a **healthy ocean** sustainably delivers a range of benefits to people both now and in the future.

Ho‘i i ke kai momona: return to an abundant ocean--The ocean is central to life in Hawai‘i, providing food, cultural benefits and recreation to many. But threats such as overfishing, coastal development and harmful runoff have weakened the health of its surrounding ocean. Coral reef cover is declining state wide and 75% of coastal fisheries are depleted.

In order to improve the management of ocean resources and to ensure the continued delivery of benefits for future generations, Hawai‘i is utilizing the **Ocean Health Index+ independent assessment framework (OHI+),** the first assessment tool that scientifically combines key biological, physical, economic and social elements of the ocean’s health to guide decision-makers toward sustainable use of the ocean.

10 benefits of a **healthy ocean**

The Ocean Health Index identifies 10 benefits, or goals, of ocean health and then assesses these using the best available information and indicators fitted to the scale of the assessment. Outcomes reflect how well all potential ocean benefits and services are being sustainably optimized as compared against reference points, or management targets, that are set by local stakeholders to best reflect local realities.

FOOD PROVISION

ARTISANAL FISHING OPPORTUNITY

NATURAL PRODUCTS

CARBON STORAGE

COASTAL PROTECTION

TOURISM & RECREATION

LIVELIHOODS & ECONOMIES

SENSE OF PLACE

CLEAN WATER

BIODIVERSITY

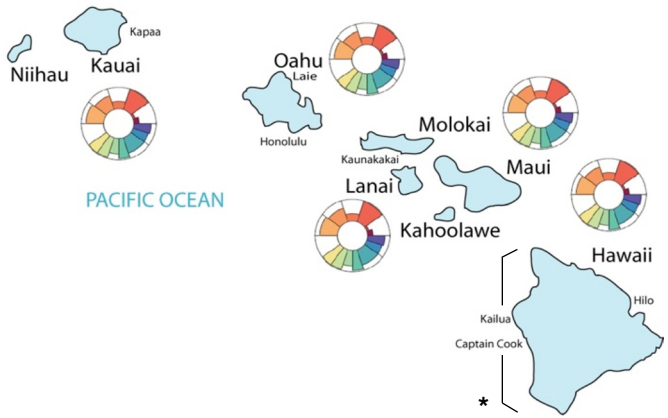
an ocean health assessment for **Hawai‘i**

The Hawai‘i assessments will use the scientifically robust framework of the Ocean Health Index at two scales:

1. West Hawai‘i region *
2. Statewide, for coastal waters

The OHI+ Hawai‘i I will include locally generated science and data, values and input from Hawai‘i’s stakeholders, and unique aspects of Hawai‘i’s culture.

Each goal score takes into account the present and likely future goal status and accounts for projected near future trends along with local social and ecological pressures and resilience.



outcomes of an OHI+

Building a coalition for sustainable ocean management.
Conducting an OHI+ requires collaboration and communication among as many different stakeholders as possible, including government agencies, research institutions, policy groups, non-governmental organizations, and the civil and private sectors.

Use of objective scientific data to inform decision making.
This allows for the identification of management needs and integrative management efforts.

Testing management scenarios and assessing trade-offs.
The OHI+ process can be used to simulate how different management scenarios affect scores, the magnitude and types of changes, and effects of common management actions. This helps identify which management and policy interventions can be most effective at bringing a given area close to its management targets.

Monitoring ocean health through time using a repeatable tool.
The Hawai‘i OHI+ assessment can be updated regularly as new data become available, allowing us to assess progress and development trends over time.