



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration



U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service



State of Hawaii
Department of Land
and Natural Resources



Western Pacific Regional
Fishery Management Council

News Release

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Visioning Meetings for Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Scheduled

Six public meetings to gather input to be considered in determining management recommendations for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands will be held throughout the main Hawaiian Islands toward the end of July. These informal sessions offer opportunities for interaction between participants and government agency representatives.

On May 26, President Clinton directed the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce, in cooperation with the State of Hawaii and in consultation with the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, to develop recommendations for a new coordinated management regime to increase protection for the coral reef ecosystems of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and provide for sustainable use. He asked that "visioning" sessions be held during the 90-day period to allow the public to help shape the final recommendations, which are due to the President on August 25.

All meetings will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the following locations:

July 24	Oahu	Kalihi Kai Elementary School Cafeteria
July 25	Maui	Baldwin High School Auditorium
July 27	Kona	Kealakehe High School Cafeteria
July 28	Hilo	Hilo High School Cafeteria
July 31	Kauai	Kauai Community College Cafeteria
August 1	Molokai	Mitchell Pauole Center

Open houses, during which participants may view exhibits and talk with agency representatives, will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. prior to each meeting.

During these meetings, participants will be asked to comment on the following issues related to the coral reef ecosystems of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands:

- (1) those qualities of these coral reef ecosystems that are most important to be preserved through new, strong, and lasting protections;

- (2) the current threats to these coral reef ecosystems;
- (3) the future threats to these coral reef ecosystems;
- (4) the types of activities and uses (including culturally significant uses) that are appropriate in these islands;
- (5) the types of activities and uses that are inappropriate in these islands; and
- (6) the types of management tools, actions, and approaches that should be used to ensure strong and lasting protection of these coral reef ecosystems.

Written comments also may be submitted through any of the following means:

- by mailing them to: U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution
Attn: Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
110 South Church Avenue, Suite 3350
Tucson AZ 85701
- by faxing them to: (520) 670 5530 (the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution)
- by submitting them through the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution website at: www.ecr.gov/nwhi

All comments must be received by August 2, 2000.

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, including all islands from Nihoa Island through Kure Atoll, are surrounded by some of the healthiest and most extensive coral reefs within the waters of the United States. The region is home to a diverse and unique assemblage of fishes, invertebrates, birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, and other species, including many found nowhere else on earth.

Additional information about the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands initiative is available on the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution's website at www.ecr.gov/nwhi.

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