

In 2002, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force identified the need for more focused action at the local level to reduce key threats to coral reefs and called for the development of Local Action Strategies (LAS) in each of the seven states and territories that possess significant coral reef resources.

HAWAII Local Action Strategy

Hawaii used a collaborative planning process to develop local action strategies (LAS) for the four selected focus areas, and will employ the same method in developing its fifth. This process supported and expanded on existing efforts already underway in the state. In cases where coordinating bodies did not already exist, steering committees were formed to facilitate the development and implementation of the particular LAS. These committees include members from state and federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, businesses, and community groups. The committees: 1) assessed the effectiveness of current management strategies and existing monitoring protocols, and 2) held a series of stakeholder workshops to discuss the issues, gaps, and needs for addressing focus issues. The planning process for a specific LAS varied in the extent to which new initiatives were developed or existing efforts were supported or enhanced. This ranged from advocating existing planning efforts such as the State of Hawaii Aquatic Invasive Species Action Plan, to the development and establishment of the Land-based Sources of Pollution LAS through a steering committee specifically organized for the effort.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT...

Hawaii hopes to work towards the development of an integrated fishery management plan to promote sustainable harvest using an ecosystem-based approach.

Goals and Objectives

- Improve regulation enforcement
- Improve communication between managers and fishermen

Project Examples

- Develop enforcement and training materials
- Develop process to better engage communities in management activities; develop additional community watch programs

Anticipated Outcomes

- Simplified fishery regulations to facilitate enforcement and compliance
- Increased public awareness of fisheries management actions and regulations

LAND-BASED SOURCES OF POLLUTION...

This LAS is watershed-based, incorporating the traditional Hawaiian land and natural resource management system called *ahupua'a*.

Goals and Objectives

- Improve coral reef water quality and health by reducing sediment runoff and pollutant loads in surface water through site-specific actions and best management practices
- Improve our understanding of the links between land-based pollution and coral reef health through focused scientific research and monitoring

Project Examples

- Collect and analyze data of links between land-based pollution, carrying capacities, and coral reef health
- Hire a coordinator to support LAS implementation through stakeholder groups and project support

ESTIMATED LAS PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COSTS

Fisheries Management
\$1,197,000

Land-based Sources of Pollution
\$6,917,611

Lack of Awareness
\$441,000

Aquatic Invasive Species
\$525,000

Estimated costs derived from projects for which cost information is presently available



STAKEHOLDERS

Community groups/
local stakeholders

County of Maui

East Molokai Watershed
Partnership

Hanalei Watershed Hui

Hawaii Audubon Society

Hawaii Department of
Business, Economic
Development and Tourism,
CZM Program

Hawaii Department
of Health

Hawaii Division of Aquatic
Resources

Hawaii Fishing News

Landowners

Local fishing clubs

Malama Hawaii

Maui Land and Pineapple
Company

NOAA

Recreational tourism
businesses

Sierra Club

The Nature Conservancy

University of Hawaii

U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers

USDA, Natural Resources
Conservation Service

USEPA

USFWS

USGS

Ward Research Company

contact

Anticipated Outcomes

- *Refined existing management actions and monitoring to address land-based pollution threats serve as catalyst for other ahupua'a in Hawaii*
- *New actions with potential funding sources identified, packaged, and funded for implementation through collaborative stakeholder groups in selected ahupua'a*

LACK OF AWARENESS/HAWAII'S LIVING REEF PROGRAM...

The Living Reef Program is Hawaii's answer to the lack of public awareness of the significance of coral reefs and impacts to their health. It is a collaborative effort of over forty organizations and government agencies, utilizing all forms of media to present a clear and simple message to the public about the importance of protecting coral reefs.

Goals and Objectives

- *Raise public awareness of the importance of coral reefs to Hawaii*
- *Teach and encourage positive reef-friendly behaviors*

Project Examples

- *Build a website that acts as a resources clearinghouse — a source of information and way for the public to raise concerns or find volunteer opportunities*
- *Issue periodic news releases and develop TV and radio public service announcements to remind the community of reef/fish health and specific events*

Anticipated Outcomes

- *A public more informed about their role in the coral reef ecosystem, and aware of the resources available to them for active participation in coral reef management*
- *Increased community involvement in environmental issues and understanding of the link between themselves and the environment*

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES...

The goal of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management Plan is to enhance coordination of current management efforts and to identify gaps. Input was sought from over 150 agencies, companies, and individuals in the development of this plan, and specific working groups were created to write different sections of the plan. The U.S. Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force recently approved the plan.

Goals and Objectives

- *Develop a rapid response and monitoring system for aquatic invasive species*
- *Prevent introduction of alien organisms via ballast water and hull fouling mechanisms*

Project Examples

- *Develop response teams located on each island to deal with aquatic invasive species outbreaks*
- *Develop alternative treatment for ship's ballast water and hull*

Anticipated Outcomes

- *A comprehensive system to manage ballast water and hull fouling issues with the help of a rapid response team to target high-risk vessels*
- *A complete removal of *Carijoa* from the island of Kauai with continued monitoring to prevent reestablishment*

RECREATIONAL USE...

A local action strategy for this focus area will begin development in FY 2005. Initial meetings with various stakeholders have already been held on all islands to begin gathering input for the creation of the recreational use LAS.

ATHLINE CLARK, Athline.M.Clark@hawaii.gov 808.587.0099