafood for themselves, families, and community. It is estimated based on need, the access to the coast from shoreline access points, and the condition of the resource based on fish biomass. |
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| Natural Products | Sustainable harvest of shells, algae, water, and salt. \*Note: this goal is not assessed as data is not available for all regions and the sustainability of many of the natural products is unknown. |
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| Sense of Place | The relationship between people and ‘āina (land/environment) and relationships among people with regards to the past, present and future. This goal is composed of two subgoals: Lasting Special Places and Connection to Place. Lasting special places tracks the protection of marine and coastal areas, and sacred and historical sites. Connection to place is the connection that people have to coastal and marine environments measured through activates that take place in each place. |
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| Sustainable Tourism | Balanced economic growth through tourism with management and preservation of natural resources and Hawaiian culture. This goal is measured as the average of three indicators: visitor generated GDP, environmental protection, and resident sentiment towards tourism. |
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| Clean Waters | The degree to which local waters are polluted by natural and human made causes. \*Moved to pressure layer |
| Biodiversity | The value of coastal and ocean species and habitats. Biodiversity is composed of two subgoals: Habitats and Species. The habitat subgoal measures the extent and condition of reefs, wetlands, soft-bottom habitats, and beaches. The species subgoal measures the population status of Hawai‘i species based on reef fish biomass and the risk of extinction of marine mammals, turtles and birds, and coastal beach and sand dune plants. |
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| Coastal Protection | Extent and condition of habitats (beaches, coral reefs, wetlands) that provide coastal protection from inundation and erosion. |
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| Livelihoods & Economies | Coastal and ocean-dependent jobs and productive coastal economies from the revenue from marine related industries including tourism, fishing, shipbuilding, and transportation. This goal is composed of two subgoals: Livelihoods and Economies. Livelihoods tracks the number of jobs and the quality of wages (wage/livable wage) of marine sectors. Economies tracks the revenue generated from productive coastal economies. |
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**Food Provision**

Measures the sustainably harvested and produced seafood from fisheries catch and aquaculture (local production of seafood including shrimp ponds and fishponds).

**Wild Caught Fisheries**

This sub-goal describes the amount harvested and sustainability of Hawaiʻi's fisheries. The model generally compares landings with Maximum Sustainable Yield. A score of 100 means that the region is harvesting seafood in a sustainable manner.

Where *Fishery* is the pelagic, bottomfish, coastal pelagic, or nearshore, *SS* is the stock status scores, *C* is the catch.

The goal status score for each region in each year was calculated as average scores from each fishery calculated as the geometric mean of the all stock status scores for each fishery (pelagic: tuna, swordfish, mahimahi, etc.; bottomfish: deep seven species mainly groupers and snappers; coastal pelagics: jacks, akule, opelu, etc.; nearshore: surgeonfish, parrotfish, etc.). The model assesses the amount of wild-caught seafood that can be sustainably harvested, with sustainability (stock status scores) based on formal stock assessments. Each stock is assessed separately based on stock status scores (Biomass at maximum sustainable yield: B/Bmsy; Spawning biomass at maximum sustainable yield: SB/SBmsy; and Spawning Potential Ratio: SPR). We applied a 0.05 upper and lower buffer on the stock status score allowing for error in the stock status.

Stock status reference points typically used in formal stock assessments vary by the fishery type in Hawaiʻi. Pelagic fish sustainability reference point is SB/SBmsy set to 1.0. Bottomfish species sustainability reference point is B/BMSY set to 1.0. Reef fish sustainability reference point is the spawning potential ratio (SPR) set to 0.30. The most recent stock assessments for pelagic fish species were 2012-2013 for most species. The ten most recent years of stock assessment data was used to run a linear regression model to predict stock status to 2016. If stock status was non-linear then the mean stock status was used. The stock indicator for pelagic species was SB/SBmsy. Bottom fish stock assessments were for the aggregated species complex for the Hawaiʻi deep 7 and used B/Bmsy as the stock indicator. Reef fish stock assessment used the spawning potential ratio (SPR) as the stock indicator and is only one assessment is available so the stock status was held constant over the 5 assessment years. We used median scores for each group (pelagic, bottom, coastal pelagic, and reef) to gap fill for species that lack formal stock assessments. To include these important harvest species, we made the assumption that the unassessed species within each fishery (pelagic, bottomfish, nearshore/reef, coastal pelagic) are faring similarly to the assessed fish stocks. There were no current formal stock assessments for coastal pelagic species and therefore they are not incorporated into the score for this goal but are included in the catch data for reference, comprising 5% of commercial catch. However, it is important to note that the status of many of these species are tracked in the Artisanal Fishing Opportunities goal.

Data layers used:

Commercial (pelagic, bottomfish, coastal pelagic, reef) catch data (2012-2016, DLNR-DAR)

Non-commercial catch data (used as a multiplier for commercial catch data)

*Data Gaps*

* Bottom fish taxonomic resolution for the stock assessment
* Public perception of fisheries
* Catch from recreational fisheries is estimated. The number of recreational fishers and the recreation catch remains unknown.
* Non-reported commercial catch
* Dealer reporting
* Lacking stock assessments for many of the harvested fish species
* Invertebrates are not included such as opihi, sea cucumbers, heʻe, lobserter, and others. There is not an estimate of recreational catch, which is thought to be a large proportion of the catch, and there are not stock assessments for these species.

**Mariculture**

This subgoal measures the sustainable production potential of seafood from fishponds, known locally as loko ʻia, and current production of seafood weighted by a sustainability score.

The value of aquaculture products ($39,970,000 in 2011 USD), natural products and seafood is ranked 4th in the state following seed crops, flowers and nursery products, and cattle (USDA Annual Statistics Bulletin 2011). However, revenue from mariculture is incorporated into Livelihoods and Economies goal.

The scores are an average of the state reported seafood production (mariculture) and fishpond potential.

The species that are reported on the State Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources that are produced locally for seafood consumption include: Abalone (*Haliotus sp)*, oysters (*Crassostrea gigas* and *Crassostrea sikamea*), clams (*Venerupis philippinarum*), kahala (*Seriola dumerili*), Pacific White Shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*), and limu (Gracilaria sp.). Moi (Pacific Threadfin) is not on the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture list but it is produced locally for out planting in fishponds. The sustainability of the species produced was assessed as the average of the feed sustainability score (0 protein based, 1 plant based; 0 imported feed, 1 local feed) and the biosecurity risk scored as species status (1 native, 0.75 introduced, or 0 invasive) and the pathogen and virus susceptibility (0 highly susceptible, 0.5 susceptible but preventative measures in place (biosecurity practices such as sterilization and wastewater treatment practices).

The production (lbs of seafood) is reported at the state level to prevent disclosure of sensitive information. To get county level estimates of production the lbs of finfish and shellfish produced at the state level were multiplied by the estimated number of finfish and shellfish operators by county. The number of operators are reported to USDA via census every 5 years (2002, 2007, 2012) ([https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\_by\_State/Hawaii/](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Hawaii/Publications/Annual_Statistical_Bulletin/index.php) ). To fill in annual data gaps linear regression models were used.

*Data Gaps*

* Kapuna knowledge on fishpond historical locations, practices, and production
* Public perceptions of farmed seafood
* Unknown total lbs produced some years and some counties due to non-disclosure requirements when there are too few operators.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cultured Species | Species Name | Sustainable Feed (0=imported) | Feed Plant Based (0=protein based) | Susceptibility to Disease (0=highly susceptible) | Native (1), Introduced (0.5), Invasive (0) | Sustainability Score |
| Abalone | *Haliotus refens, Haliotus discus hanai* | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.88 |
| Broodstock and juvenile shrimp | *Litopenaeus. vanamei, L. monodon, L. stylirostris* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.5 | 0.13 |
| Kahala (amberjack) | *Seriola dumerili* | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0.50 |
| Marine shrimp for food | *Penaeus vannamei* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.5 | 0.13 |
| Microalgae | *Spirulina sp, Hematococcus sp* | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1.00 |
| Seaweed or sea vegetables | *Gracilaria sp* | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.88 |
| Seed clams | *Mercenaria mercenaria* | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.88 |
| Seed oysters and clams | *Crassostrea gigas, Venerupis Philippinarum, Crassostrea Sikamea* | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.88 |
| Tilapia | *Oreochromis* sp | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |

**Artisanal Fishing Opportunities**

Three components were identified by stakeholders as key components for measuring artisanal fishing opportunities. These components are access to the resource, the availability of the resource, and number of subsistence/artisanal fishers.

Access was determined as an issue for artisanal fishing opportunities. Access was defined as the number of beach or coastal access points per kilometer of coastline. With development of coastal areas, including hotels, the access and parking for artisanal fishers can be reduced. Beach access is under county jurisdiction. The data for beach access has not been provided by the County of Kauai, we therefore used an average per coastline estimate for the draft of the index for Kauai Island. Shoreline access has been identified as a priority in the State Ocean Resource Management Plan (ORMP). There is an average of 5 shoreline access points that are added statewide per year or an estimated 0.7% increase in statewide shoreline access.

Resource was measured as the current biomass of coastal fish to the pristine biomass of coastal resource fish. The scores come from the NOAA Coral Reef Report Card developed by the Coral Reef Monitoring Program. The reference fish biomass (*Rr*) is the modeled pristine reef fish biomass in the absence of humans (Williams et al 2015).

Ideally need would be assessed based on number of subsistence fishers; however the number of subsistence fishers is unknown. Need was assessed the percent of households that fish. Data comes from the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration Hawaiʻi Marine Recreational Fishing Survey (<http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/SFD/SFD_rcf_hmrfs.html>) contracted through the State of Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources. The percent of households that fish was multiplied by the number of residents per region to obtain an estimate of fishers per region. This number is a proxy for the number of fishers, but it does allow for a comparison of need across regions. The reference need was the combined total fishers in Hawaii (*Nr)*.

The poverty level in Hawaii is 10.6% in 2015 (DEBET <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/ranks/>). The poverty level was used as the need.

The trend was calculated as the combined change in the resource and coastal access over the past 5 years 2010-2015. The data for the change in shoreline access points comes from the Office of Planning.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Region | score | trend |
| Hawai'i | 26.81 | -0.01 |
| Maui Nui | 46.78 | 0.03 |
| Oahu | 48.21 | 0.02 |
| Kauai & Nii'hau | 51.15 | 0.04 |

*Data Gaps*

* Biomass of harvest fish from open access areas (with biomass from MPAs not included in the assessment).
* Number of fishers
* Fish flow
* Catch and effort data
* Beach access locations are managed by counties and it is unknown how often the data are updated.

**Sustainable Tourism**

This goal strives to measure the balance between economic growth through tourism with management and preservation of natural resources and Hawaiian culture. This is measured through tracking ocean and coastal management areas to preserve the environment and provide visitor ecotourism opportunities and the sentiment of residents of tourism.

Sustainable tourism was scored based on the benefit of visitors to economic growth (*economic)* while taking into account thepreservation of social and cultural values of residents *(sentiment)* and the natural environment (*environment).*

*ec=*current annual growth in visitor generated GDP

*er=* reference annual growth rate in visitor generated GDP=2.5%

*r ≥*2.5% = 1

*r>*1.5% and *r*>2.5% =*r*

*r≤*1.5% and *r ≥ =* -0.3% *=*0.5

*sc=* current sentiment

*sr=*reference sentiment target of 80

*nc =*current percent of nearshore waters and priority watersheds protected

*n30 =*30% percent of nearshore waters and priority watersheds protected

The mean of *economic* (visitor generated GDP), *sentiment* (preservation of social and cultural values), and *environment* (protection of key habitats) were used to generate regional scores for sustainable tourism.

*Economic* was scored based on county estimated visitor generated GDP. Visitor contribution to the economy was measured in USD inflation adjusted (real) GDP from. The reference level for visitor contribution to economic growth was set at $13,280 mil by 2020 or 2.5% annual growth rate (HTA 2016 Annual Report). Visitor generated GDP was estimated to county level by weighting GDP by the average daily number of visitors to each county (visitors defined as overnight stays (DBEDT 2016)).

*Sentiment* scores the preservation of social and cultural values estimated though HTA visitor sentiment surveys. Three questions have been asked consistently and thus have time-series information. Respones to these questions were used to score the sentiment of residents on the benefits and impact of tourism in Hawaiʻi. The three questions were to rate the level of impact and agreement on: 1. Rate the overall impact of tourism on your family, 2. Tourism has brought more benefits than problems, and 3. The island is being run for the tourists at the expense of the local people. The three questions were normalized to a score from 0 to 100 with 100 being positive or agreement on positive impacts of tourism for residence of Hawaii. Questions were averaged and scored to a reference value of 80 as set by the Hawaiʻi Tourism Authority as their target acceptance rate (HTA 2016 Annual Report).

*Environment* scores the protection of the natural environment including ocean areas (Marine Protected Areas, Fishery Replenishment Areas, and Community Subsistence Fishing Areas) and priority watersheds (watersheds that provide essential freshwater and protect key biodiversity). Environmental protection data comes from the Aloha+ dashboard on marine managed areas (DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources) and DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife. A reference rate of 30% nearshore areas effectively managed and priority watersheds protected by 2030 is based on the Govener’s Sustainable Hawai’i Initiatives (https://governor.hawaii.gov/sustainable-hawaii-initiative/).

Scores ranged from # to # by region. Scores are low considering that Hawaiʻi’s economy’s main contributor is the tourism industry. The low scores reflect the need to balance the economic gains with the preservation of Hawaiʻi’s unique cultural and natural environment. Working group participants have identified several areas to improve to increase preservation of social and cultural values and the natural environment. These include increased tourism education programs and increased proportion of the tax revenues generated from the tourism industry allocated to community and environmental preservation.

Table 1. Draft scores for the status of the Sustainable Tourism Goal.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Region | Score | Trend |
| Hawaiʻi | 62.5 | -0.29 |
| Maui Nui | 65.2 | -0.28 |
| Oahu | 59.1 | -0.38 |
| Kauai | 62.4 | -0.38 |

*Data Gaps*

* Data on park signage and education programs not comprehensive or available state wide.
* An agreed upon plan for sustainable tourism, economic growth, and ecotourism has not been established.
* It is unknown how much of the Tourism Accommodation Tax (TAT) goes back to environmental protection and restoration.

**Livelihoods & Economies**

Oceans jobs and revenue directly provide 18% to the economy of Hawaii. However there are many indirect economy benefits and markets. One could argue that the entire economy of Hawaii is based on the ocean. The attraction of visitors and tourism relies in part on a healthy ocean, along with 60% of local seafood consumed (*Teneva et al. in review*), recreation, and cultural activities.

Data on ocean livelihoods and economies comes from the NOAA ENOW for employment (jobs), wages, and revenue by ocean sector. Sectors include: Marine Construction, Living Resources, Ship and Boat Building, Tourism and Recreation, and Marine Transportation. Self-employed and state employed data sets were aggregated and summarized by county. However, when aggregated to county some of the information was undisclosed therefore this data represents a conservative estimate of ocean livelihoods and economies.

**Livelihoods**

Livelihoods was measured as the mean of ocean jobs and wages measured as the current number of jobs (*jc*) per marine and ocean sector (*k*) in relation to a reference year (*jr;* 5 years prior) and the sector average wage referenced to the self sufficiency standard (<http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/self-sufficiency/self-sufficiency_2014.pdf)> weighted by the proportion of jobs per sector (*w*). Current year (*c)* is the most recent year with available data (2013). Data on ocean sector employment and wage comes from NOAA ENOW (<https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/enow.html>) and was adjusted by state unemployment rate (DBEDT).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| County | Self Sufficiency Standard |
| Hawaii | $24,435 |
| Maui Nui | $31,435 |
| Oahu | $31,675 |
| Kauai | $38,472 |

Other references for wage:

* DBEDT per capita median wage (~$48,000)
* DBEDT annual per capita average consumption expenditures by county (higher values >$60,000)

**Economies**

Where e is the total adjusted revenue generated directly and indirectly from each marine and ocean sector (*k*), at current (c), and reference (r), time points. Data on ocean revenue comes from NOAA ENOW (<https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/enow.html>).

Table #. Industry multipliers for indirect jobs and revenue (DBEDT 2007, <http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/reports/IO/2007_state_io_study.pdf)>. Sectors were assigned a value of 1.00 if industry multipliers were not available for the sector.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ocean Sector | Jobs | Revenue |
| Tourism & Recreation | 1.27 | 1.32 |
| Living Resources | 1.76 | 1.58 |
| Marine Construction | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Ship & Boat Building | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Marine Transportation | 1.69 | 1.63 |

*Data Gaps*

* Many sectors are not well represented in LE such as pro-surfers, marine and ocean scientists, etc
* Sector evenness

**Sense of Place**

Cultural values are expressed in the development of this goal and several of the other goals and we recognize local and culture values as important to all aspects of ocean health. This goal stresses the importance of past, present, and future for the connection of people to places (āina) and relationships or networks of people with each other. Together these define community. This goal is composed of two subgoals: Lasting Special Places and Connection to Place. Lasting special places tracks the protection of marine and coastal areas. Connection to place is the connection that people have to coastal and marine environments.

**Lasting Special Places**

Lasting special places tracks the protection of marine and terrestrial coastal areas with the emphasis on protecting cultural and sacred sites. Clipped NOAA MPA inventory layer to 3nm offshore. MPAs classified by no take, no access, zoned with no take, and zoned with multiple use and zoned with uniform use. All MPAs with no take, no access or zoned with no take were given a weight of 1 and all other MPA classifications were given a weight of 0.5. The score of lasting special places was assessed as the ratio of the total area protected to the total area within 3nm from shore.

Table #. There are five types of conservation districts. Terrestrial conservation areas were weighted by their protective ability.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Conservation District Type | Weight |
| Protective | 1.0 |
| Limited | 0.9 |
| Resource | 0.8 |
| General | 0.7 |
| Special | 0.6 |

*Wahi pana*

Table 1. Data from the Hawaii Historic Preservation Plan 2012-2017 (https://historichawaii.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Hawaii-Preservation-Plan-2012-2017.pdf).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| year | region | heiau | archaeological | buildings | total |
| 2011 | Hawaii | 275 | 28713 | 497 | 29485 |
| 2011 | Maui Nui | 278 | 12230 | 140 | 12648 |
| 2011 | Oahu | 145 | 7108 | 143 | 7396 |
| 2011 | Kauai | 135 | 1954 | 77 | 2166 |

The State of Hawaiʻi defines historic preservation as “the research, protection, restoration, rehabilitation, and interpretation of buildings, structures, objects, districts, areas, and sites, including underwater sites and burial sites, significant to the history, architecture, archaeology, or culture of this State, its communities, or the nation.” The definition of historic property means any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater site, which is over fifty years old.

**Connection to Place**

Connection to place is the relationship that people have with the ocean and coastal areas. How we use ocean areas can in part define our connection and values towards them. There were many very valuable suggestions on how to measure Connection to Place including the use and knowledge of Hawaiian place names. Hawaiian names often reflect the activities, history, and the environment of the place. Unfortunately, there was no available and consistent way to measure the use of Hawaiian place names. This is a data gap and need that was identified during the development process for this goal. Therefore, Connection to Place was measured through activities that take place in each place, assessed as the participation rate in ocean and coastal activities. This information was collected across the state by the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program 2014 socioeconomic surveys of human use, knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions in Hawaii (NOAA 2014). Unfortunately, 2014 was the first year of this assessment so there is not a baseline or reference to measure against. NOAA Socio-economic division began surveys to track the frequency of recreational activities in Hawai’i in 2014 and these surveys are planned to be repeated every 3-4 years. This goal will be updated with future survey data.

*Resources*

NOAA (2014) National Coral Reef Monitoring Program: Socioeconomic surveys of human use, knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions in Hawaii from 2014-11-11 to 2014-11-26.

Salt production important story to showcase – loss of production and threats

Climate change mitigation

HCA Conservation Connections http://www.conservationconnections.org/

Table # Human use survey on the frequency (per year or per month? How did you calculate this?) of ocean uses of Hawaiian residents. Data from Edwards et al. 2014.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Region | Frequency | swimming/wading | snorkeling | diving(scuba or free diving) | camping | beach recreation | boating | wave riding | canoe or kayaking |
| Hawaii | Never | 17 | 39 | 66 | 46 | 19 | 67 | 63 | 69 |
| once a month | 31 | 35 | 19 | 39 | 41 | 22 | 17 | 20 |
| 2-3 times a month | 17 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 17 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 4 times a month or more | 35 | 17 | 9 | 8 | 23 | 7 | 14 | 7 |
| Oahu | Never | 22 | 53 | 75 | 54 | 24 | 73 | 59 | 73 |
| once a month | 33 | 28 | 14 | 37 | 40 | 18 | 20 | 17 |
| 2-3 times a month | 13 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 4 times a month or more | 32 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 17 | 6 | 14 | 7 |
| Maui Nui | Never | 18 | 40 | 63 | 49 | 20 | 61 | 53 | 65 |
| once a month | 23 | 31 | 19 | 36 | 34 | 27 | 18 | 21 |
| 2-3 times a month | 13 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 18 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| 4 times a month or more | 47 | 20 | 13 | 7 | 29 | 7 | 21 | 8 |
| Kauai | Never | 14 | 40 | 62 | 40 | 13 | 61 | 51 | 57 |
| once a month | 23 | 33 | 19 | 42 | 35 | 27 | 21 | 30 |
| 2-3 times a month | 15 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 19 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 4 times a month or more | 47 | 18 | 13 | 9 | 34 | 8 | 23 | 7 |

**Clean Water**

**ICC data used as reference layer in OHI to compensate for marine debris pressure**

Not much we can do to control marine debris at Hawaii scale

Marine debris as pressure layer

Need to stop at production, at the source.

Temporal and Spatial Analysis of Marine Debris

Jordan Toshimasa Muratsuchi

International coastal cleanup was annual event now year round post 2016

Data good from 2008 to 2016

Methods:

Debris per person per mile as reference. Per person cleaning up

Is debris on Hawaii increasing?

Declining slightly since 2008 – how much

References

Jambeck et al 2015

What proportion is Hawaii based vs external sources? Tsunami marine debris?

If Hawaii ends single use plastics what present reduction in marine debris would you expect?

Windward vs leeward affects?

Clean water reference – more pick up = less in environment 30% reduction in marine debris – fit with 30 by 30 target 30% reference

Marine Debris

**Coastal Protection**

This goal aims to assess the amount of protection provided by marine and coastal habitats against flooding and erosion to coastal areas. The condition of each habitat was calculated with various methods depending on data availability, which are mostly based on coverage area. Habitats that are included and provide substantial coastal protection are: beaches, coral reefs, and wetlands. A score of 100 would indicate that these habitats are all still intact or have been restored to their reference conditions.

C is the current (c) condition and reference (r) condition.

*Coral reefs*

Coral reef extent was assessed from the cumulative impact mapping layers that combine hard bottom and coral reef habitats to a depth of 100 meters (Lecky 2016).

Coral reef condition indicators come from the Hawaii Monitoring and Research Collaborative and combined coral reef monitoring database used to develop measurements of reef status and trends to support reef management decisions statewide, and; measure our progress toward the Sustainable Hawaii Initiative goal to effectively manage 30% of our nearshore ocean waters by 2030.

Coral reef condition is assessed as the coral reef index, a measure of coral reef health from combined indicators for % coral cover, %macroalgae, % coralline algae, and the ratio of calcifiers to non calcifiers, all fish biomass, resource fish biomass, parrotfish biomass, total fish biomass no sharks and jacks. The coral reef index scores are a rank assessment among the 42 Mokus (traditional land management areas).

Coral Reef trend – to be determined at later date, from HIMARC but for now used data from CREP 2016 Report on change in % coral cover from 2011-2012 to 2016 surveys from the Main Hawaiian Islands.

*Beaches*

Beach condition and trend data comes from Fletcher et al. 2012. Beach erosion is expected to increase with sea level rise and sea level rise acts as a large pressure on this goal. Beach extent is calculated as the total length of classifications 3, 4, and 5 types of beaches from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Response and Restoration Environmental Sensitivity Index. Beach condition is the percent of beaches remaining stable (not eroding). The beach trend is the long term erosion rate (past century) calculated from Fletcher et al. 2012. This data may be updated as USGS plans to assess the beach erosional rate every 5-10 years (Fletcher et al. 2012).

*Wetlands*

Wetlands are classified based on soil saturation, percent of herbaceous vegetation, trees and shrubs, locality (riverine), and salinity ([National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](file:///D:\Documents%20and%20Settings\eschemmel\AppData\Local\Temp\Temp1_Re%253a_expense_sharing.zip\11_Costofwetlandschange%202013%20update%2011_DEC_2013.docx#_ENREF_15), USGS NRC). Along with providing coastal protection, wetlands are important habitats which are crtitical habitats for many endemic and endangered plants and animals. Pressures to wetlands include invasive species (including mangroves), land development, and land-based sources of pollution.

Coastal wetland extent was assessed from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal Change Analysis Program (NOAA C-CAP) data clipped to within 1 km inland from the coast to capture coastal wetlands extent. All estuary categories were included in this assessment that were within 1km of the coastline as these habitats within 1km of the shoreline will mitigate against flooding and wave inundation. Wetland condition information comes from Van Rees and Reed (2014) and was modeled as the percent loss of historical coastal wetlands to an elevation of 304 meters. Trend in coastal wetlands was assessed as the difference in area from 2010/2011 to 1992 NOAA CCAP wetlands extent within 1 km of the coastline.

*Mangroves*

While mangroves are considered unique and integral ecosystems in their native range they can be a huge threat to areas where they are introduced and invasive, such as Hawaiʻi. While they do offer coastal protection, we did not include them in this assessment as they are considered to do more harm than good. Mangroves have especially large impacts to native biodiversity and traditional Hawaiian fishponds (loko iʻa). Removal efforts are underway to remove and clear mangroves and restore native estuaries and fishponds (LINK to work).

*Data Gaps and Priorities*

* Need infromation on fishpond extent and conidtion to incorperate them into the assessment of coastal protection
* Looking into incorporating dune data as well as beach data
* Looking at estimates of shoreline protective ability based on slope or shoreline relief/aspect ratios
* Information on the protective ability or importance of each habitat for coastal protection in Hawaii.
* Updated inventory on coastal wetlands and estuaries is currently being developed by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources.

**Biodiversity**

The Biodiversity goal measures the conservation status of species based on two subgoals: Habitats and Species.

**Habitats**

The Habitats sub-goal of Biodiversity measures the current extent and condition of ocean and coastal habitats (*Hc*) against a reference habitat extent and condition (*Hr*). The habitat model assesses all habitats for which data are available to evaluate extent and condition, specifically: coral reefs, coastal wetlands and estuaries, beaches, and subtidal soft-bottom habitats. Status was calculated as the average of the condition estimates for each habitat present in a region. Condition was measured differently depending of the data available for the habitat and therefore was measured as the loss of habitat and/or percent degradation of remaining habitat.

*Coral reefs*

Coral reef extent was assessed from the cumulative impact mapping layers that combine hard bottom and coral reef habitats to a depth of 100 meters (Lecky 2016).

Coral reef condition indicators come from the Hawaii Monitoring and Research Collaborative and combined coral reef monitoring database used to develop measurements of reef status and trends to support reef management decisions statewide, and; measure our progress toward the Sustainable Hawaii Initiative goal to effectively manage 30% of our nearshore ocean waters by 2030.

Coral reef condition is assessed as the coral reef index, a measure of coral reef health from combined indicators for % coral cover, %macroalgae, % coralline algae, and the ratio of calcifiers to non calcifiers, all fish biomass, resource fish biomass, parrotfish biomass, total fish biomass no sharks and jacks. The coral reef index scores are a rank assessment among the 42 Mokus (traditional land management areas).

Coral Reef trend – to be determined at later date, from HIMARC but for now used data from CREP 2016 Report on change in % coral cover from 2011-2012 to 2016 surveys from the Main Hawaiian Islands.

*Beaches*

Beach condition and trend data comes from Fletcher et al. 2012. Beach erosion is expected to increase with sea level rise and sea level rise acts as a large pressure on this goal. Beach extent is calculated as the total length of classifications 3, 4, and 5 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Response and Restoration Environmental Sensitivity Index. Beach condition is the percent of beaches remaining stable (not eroding). The beach trend is the long-term erosion rate (past century) calculated from Fletcher et al. 2012. This data may be updated as USGS plans to assess the beach erosional rate every 5-10 years (Fletcher et al. 2012).

*Soft Bottom*

Near shore soft bottom habitat extent was mapped to a depth of 100 meters (Ocean Tipping Points). The condition was measured as the proportion of soft bottom habitat that was not dredged. Dredging was defined as activity involving physically removing substrate with machinery typically to allow for safe passage of vessels Ocean Tipping Points (http://www.pacioos.hawaii.edu/projects/oceantippingpoints/#data).

*Coastal Wetlands and Estuaries*

Coastal wetland extent was assessed from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal Change Analysis Program (NOAA C-CAP) data clipped to within 1 km inland from the coast to capture coastal wetlands extent. All estuary categories were included in this assessment that were within 1km of the coastline as these habitats within 1km of the shoreline will mitigate against flooding and wave inundation.

We combined the coastal wetland extent with estuary extent. Estuaries are defined as the transition zone where fresh water from land meets and mixes with seawater creating some of the most productive ecosystems in the world. There are many challenges to mapping and defining estuary types. Currently, there is not a complete database for estuaries in Hawaii. However, this database is currently being developed by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources. For this assessment, we used the National Wetlands Inventory with the deeper water estuaries excluded as these were previously mapped out to the full near shore extent (3nm) and did not fit our classification of estuary habitats.

Since there is currently not a complete database for Hawaiian estuaries and the status of estuaries remains unknown, we applied coastal wetland condition to the wetland and estuary habitats. Wetland condition information comes from Van Rees and Reed (2014) and was modeled as the percent loss of historical coastal wetlands to an elevation of 304 meters. Trend in coastal wetlands and estuaries was assessed as the difference in area from 2010/2011 to 1992 NOAA CCAP wetlands extent within 1 km of the coastline.

*Mangroves*

Mangroves are invasive in Hawaii and pose several negative ecological impacts (Allen 1998), therefore they are not included in the goal models but they are included as a pressure that is applied to Biodiversity, Artisanal Fishing, Recreation, Sense of Place, and Food Provision.

**Species**

Hawaiʻi has a high rate of endangered species. The latest assessment lists 501 Endangered species (77 animal) (Environmental Conservation Online System 02/13/2015). The Endangered Species Act (ESA) was established in 1973 provides for the conservation of species that are endangered or threatened (likely to become endangered in the near future without protection) throughout all or a significant portion of their range, and the conservation of the ecosystems on which they depend. To assess species status, we combined information on local reef fish species status indicators (NOAA report card/ HMARC), and ESA status of marine mammals, turtles, and birds, and coastal plants. We incorporated reef fish indicators even though many of Hawaiʻi’s reef fish are not considered threatened or endangered. Local indicators of reef fish populations and status are important for understanding the health of coral reefs and biodiversity and therefore were included along with reef fish species richness.

*ESA status*

Hawaiʻi does not have any listed extinct marine species, however Hawaiʻi is one of the species extinction capitals of the world due to the high presence of vulnerable endemic species. For a list of extinct species refer to the Bishop Mueseum Hawaiʻi’s Extinct Species (<http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/endangered/extinct.html>)

*Marine Mammals & Turtles*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ESA Status | Score |
| Non-concern or not listed | 1.0 |
| Threatened | 0.5 |
| Endangered | 0.25 |

Table# The ESA status of Hawaiʻi’s marine mammals and turtles.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Common Name | Species Name | ESA Status |
| Blainville’s beaked whale | Mesoplodon densirostris | NC |
| Blue whale | Balaenoptera musculus musculus | E |
| Bryde’s whale | Balaenoptera edeni | NC |
| Common bottlenose dolphin | Tursiops truncatus truncatus | NC |
| Cuvier’s beaked whale | Ziphius cavirostris | NC |
| Dwarf sperm whale | Kogia sima | NC |
| False killer whale | Pseudorca crassidens | E |
| Fin whale | Balaenoptera physalus physalus | E |
| Fraser’s dolphin | Lagenodelphis hosei | NC |
| Green | Chelonia mydas | T |
| Hawaiian monk seal | Neomonachus schauinslandi | E |
| Hawksbill | Ertmochelys imbricata | E |
| Humpback whale | Megaptera novaeangliae | E |
| Killer whale | Orcinus orca | NC |
| Leatherback | Dermochelys cariacea | E |
| Loggerhead | Caretta caretta | E |
| Longman’s beaked whale | Indopacetus pacificus | NC |
| Melon-headed whale | Peponocephala electra | NC |
| Minke whale | Balaenoptera acutorostrata scammoni | NC |
| North Pacific right | Lissodelphis borealis | NC |
| Olive Ridley | Lepidochelys olivacea | T |
| Pantropical spotted dolphin | Stenella attenuata attenuata | NC |
| Pygmy killer whale | Feresa attenuata | NC |
| Pygmy sperm whale | Kogia breviceps | NC |
| Risso’s dolphin | Grampus griseus | NC |
| Rough-toothed dolphin | Steno bredanensis | NC |
| Sei whale | Balaenoptera borealis borealis | E |
| Short-finned pilot whale | Globicephala macrorhynchus | NC |
| Sperm whale | Physeter macrocephalus | E |
| Spinner dolphin | Stenella longirostris longirostris) | NC |
| Striped dolphin | Stenella coeruleoalba | NC |

*Marine Birds*

Twenty-five seabirds were identified in the Marine Biogeographic assessment for the Main Hawaiian Islands. Searches of seabirds in Hawaii using US Fish and Wildlife Service (REF), There are at least 22 species of seabirds that breed in the Hawaiian Islands. Twenty of these species breed in the Main Hawaiian Islands (Biogeographic assessment). Five shorebirds that are found in the Main Hawaiian Islands were added to the assessment.

Table #. Seabird and shorebird score weighting based on ESA status (https://www.fws.gov/endangered/) and State of the Birds yellow and red watch lists (http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2014/extinctions/watchlist.pdf).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ESA Status | Score |
| Non-concern or not listed | 1.0 |
| Yellow Watch List | 0.7 |
| Threatened | 0.5 |
| Endangered or Red Watch List | 0.25 |

Table #. Seabird and shorebird species for the Main Hawaiian Islands with ESA (E= endangered, T= threatened) or State of the Birds Status (Y=yellow watch list; R=red watch list).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type | Common Name | Hawaiian Name | Species Name | Status |
| Seabird | Band-rumped storm-petrel |  | *Oceanodroma castro* | E |
| Seabird | Black-footed albatross |  | *Phoebastria nigripes* | Y |
| Seabird | Black noddy |  | *Anous stolidus pileatus* | Y |
| Seabird | Black-winged petrel |  | *Pterodroma nigripennis* | NC |
| Seabird | Blue noddy |  | *Procelesterna cerulean* | Y |
| Seabird | Brown booby | ʻA | *Sula leucogaster* | Y |
| Seabird | Brown noddy | Noio koha | *Anous stolidus* | NC |
| Seabird | Bulwer's Petrel | ʻOu | *Bulweria bulwerii* | Y |
| Seabird | Christmas shearwater |  | *Puffinus nativitatis* | Y |
| Seabird | Cookʻs Petrel |  | *Pterodroma cookii* | NC |
| Seabird | Gray-backed tern | Pokalakla | *Onychonprion lunatus* | Y |
| Seabird | Great frigatebird | ʻIwa | *Fregata minor* | Y |
| Seabird | Hawaiian black noddy |  | *Anous minutus melanogenys* | Y |
| Seabird | Hawaiian petrel (dark-rumped petrel) | ʻUaʻu | *Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis* | E(R) |
| Seabird | Juan Fernandez petrel |  | *Pterodroma externa* | NC |
| Seabird | Laysan albatross | Moli | *Phoebastria immutabilis* | Y |
| Seabird | Masked Booby | ʻA | *Sula dactylatra* | Y |
| Seabird | Mottled petrel |  | *Pterodroma inexpectata* | NC |
| Seabird | Newell's shearwater | ʻAʻo | *Puffinus newelli* | E |
| Seabird | Red-footed booby | ʻA | *Sula sula* | NC |
| Seabird | Red-tailed tropicbird |  | *Phaethon rubricauda* | Y |
| Seabird | Sooty tern | ʻEwaʻewa | *Onychoprion fuscata* | NC |
| Seabird | Wedge-tailed shearwater | ʻUaʻu kani | *Puffinus pacificus* | NC |
| Seabird | White or ferry tern | Manu-o-ku | *Gygis alba* | NC |
| Seabird | White-tailed tropic bird |  | *Phaethon lepturus* | Y |
| Shorebird | Bristle-thighed curlew | Kioea | *Numenius tahitiensis* | NC |
| Shorebird | Pacific golden plover | Kolea | *Pluvialis fulva* | NC |
| Shorebird | Sanderling | Hunakai | *Calidris alba* | NC |
| Shorebird | Ruddy turnstone | ʻAkekeke | *Arenaria interpres* | NC |
| Shorebird | Wandering tattler | ʻŪlili | *Heteroscelus incanus* | NC |

*Coastal Plants*

Species list and status of coastal plants were sourced from Merlin 1999 and the USFWS (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/)>.

Table #. List of coastal plants and ESA status.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Common Name | Hawaiian Name | Species name | ESA Status |
| Beach spurge | Koko, ʻakoko | Chamaesyce degeneri |  |
|  | ʻĀkia, kauhi | Wikstroemia spp |  |
|  | Ahuawa | Mariscus javanicus |  |
|  | Akaakai | Schoenoplectella tabernae-montani | |
|  | Alena | Boerhavia repens |  |
|  | Degenerʻs ʻakoko | Euphorbia degeneri | V |
| Dwarf naupaka | Dwarf naupaka | Scaevola coriacsea | E |
| Pandanus | hala/Pu hala | Pandanus tectorius |  |
|  | Hau | Talipariti tiliaceus |  |
|  | Hinahina | Heliotropium anomalum | |
| Hawaiian Nama | Hinahina Kahakai | Nama sandwicensis | V |
| Moonseed | Huehue | Cocculus orbiculatus |  |
|  | Hunakai | Ipomoea imperati |  |
|  | Kalo | Colocasia esculenta |  |
| Alexandrian Laurel | Kamai | Calophyllum inophyllum | |
|  | Kaunaʻoa | Cuscuta sandwichiana |  |
|  | Kāwelu, ʻEmoloa | Eragrostis variabilis |  |
|  | Kaʻena ʻakoko | Euphorbia celastroides var. kaenana | E |
| Ivy-leaved morning glory | Koaliʻai | Ipomoea cairica |  |
| Coastal morning glory | Koaliʻawa | Ipomoea littoralis |  |
| Indian morning glory | Koaliʻawa | Ipomoea indica |  |
|  | Makaloa | Cyperus laevigatus |  |
|  | Mauʻu/ʻAkiʻaki | Fimbristylis cymosa subsp. Spathacea | |
|  | Mauʻu/ʻAkiʻaki | Fimbristylis cymosa subsp. Umbellato-capitata | |
| Hawaiian Cotton | Maʻo | Gossypium tomentosum | V |
|  | Milo | Thespesia populnea |  |
| Bastard sandalwood | Naio | Myoporum sandwicense | |
| Beach sandalwood | ʻIliahialoʻe | Santalum ellipticum | V |
| Beach pea | nanea | Vigna marina |  |
| Beach Naupaka | Naupaka kahakai | Scaevola sericea |  |
|  | Nehe | Melanthera integrifolia, Lipochaeta integrifolia | V |
|  | Nehe | Lipochaeta succulenta |  |
|  | neke Fern | Cyperus interruptus |  |
| Seaside heliotrope | Nena/Kipukai | Heliotropium curassavicum | |
| Coconut palm | Niu | Cocos nucifera |  |
| Puncture vine | Nohu | Tribulus cistoides |  |
|  | Paʻuohiʻiaka | Jacquemontia ovalifolia | |
| Beach vitex | Pohinahina | Vitex rotundifolia |  |
| Beach morning glory | Pohuehue | Ipomoea pes-caprae |  |
|  | Pōpolo | Solanum nelsonii | E |
| Caper bush, | Pua pilo or Maiapilo | Capparis sandwichiana | V |
| Prickly poppy | Pua kala | Aregemone glauca |  |
|  | Puukaa | Cyperus trachysanthos | E |
| Schiedea |  | Schiedea globosa | V |
|  | Uki | Cladium jamaicense |  |
| Water Hyssop | ʻAeʻae | Bacopa monnieri |  |
| Seashore rushgrass | ʻAkiʻaki | Sporobolus virginicus |  |
| East Maui ʻAkoko | ʻAkoko | Euphorbia celastroides var. laechiensis | E |
| Sea purslane | ʻAkulikuli | Sesuvium portulacastrum | |
|  | ʻAnaunau | Lepidium bedentatum | V |
|  | ʻEnaʻena | Psuedognaphalium sandwicensium | |
|  | ʻIhi | Portulaca molokiniensis | E |
| Pigweed | ʻIhi | Portulaca lutea |  |
| Hairy Purslane | ʻIhi | Portulaca villosa | E |
| Kilauea Portulaca | ʻIhi makole | Portulaca sclerocarpa | E |
|  | ʻIlima | Sida fallax |  |
|  | ʻOhai | Sesbania tomentosa | E |
|  | ʻOhelo kai | Lycium sandwicense |  |
|  | ʻŌhiʻa lehua | Metrosideros polymorpha | |
|  | ʻŪlei, eluehe, uʻulei | Osteomeles anthyllidifolia | |
|  | Wiliwili | Erythrina sandwicensis |  |
|  | ʻUhaloa/Hiʻaloa | Waltheria indica |  |

*Fish*

The reef fish indicator is the average of 3 components (Reef Fish Biomass, Reef Fish Sustainability, and Reef Fish Predators). Reef Fish Biomass measures the mean biomass of all reef fishes other than sharks and jacks derived from underwater visual surveys of <30m hardbottom habitats. Survey biomass per location is compared against a meaningful local baseline (to account for inherent environmental and habitat differences among locations). High scores therefore represent populations that are close to their natural carrying capacity. Reef Fish Sustainability represents an index of mean size for targeted reef fish species relative to their size at first maturity. High scores therefore represent assemblages where there are still many of large individuals of targets species, those large fishes being particularly important components of the breeding stock. The Reef Fish Predators indicator is made up of 2 components: ‘reef sharks’ and ‘other reef piscivores’ with data taken respectively from towed-diver and point-count surveys by divers. High scores represent locations where upper trophic level fishes are still a conspicuous and ecologically important component of the reef ecosystem.

*Add table of scores for each indicator by region*

*Data Gaps*

* Eels and other cryptic species are not accurately assessed in standard marine monitoring surveys.
* Water column, seamounts, and mesophotic habitats are considered important habitats but are not included in this assessment.
* Updated inventory on coastal wetlands and estuaries is currently being developed by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources.
* Anchailine ponds were not included in this assessment because they are not found in every assessment region but they are rare and unique habitats to Hawaiʻi.

**Carbon Storage**

Carbon storage was calculated as the condition and area of coastal wetland habitat weighted by the estimated carbon storage capacity of wetlands (NOAA\_CCAP 2011; REF).

Seagrasses are also considered habitats for carbon storage however they are not included in this assessment as seagrass area has been estimated to be less than 0.02% of the Hawaiian Island benthic cover (NOAA Coral Reef Habitat Assessment 2009) and is not well mapped.

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