

APPENDIX 7


MEDIA COVERAGE: Information Exchanges (Approach #2)

West Hawai'i Today

Fee to fish?: Group sets public meetings to break down report on noncommercial fishing regulation

By Max Dible West Hawaii Today mdible@westhawaii.com (<http://www.westhawaii.com/author/max-dible/>) |

Monday, November 26, 2018, 12:05 a.m.

Share this story 



(<https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?text=http://www.westhawaii.com/2018/11/26/hawaii-news/fee-to-fish-group-sets-public-meetings-to-break-down-report-on-non-commercial-fishing-regulation/>)



(<https://plus.google.com/share?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.westhawaii.com%2F2018%2F11%2F26%2Fhawaii-news%2Ffee-to-fish-group-sets-public-meetings-to-break-down-report-on-non-commercial-fishing-regulation%2F>)



(<mailto:?subject=Fee to fish?: Group sets public meetings to break down report on noncommercial fishing regulation&body=http://www.westhawaii.com/2018/11/26/hawaii-news/fee-to-fish-group-sets-public-meetings-to-break-down-report-on-non-commercial-fishing-regulation/>)





KAILUA-KONA — Almost two years after Conservation International Hawaii and the Western Pacific Fishery Council released a feasibility study on a regulatory system for noncommercial fishing in Hawaii, contributors are touring the state to discuss it with the public.

Aarin Gross, senior program manager for policy and operations with Conservation International Hawaii, said the time lag resulted because report details didn't circulate on their own as effectively as the group had expected.

ADVERTISING

"The people we had hoped would gain access to this information probably didn't have access to it," she said.

Public meetings meant to break down the controversial issue of a regulatory system for recreational fishing in Hawaii, which will carry with it annual fees for local fishermen, are set for both Kailua-Kona and Hilo.

Presenters scheduled the first from 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority Gateway Center in Kailua-Kona. The meeting in Hilo is 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Mokuapapa Discovery Center.

Meetings are also being convened on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Molokai and Lanai.

The report "took no collective position" as to whether the state should implement a mandatory noncommercial fishing registry, permit or license (RPL) system.

However, it did note “that there are no legal or constitutional barriers in Hawaii that would prohibit the implementation of a new RPL system,” adding it’s possible to design one without violating Native Hawaiian gathering rights protected under state law.

Gathering info

Conservation International Hawaii program director Matt Ramsey wants to make one thing clear to those planning to attend — that his organization isn’t lobbying on behalf of either side of the issue.

For the study group, it’s all about the information.

“This meeting is not part of the rulemaking process,” Ramsey said. “I think a large misconception out there is that this is somehow related to state regulation or a legislative effort, and that’s definitely not the case. While those two things may happen on their own, we are not involved in that at all.”

It’s also all about the information for Brian Neilson, acting administrator of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources.

Neilson, his agency and its parent agency would all be directly involved in any implementation of an RPL system in Hawaii, which he said they’re “very interested in.”

Community feedback generated in the meetings will inform and mold a push specifically for a licensing system option, possibly as early as this year, he added.

Legislation

ADVERTISING

However, DAR/DLNR can't implement a licensing system of its own accord. It requires statutory authority by way of the state Legislature.

House Rep. Nicole Lowen, D-North Kona, said multiple bills have been introduced to address noncommercial fishing regulation during her six years in office, including proposals to study the matter or levying fees only on nonresident fishermen.

For a licensing system that also charges residents a fee, Lowen said there's really only one feasible legislative path.

"If the administration is not on board with it, it would probably be dead in the water," said Lowen, meaning any bill with a chance to cross the finish line would have to come from relevant agencies with Gov. David Ige's backing rather than from a state legislator.

"When DAR and DLNR are ready to spearhead it as something that needs to happen in the state, then I think we could start the work of getting legislators on board," she added. "Because obviously, it will be controversial."

Neilson said that might happen as early as January.

"We are thinking about the possibility of introducing legislation in this upcoming session," he said, "but we're still getting feedback."

If legislation passed, details would be ironed out through the administrative rulemaking process, which would allow multiple opportunities for public input.

Strong opinions

Hawaii is currently the only state without noncommercial fishing regulation in any form.

Local fishermen, particularly those of Native Hawaiian descent, have fished island waters all their lives. Many see the practice as not just a right and/or a necessity, but as an integral part of their culture.

"I recreationally fish, but it's to put food on the table," said Billy Lum, 61, who's been casting lines on three different islands for the last half-century. "I know a lot of Hawaiians are going to be totally against anything like that because we're so used to being able to go out and provide food for the family, so now having to buy a license

for it ...”

Many fishery managers, however, say the benefits outweigh what would be a minimal cost to fishermen. Creating a licensing system allows the state to build a database and gather a sense of how many people are fishing recreationally, information it currently doesn't have. It also provides an avenue to circulate information about catch limits and size limitations to fishermen.

All this, Neilson said, will maintain a rich fishing environment in Hawaii for generations to come, and at what he believes is likely to be a reasonable cost. While no figure has been decided on, Neilson said the annual price now in mind for a license is \$5 and would come with fee waiver exceptions for children, the elderly, veterans and the financially disadvantaged.

“We don't want this to be a hardship on our Hawaii residents,” he said. “The cost could be significantly higher for nonresidents.”

Freshwater licenses currently run \$5 each, while DAR bumped commercial fishing licenses from \$50 to \$100 annually within the last year.

Lum explained most recreational fishermen, particularly those of Hawaiian heritage, will have less of a problem with forking over a \$5 bill than with what the payment symbolizes. He understands the benefits Neilson laid out and could see himself supporting a reasonably priced licensing system, but he'd also want to know where the money would go.

Neilson said the aim of the fees would be to set up and manage an online licensing system, which would allow residents and nonresidents to acquire licenses immediately so as not to hurt local fishing tour operators. Physical locations like tackle shops interested in participating may also be set up.

ADVERTISING

While the statewide meetings on the matter are sure to be full of strong opinions, Lum pointed out that it may not matter much whether a licensing system is ever introduced in Hawaii.

"In all the years I've been fishing, I've never ever seen any kind of enforcement as far as fishing regulations," Lum said. "I know there's plenty of fishermen out there who don't give a rip."

21 Comments

West Hawaii Today

West Hawaii Today

Recommend

TwitterFacebookShare

Sort by Best

Join the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

DIS DIS DIS DIS

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS

Name

4whattsworth

25 days ago

So lets see if I am tracking this correctly.

1) The DLNR changes their rules to allow them to pillage the local populous with new fees and rents. (When you see Diamond Parking thank DLNR, when you see new fences on a hike that you used to do thank DLNR)

2) They evict the people who created the harbor (Gentries etc..)

3) They create new fee and rent agreements in many cases doubling the fees and rents (Atlantis).

4) Now they are going after our fish saying that it is only \$5 (This will soon turn into \$50)

The worst part of all this is they are using our current tax dollars to extort us!

6 ^ v . Reply . Share .

KonaRich

25 days ago

Another bunch of environmentalist wackos thinking they know better than you. Conservative International. They put Hawaii in the name then tells us there not that interested, just gathering information, \$5.00 will not even cover the cost of paperwork and extra help w/ benefits/retirement. All the reason for doing this that I'm reading here is big time lame. Why fix it if it ain't broke and why do something the other 49 states do. It's a very bad idea that can only get worse.

4 ^ v . Reply . Share .

metalsman008

25 days ago

Let's see so far this year. Harry \$kin has raised PROPERTY TAX the GAS TAX the FOOD TAX the EVERYTHING YOU BUY TAX. Gave all his FRIENDS 30 to 40 thousand dollar raises. Why isn't there ANARCHY in the streets. In France they raised the gas tax and there were a hundred thousand people in the streets demanding they lower it. seems the people of Hawaii are hopeless from all the abuse we take from out ELECTED. Stand up and shout already.

3 ^ v . Reply . Share .

Budi4All

25 days ago

How about working on providing more income for the residents prior to extracting more money from us? Once again putting the cart before the horse. Or in this case Kim's family before the very people he is supposed to represent!

3 ^ v . Reply . Share .

Prawnsong

25 days ago

Please don't let this happen Hawaii. Here is a peek into what the State of Washington is currently doing... Non-residents aged 16 to 69 will pay higher fees. Freshwater only is \$84.50 and saltwater only is \$59.75. A shellfish/seaweed gathering license is \$36.10 but a razor clam specific license is \$21.80. Fishing and gathering shellfish combined costs \$124.65 a year. Add on another \$14.80 if you'd like to use two poles.

2 ^ v . Reply . Share .

diverdave

25 days ago

California here we come!

2 ^ v . Reply . Share .

Bob

25 days ago

Just another way to mismanage the state. DLNR couldn't make out in a whore house with a pocket full of \$100 bills. More examples of light rail, water department,power company, and transit. When are the people going to wake up and vote out the good old boys?

1 ^ v . Reply . Share .

Sara Steiner-jackson

25 days ago

Check out the honolulu star advertisee front page 11-20 where DLNR did not charge boaters and owners of buildings for years on state land now they are trying to tax shoreline subsistence fishing to make upfor it instead...

1 ^ v . Reply . Share .

Lance Owens

25 days ago

Last thing in the world we need... is the DLNR getting involved in local fishing!
I cant think of a worse thing to happen in Hawaii
Try living in a State that is DLNR regulated, like they want to make it here, nobody will have anything good to say about it, except the people that do not utilize the outdoors.

1 ^ v . Reply . Share .

LimeyieH

→ Lance Owens · 25 days ago

We DO live in a state that is DLNR regulated. Those tards carry guns and will use them given half a chance.

1 ^ v . Reply . Share .

LimeyieH

25 days ago

DLNR, the Department of Land and No Recreation. More enforcement coming our way.

1 ^ v . Reply . Share .

Michael

25 days ago

the problem with the fishing is hawaii is that boats with foreign crews are taking all the big fish further out way before they get to the islands ... It has zero to do with locals gathering sustenance. as usual the proposals miss the mark and just life for locals harder

1 ^ v . Reply . Share .

4whattsworth

→ Michael · 25 days ago

Exactly right. The long line quota is almost eight million pounds of just Big Eye tuna, and because the cost of using foreign fisherman is so low it nets the local economy just a few dollars a pound. In addition to the eight million pounds extracted sometimes the quotas from Guam and other areas in the pacific are allowed to be extracted from our waters as well. This is an absolute travesty.

2 ^ v . Reply . Share .

DanTwinMc1

25 days ago

Legislation equals more control.
It is all about empowering enforcement, nothing else. Ticketing is where the money is generated. Not sure why Hawaii votes for Democrats, especially Big Island???

1 ^ v . Reply . Share .

fishman2

→ DanTwinMc1 · 25 days ago

Maybe go back to the old style where if you broke the fishing kapu you got your head smashed between two rocks.

^ v . Reply . Share .

4whattsworth

→ fishman2 · 24 days ago

Maybe create a new system where the people who over tax and over regulate us commoners are banished in the name of freedom.

You bring up the hunting licence in Hawaii which is \$10 for residents and \$95 for non residence. I would bet that even with these high fees this system does not create any meaningful benefit and is not self sustaining with its fees. In other words it is just another burden with no benefit.

One more thing, these guys are environmental activists interested in increasing their power and control. Here is a quote "Conservation International Hawaii program director Matt Ramsey wants to make one thing clear to those planning to attend — that his organization isn't lobbying on behalf of either side of the issue." - This is an outright lie, these guys clearly have an agenda just look at their history!

^ v . Reply . Share .

fishman2

→ 4whattsworth · 23 days ago

Maybe I am mistaken but I would expect most fishers would be in favor of conserving our fish populations so there are still fish around for our children and grandchildren. I don't see that as an evil agenda.

^ v . Reply . Share .

4whattsworth

→ fishman2 · 23 days ago

You are correct we are interested in protecting our fish but also our freedom on the water. The trouble is that a recreational licence will only hinder our freedom and provide no benefit to us or the fish population.

If you are truly interested in protecting our fish research how commercial fishing and the long line industry works and the corruption in the Hawaii DLNR. Take a look at how foreign fisherman are used and the DLNR facilitates this. Just search "hawaii foreign fisherman" you will see there are 700 fisherman paid cents an hour to take tens of million pounds of fish from Hawaii.What do you think that does to our fish population?

^ v . Reply . Share .

brilela

25 days ago

If we're going to come up with new things to license, let's start with one for proposing new government programs, paperwork, or fees. Line 1 on the license application can be for listing what actual and realistic public benefit, if any, the applicant can suggest with a straight face.

1 ^ v . Reply . Share .

fishman2

25 days ago

Hawaiians have hunted forever and there is a hunting license.

1 ^ v . Reply . Share .

Joshua DeMello

22 days ago

There is NO license proposal on the table at this time that the study group is aware of. While DAR may be working on a proposal, the study group has not seen any proposal from DAR or any other entity. These meetings are an effort to educate the public, specifically the fishing communities, on understanding the concepts of fishing registries, permits and licenses, so that everyone can think about their pros and cons.

^ v . Reply . Share .

Subscribe

Add Disqus to your site

Disqus Privacy Policy

DISQUS

AP News

Public meetings set for Hawaii fishing regulations proposal

November 26, 2018

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (AP) — Public meetings are being held this week to discuss the feasibility of a regulatory system for noncommercial fishing in Hawaii.

[Click to copy](#)

Conservation International Hawaii and the Western Pacific Fishery Council released a report on the issue nearly two years ago and will meet with residents across the state this week, West Hawaii Today [reported](#) Monday.

RELATED TOPICS

[Kailua-Kona](#)
[Recreational fishing](#)
[Hawaii](#)

The proposal would carry annual fees for registry, permits or licensing on recreational fishing in Hawaii, the only U.S. state without noncommercial fishing regulations.

Opponents, particularly Native Hawaiians, see fishing as a right and an integral part of their culture.

The report, which does not advocate for or against the idea, says there are no laws to prevent regulation and that it's possible to implement them without violating Native Hawaiian gathering rights protected under state law.

"I recreationally fish, but it's to put food on the table," said Billy Lum, 61, who's been fishing in Hawaii for the last half-century. "I know a lot of Hawaiians are going to be totally against anything like that because we're so used to being able to go out and provide food for the family."

Conservation International Hawaii program director Matt Ramsey said his organization isn't lobbying on behalf of either side of the issue.

"This meeting is not part of the rulemaking process," Ramsey said. "I think a large misconception out there is that this is somehow related to state regulation or a legislative effort, and that's definitely not the case. While those two things may happen on their own, we are not involved in that at all."

The plan would require statutory authority from the state Legislature, but House Rep. Nicole Lowen, D-North Kona, said multiple bills have already been introduced to address noncommercial fishing regulation, including proposals to implement fees only on nonresidents who fish recreationally.

For a licensing system that also charges residents a fee, Lowen said Gov. David Ige would have to support the plan.

"If the administration is not on board with it, it would probably be dead in the water," said Lowen.

Information from: West Hawaii Today, <http://www.westhawaiiitoday.com>

Trending on AP News

Review: Laurel and Hardy movie 'Stan & Ollie' is a joy

Elon Musk asks judge to toss diver's lawsuit in Thai dustup

Georgia 'deportation bus' GOP candidate reports to jail

by Taboola

Wrestler's attorney suggests haircut due to ref's tardiness

BUENA, N.J. (AP) — A lawyer for a high school

Hawai'i Tribune Herald

[Home \(/www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/\)](http://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/)
[Local \(https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/hawaii-news/\)](https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/hawaii-news/)

[Sports \(https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/sports/\)](https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/sports/)

[Commentary \(/www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/opinion/\)](https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/opinion/)

[Community \(https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/community/\)](https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/community/)

[Obituaries \(https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/obituaries/\)](https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/obituaries/)

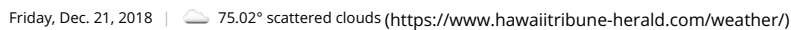
[Features \(https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/features/\)](https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/features/)

[Entertainment \(https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/entertainment/\)](https://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/category/entertainment/)

[Classifieds \(http://classifieds.hawaiitribune-herald.com/\)](http://classifieds.hawaiitribune-herald.com/)
[Jobs \(http://jobs.hawaiitribune-herald.com/\)](http://jobs.hawaiitribune-herald.com/)

[Homes \(http://realestate.hawaiitribune-herald.com/\)](http://realestate.hawaiitribune-herald.com/)
[Autos \(http://www.hawaiicars.com/?src=HTH\)](http://www.hawaiicars.com/?src=HTH)

[Archives \(/www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/archive/\)](http://www.hawaiitribune-herald.com/archive/)
[Q Search](#)



Advertisement. Your video will begin in 1 seconds.

KAILUA-KONA — Almost two years after Conservation International Hawaii and the Western Pacific Fishery Council released a feasibility study on a regulatory system for noncommercial fishing in Hawaii, contributors are touring the state to discuss it with the public.

Aarin Gross, senior program manager for policy and operations with Conservation International Hawaii, said the time lag resulted because report details didn't circulate on their own as effectively as the group had expected.

ADVERTISING

"The people we had hoped would gain access to this information probably didn't have access to it," she said.

Public meetings meant to break down the controversial issue of a regulatory system for recreational fishing in Hawaii, which will carry with it annual fees for local fishermen, are set for both Kailua-Kona and Hilo.

Presenters scheduled the first from 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority Gateway Center in Kailua-Kona. The meeting in Hilo is 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Mokupapapa Discovery Center.

Meetings are also being convened on Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Molokai and Lanai.

The report "took no collective position" as to whether the state should implement a mandatory noncommercial fishing registry, permit or license (RPL) system.

However, it did note "that there are no legal or constitutional barriers in Hawaii that would prohibit the implementation of a new RPL system," adding it's possible to design one without violating Native Hawaiian gathering rights protected under state law.

Gathering info

Conservation International Hawaii program director Matt Ramsey wants to make one thing clear to those planning to attend — that his organization isn't lobbying on behalf of either side of the issue.

For the study group, it's all about the information.

"This meeting is not part of the rulemaking process," Ramsey said. "I think a large misconception out there is that this is somehow related to state regulation or a legislative effort, and that's definitely not the case. While those two things may happen on their own, we are not involved in that at all."

It's also all about the information for Brian Neilson, acting administrator of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources.

Neilson, his agency and its parent agency would all be directly involved in any implementation of an RPL system in Hawaii, which he said they're "very interested in."

Community feedback generated in the meetings will inform and mold a push specifically for a licensing system option, possibly as early as this year, he added.

Legislation

However, DAR/DLNR can't implement a licensing system of its own accord. It requires statutory authority by way of the state Legislature.

House Rep. Nicole Lowen, D-North Kona, said multiple bills have been introduced to address noncommercial fishing regulation during her six years in office, including proposals to study the matter or levying fees only on nonresident fishermen.

For a licensing system that also charges residents a fee, Lowen said there's really only one feasible legislative path.

"If the administration is not on board with it, it would probably be dead in the water," said Lowen, meaning any bill with a chance to cross the finish line would have to come from relevant agencies with Gov. David Ige's backing rather than from a state legislator.

"When DAR and DLNR are ready to spearhead it as something that needs to happen in the state, then I think we could start the work of getting legislators on board," she added. "Because obviously, it will be controversial."

Neilson said that might happen as early as January.

"We are thinking about the possibility of introducing legislation in this upcoming session," he said, "but we're still getting feedback."

If legislation passed, details would be ironed out through the administrative rulemaking process, which would allow multiple opportunities for public input.

Strong opinions

Hawaii is currently the only state without noncommercial fishing regulation in any form.

Local fishermen, particularly those of Native Hawaiian descent, have fished island waters all their lives. Many see the practice as not just a right and/or a necessity, but as an integral part of their culture.

"I recreationally fish, but it's to put food on the table," said Billy Lum, 61, who's been casting lines on three different islands for the last half-century. "I know a lot of Hawaiians are going to be totally against anything like that because we're so used to

being able to go out and provide food for the family, so now having to buy a license for it ...”

Many fishery managers, however, say the benefits outweigh what would be a minimal cost to fishermen. Creating a licensing system allows the state to build a database and gather a sense of how many people are fishing recreationally, information it currently doesn't have. It also provides an avenue to circulate information about catch limits and size limitations to fishermen.

All this, Neilson said, will maintain a rich fishing environment in Hawaii for generations to come, and at what he believes is likely to be a reasonable cost.

While no figure has been decided on, Neilson said the annual price now in mind for a license is \$5 and would come with fee waiver exceptions for children, the elderly, veterans and the financially disadvantaged.

“We don't want this to be a hardship on our Hawaii residents,” he said. “The cost could be significantly higher for nonresidents.”

Freshwater licenses currently run \$5 each, while DAR bumped commercial fishing licenses from \$50 to \$100 annually within the last year.

Lum explained most recreational fishermen, particularly those of Hawaiian heritage, will have less of a problem with forking over a \$5 bill than with what the payment symbolizes. He understands the benefits Neilson laid out and could see himself supporting a reasonably priced licensing system, but he'd also want to know where the money would go.

Neilson said the aim of the fees would be to set up and manage an online licensing system, which would allow residents and nonresidents to acquire licenses immediately so as not to hurt local fishing tour operators. Physical locations like tackle shops interested in participating may also be set up.

ADVERTISING

While the statewide meetings on the matter are sure to be full of strong opinions, Lum pointed out that it may not matter much whether a licensing system is ever introduced in Hawaii.

“In all the years I've been fishing, I've never ever seen any kind of enforcement as far as fishing regulations,” Lum said. “I know there's plenty of fishermen out there who don't give a rip.”

SPONSORED CONTENT ([HTTPS://JADSERVE.POSTRELEASE.COM/](https://jadservice.postrelease.com/track?NTV_AT=3&NTV_UI=0BA6642B-A714-453F-885E-5A9B4DB6A5AE&NTV_A=UWIEASNSVAGZKQA&ORD=599507083&NTV_HT=I00DXAA&NTV_TAD=16&PRX_REFERRER=HTTPS%3A%2F)
[TRK?NTV_AT=3&NTV_UI=0BA6642B-A714-453F-885E-5A9B4DB6A5AE&](https://jadservice.postrelease.com/track?NTV_AT=3&NTV_UI=0BA6642B-A714-453F-885E-5A9B4DB6A5AE&NTV_A=UWIEASNSVAGZKQA&ORD=599507083&NTV_HT=I00DXAA&NTV_TAD=16&PRX_REFERRER=HTTPS%3A%2F)
[NTV_A=UWIEASNSVAGZKQA&ORD=599507083&NTV_HT=I00DXAA&](https://jadservice.postrelease.com/track?NTV_AT=3&NTV_UI=0BA6642B-A714-453F-885E-5A9B4DB6A5AE&NTV_A=UWIEASNSVAGZKQA&ORD=599507083&NTV_HT=I00DXAA&NTV_TAD=16&PRX_REFERRER=HTTPS%3A%2F)
[NTV_TAD=16&PRX_REFERRER=HTTPS%3A%2F](https://jadservice.postrelease.com/track?NTV_AT=3&NTV_UI=0BA6642B-A714-453F-885E-5A9B4DB6A5AE&NTV_A=UWIEASNSVAGZKQA&ORD=599507083&NTV_HT=I00DXAA&NTV_TAD=16&PRX_REFERRER=HTTPS%3A%2F)



Join the discussion...

LOG IN WITH



OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?

Name

**David Long** · 25 days ago

So they want to make money off the last thing people can do to eat. There is plenty of fish for everyone!

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**Jacarand** · 25 days ago

What a load of BS - this tax would impact people who are simply trying to put food on their table and somehow survive in this land of exorbitant living expenses. It starts at \$5 per year then watch as fees slowly ratchet upward over time. Don't the spendaholic legislators already have their hands deep enough into our pockets? How about let's start making better use of the taxes that are already being collected!

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**KonaRich** → Jacarand · 25 days ago

How about they start eliminating some old and unenforceable regulations on the books already. Do something for the public tax payer already.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**Sara Steiner-jackson** · 25 days ago

How to set up the licensing fast so you dont hurt the local fishing tour operators?

After reading the Honolulu paper front page 11/20, I think DLNR should take care of the harbors and the boaters and their storage shack issues, and collect fees from them, not figure how to tax local non-commercial subsistence fishermen, who are probably overwhelmingly Hawaiians.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**Sterling** · 25 days ago

Conservation International Hawaii has \$329,000,000 in net assets. It is run by Hollywood and Mega Corporations. According to their website Hollywood star Harrison Ford is on the Board of Directors along with Board members who work or used to work for companies such as Gap Inc, JP Morgan Chase, Starbucks, Walmart, Northrop Grumman and many more.

This is about Big Money getting cozy with Hawaii state legislators and agencies. This is about who control's the ocean resource today and in the future.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**Tough Choice** → Sterling · 25 days ago

Yes, it's UN Agenda 21/2030/2050, which is about controlling all the resources and assets of the planet, mainly how we live our lives. People think we live in the land of the "free and the brave." How free are we when every single thing we can do, or have, is taxed?

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**Napili54** · 25 days ago

BS.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**KonaRich** · 25 days ago

The bigger question here should be, (start making Hawaiian fishermen pay to fish), will doing this make my life better. 49 other states can't be wrong. First off payed fishing license will be the tourist. Add the cost of collecting the fees to the boat captains and owners. Next come local fishermen \$5.00 after that you have to fill out a monthly catch report then more fees to hire more public employees for the extra paper work, (wages +benefits+retirement+++ = more tax for you and me, and for what, to count fish caught? (X 5 islands)

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share

**sonneofmanisrael** · 24 days ago

The claw of nepotistic government finding one more job for cousins to extract money and bother people.

^ | v · Reply · Share

**Vitaly Novikov** · 24 days ago

What they are really doing is making a reason to hire more dlnr agents to harrass people with coolers at the ocean then ticket them for alcohol in state parks and the rest of violations that apply , the crooks in office inventing any ways to collect \$\$\$

The real way to make \$\$\$ is lay off 50% of state office employees, and upgrade the guys in the field and more production will be done

^ | v · Reply · Share

**metelman808** · 25 days ago

The Demorats are going insane with our money. Where does it end. Just hand over your pay check and starve. You voted for the dictatorship what do you expect. Their 14 billion in the hole with the retirement fund. Time to pay the pipers. How's the Asian runned HAWAII working out for everybody.

^ | v · Reply · Share

The Garden Island

Weigh in on fishing licenses

By [Jessica Else The Garden Island](#) | Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 12:05 a.m.

Share this story    



Should you be selling your stocks in 2019?

Billionaire money manager Ken Fisher's firm shares where we think the market is headed in our latest Stock Market Outlook.

[Learn More](#)

FISHER INVESTMENTS*

LIHUE — Hawaii is the only state in the U.S. that doesn't require licenses or fees for recreational fishing, but officials are considering changing that.

A public meeting on potential statewide noncommercial fishing regulations is set for 9 a.m. Saturday at the Kauai Veterans Center in Lihue, one of several statewide meetings to be held on the topic this month.

The proposal is a result of a Conservation International Hawaii and Western Pacific Fishery Council report on

noncommercial fishing, released nearly two years ago.

It lays out potentially requiring permits, registry and fees for recreational fishing in Hawaii, which is the only U.S. state without noncommercial fishing regulations.

Opponents, particularly Native Hawaiians, see fishing as a right and an integral part of their culture.

The report, which does not advocate for or against the idea, says there are no laws to prevent regulation and that it's possible to implement them without violating Native Hawaiian gathering rights protected under state law.

"I recreationally fish, but it's to put food on the table," said Billy Lum, 61, who's been fishing in Hawaii for the last half-century. "I know a lot of Hawaiians are going to be totally against anything like that because we're so used to being able to go out and provide food for the family."

Conservation International Hawaii program director Matt Ramsey said his organization isn't lobbying on behalf of either side of the issue.

"This meeting is not part of the rulemaking process," Ramsey said. "I think a large misconception out there is that this is somehow related to state regulation or a legislative effort, and that's definitely not the case. While those two things may happen on their own, we are not involved in that at all."

The plan would require statutory authority from the state Legislature, but House Rep. Nicole Lowen, D-North Kona, said multiple bills have already been introduced to address noncommercial fishing regulation, including proposals to implement fees only on nonresidents who fish recreationally.

For a licensing system that also charges residents a fee, Lowen said Gov. David Ige would have to support the plan.

"If the administration is not on board with it, it would probably be dead in the water," Lowen said.

The report itself looks at how fisheries are interconnected with Hawaii's environment, economy, food and culture and the impacts that are currently affecting them with three objectives in mind: to provide more data on fishery management, to foster a dialogue between fishers and managers, and to create a source of independent funding to support management.

Meetings statewide will be led by a small collaborative study group of fisheries resource managers, experts and representatives from fisher organizations and nongovernmental groups.

"We are neutral," the group's announcement states. "Our group has taken a neutral approach to whether there should be a requirement or any preferences for a specific option."

A copy of the report can be downloaded at goo.gl/g8tp3m.

...

Jessica Else, environment reporter, can be reached at 245-0452 or jelse@thegardenisland.com. West Hawaii Today contributed to this report.

Share this story



 3 Comments

joemaka November 27, 2018 11:59 am

 Reply

Yes. Fisheries management is a proven positive practice that is used around the world. It's not about how long Mr. Lum has lived here or how much "Hawaiian" blood he has, it's about sustainable fishing so that we actually have fish. People need to stop acting like Hawaii's problems are unique and that everything is a cultural issue. Regulate and stop the "culture" of netting with small eye nets and killing all the small fish.


pointfisha November 27, 2018 4:15 pm

 Reply

Sorry, Joe, Hawaii's issues ARE unique, as are its people, its location, and its ways of life. Those need to be protected aggressively, but they don't seem to have enough activist elites funding studies about whether or not the adoption of "universal" fishery management practices will permanently damage local culture to the point of extinction.

But, hey, thanks for telling everyone what "people need to" do.

Josh November 29, 2018 8:46 am

 Reply

There is NO license proposal on the table at this time that the study group is aware of. While DAR may be working on a proposal, the study group has not seen any proposal from DAR or any other entity. These meetings are an effort to educate the public, specifically the fishing communities, on understanding the concepts of fishing registries, permits and licenses, so that everyone can think about their pros and cons.

Il encourage everyone to go out to the meeting if possible and learn about what those folks are bringing out to your community. Something will happen by the state at some point, and it would be great if everyone is informed on the issue.

Name *

Ocean fishing permits discussed

By The Garden Island | Sunday, December 2, 2018, 12:05 a.m.

Share this story



15% OFF + NO RESORT FEES + UPGRADE

HO-HO-HOLOHOLA HOLIDAY

KAMA'AINA DEAL

AQUA-ASTON
HOTELS FOR ALL

BOOK NOW

LIHUE — About 15 to 20 people attended a meeting at the Kauai Veterans Center Saturday morning to get information and discuss the prospect of a statewide permit system for recreational fishing in the ocean.

Hawaii does not currently require a license for recreational marine fishing — the only coastal state not to do so.

Two years ago, a group made up of people from various fishing organizations and interest groups conducted a study on the feasibility of establishing a

recreational fishing registry, permit and licensing system in the state, examining the legislative, cultural and environmental aspects of the issue.

ADVERTISING



In a report published in 2016, the group concluded that “there are no legal or constitutional barriers in Hawaii that would prohibit the implementation” of a new permitting system, and that it is possible to design a system that does not violate the Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights,” protected under state law.

Now members of that group are going island to island — touching all but Niihau in the last couple weeks — holding meetings to share the findings of their study, answer questions and generally encourage public dialogue on the subject.

Members of the group said close to 20 people showed up for the initial presentation Saturday morning, and about half stayed to ask questions and talk until around noon.



A copy of the report can be downloaded at goo.gl/g8tp3m.

The Maui News

The Maui News

Maui fishers mull prospects of new licensing, permit or registry system

Hawaii is the only coastal U.S. state without a method to cover noncommercial fishing practices

Maui fishers expressed mixed views over possible noncommercial marine fishing registry, permit or licensing systems in Hawaii, following meetings on a study that explored the systems.

Conservation International Hawaii and the Western Pacific Fishery Council shared findings from a 2016 joint fact-finding study group that researched the feasibility and implications of the various systems Tuesday night at the Cameron Center in Wailuku. A meeting was held on Molokai on Wednesday. A meeting on Lanai will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Lanai Community Center.

Hawaii is the only coastal U.S. state without a mandatory noncommercial marine fishing registry, permit or license or RPL system, because previous attempts to enact a system were not successful, according to the study's executive summary.

The study group did not identify a preferred alternative or say if a system should be implemented. But it concluded there are no legal or constitutional barriers in Hawaii that would prohibit the implementation of such a system. Also, a system could be designed

that would not violate Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights protected under Hawaii law, the study said.

“I’m all for a free fishing license,” said longtime diver Darrell Tanaka, who attended the Tuesday meeting. *“We should have (free) fishing license. Not everyone knows the rules. Not everyone is compliant. A fishing license can really help with education.”*

Tanaka said that with a hunting license, everyone needs to take a class to understand rules and regulations. The fishing license also could have a class and perhaps the fishing license test and education material could be available online.

“Basically it’s an opportunity for the state to give a regulation handbook to every fisherman.”

Tanaka said that with a license the state and lawmakers would have a count of how many fishers there are in the Hawaii and know *“how many people they are affecting”* when making laws along with rules and regulations.

“It puts fishermen on the map,” Tanaka added.

The study notes various surveys done to identify the number of noncommercial fishers in Hawaii. Numbers vary and may range up to 396,000.

Tanaka isn’t so enthused about having a license fee because fishers believe they already pay taxes and *“you never know when a fee could be a little bit too much for somebody.”*

But he added that nonresidents who fish on different islands could be charged a fee to fish outside of their hometowns.

Another longtime fisherman, Gary Hashizaki, president of the Maui Casting Club, said that in general *“people don’t want”* to pay for a

license or a permit because they are used to fishing for free.

But if a system needs to be in place and if a fee needs to be charged, Hashizaki said he hopes the state would use that money to help fishers.

"I don't think it's going to break your pocket, but if they can use the money for benefit the fishermen, not like use it for rail," said Hashizaki, who also attended the Maui meeting with about 60 other people.

But Hashizaki said he was concerned about fees hurting younger fishermen, such as his adult son. As a senior citizen, Hashizaki said it is possible that his fees could be waived.

Following the statewide meetings that wrap up on Oahu next week, a community report will be put together reflecting what was said by all at the meetings, said Aarin Gross, senior program manager for policy and operations for Conservation International Hawaii. The report will be shared with people who attended the meetings and provided an email address and those who were interested.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources will receive the report to help the department decide what type of proposal to present to the Legislature next year, said David Sakoda, a program specialist with the DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources.

Sakoda said the DLNR could, through the governor's office, introduce a bill to give the department permission to implement a registration, permit or license system.

"Right now it's wait and see," Sakoda said.

He said that implementing some type of system could help the state manage fisheries better now and into the future. But the department would await the response from the community.

Sakoda and several other DLNR officials provided input into the study.

He said that in the past when proposals were made to implement some type of registration, permit or licensing system there were many questions that could not be answered.

“This study aimed at answering those questions, so we can move past those hurdles and start thinking of whether a system could be implemented,” Sakoda added.

Just last legislative session, there were two bills that proposed some type of system. The bills, put forward by legislators and not the state DLNR, both died, Sakoda said.

He said that fishers pointed to waiting for the 2016 study to be released before any decisions were made.

The study group was made up of fishery resource managers, experts and representatives from fisher organizations and nongovernmental groups.

The group focused on evaluating any potential RPL system based on its ability to meet three primary objectives: provide additional and more robust data to support fishery management; foster two-way dialogue between fishers and managers by identifying the universe of noncommercial fishers in Hawaii; and developing approved communication pathways along with creating a source of independent continuous funding to support effective fisheries management.

The group analyzed five RPL systems and came up of list of pros and cons.

For example, if the existing system were continued, marine fishing would still be free, but officials would not know how many people

were fishing and would have a hard time managing fisheries.

If there were a free registry system, it would give a count of who is fishing and enhance outreach and education. But it would be difficult to get compliance and no revenue would be gained for administering the system.

A fee-based license with fee waivers or reductions for certain categories of fishers would produce more data on fishers and generate a new revenue source. But the system with fee waivers or reduced fees could be more complicated and require more funds to institute and maintain.

A low fee license with permits, stamps or tags at additional charge would identify a more complete universe of fishers and generate a new revenue source. But the system may be complicated and confusing and could infringe on cultural rights.

A free license with permits, stamps or tags at additional charge would capture basic information of all fishers while adding information about specific activities. But the revenues may not cover implementation costs and could be seen as unfair in targeting certain activities.

As for the system impacting Native Hawaiian rights and practices, the study says that the intent of the system would be to provide adequate data on fishery health and potentially fund additional monitoring and enforcement efforts, which is a form of “*malama*” conservation and stewardship aligned with Hawaiian cultural beliefs and practices.

It adds that a RPL system can respect and protect Native Hawaiian rights by having some sort of identification for the Native group to alert state officials patrolling state waters that the individuals are exercising their protected rights.

The practice right holders also could be exempted from fees associated with the systems when conducting the practices, but may be subject to the same rules while fishing in other areas not associated with the cultural practices, the study said.

To view the report, visit www.wpcouncil.org/rpl-report/.

* Melissa Tanji can be reached at mtanji@mauinews.com.

3 Comments

Sort by Oldest ▾



Add a comment...



Dennis Allshouse

Hawaii LOSES a huge amount of \$\$\$ from not getting a share of \$\$\$ from each and every piece of fishing equipment sold in the whole USA !! There is a substantial excise tax on EVERY PIECE of fishing equip. It is divided up among the States depending on the number of Lic. Fishermen. Hawaii does not have any lic. so NO \$\$ COMES TO HAWAII !!! Hawaii could charge say \$5 per lic. and gain Millions in it's share of Excise tax !!!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2w



Kieth Klein

Its should not always be about money. Money over fishing rights is the mainland way.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1w



Kieth Klein

As with all newly established programs and laws initially aimed at "protecting the fish and environment" The beginning minimal fees will soon be a mainstay of the governments income and fisheries budget. When budget tightening comes around the minimal fees wont stay that way and will soon out price the poorest of us as many other things have done. 25 dollars may not be a lot to most folks but to some its a weeks food supply. Beware small beginnings with minimal costs that the government want to manage. Peoples right to fish should not be infringed by government overreach.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1w



Dennis Allshouse

But Hawaii is losing MILLIONS of there share of spoting goods excise tax because we have no Fishing Lic. to count for our share. Make it \$5 per year and get some of the Millions that get GIVEN to other states !!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1w



Kieth Klein

Just tor reiderate. It always starts as a small fee but once the door is open. It becomes a necessary increase each year to support the buracracic machine it takes to inforce it, along with whatever else they can tag on to it. Do we need the extra millions, how about refining how we use what we already give. With government, its never enough. never will be.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1w