



# COMMUNITY INPUT REPORT

Feasibility of a Non-Commercial  
Marine Fishing Registry, Permit, or  
License System in Hawai'i

December 2018

Photo by Matthew Ramsey



## CONTENTS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
II. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	7
III. FISHER OUTREACH APPROACHES USED	8
IV. A CLOSER LOOK AT THE INFORMATION EXCHANGES	9
V. WHAT WE HEARD FROM FISHERS AND OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY	12
VI. LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS	24
VII. CONCLUSIONS	25
APPENDICES	26

Photo by Jhana Young

# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2016, Conservation International’s Hawai’i program and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council discovered that they both wanted to better understand the issues and find the available facts about whether a registry, permit, or license (RPL) system for non-commercial marine fishing could be possible in Hawai’i. The two organizations jointly invited fishing experts and leaders in Hawai’i to create an informal study group that guided a joint fact-finding process conducted over most of 2016.

These individuals wanted to understand if a registry, permit, or license system could offer any benefits to the challenges facing Hawai’i’s fisheries management today. They wanted to take a fresh look at the issues and the available facts and ask, “What would be the pros? What would be the cons?”

In total, more than 1,000 hours of inquiry and discussion among individuals who do not usually agree on fishing issues went into this fact-finding process. Throughout the process, the inquiry and discussion was guided by three specific questions:



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- **Could the RPL options provide better data?**
- **Could the RPL options improve communication between fishers and managers?**
- **Could the RPL options provide a source of independent, continuous funding?**

After looking into the available facts together, the study group produced a report of what it had found. In the report, the study group took a neutral approach and did not take a position on whether any registry, permit, or license option should be pursued, or if any specific option was preferred over others.

The report identified areas of alignment and shared goals of a diverse set of people who are interested in ensuring abundant fisheries and non-commercial fishing traditions for future generations in Hawai’i. The 28-page report and its supporting appendices were made publicly available in December 2016 and provided directly to the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) for consideration. The report is still available online at <http://bit.ly/2RkxDiS>. The report provided more than 20 recommendations, all of which can be viewed in Appendix 1 of this report. One of the report’s primary recommendations was that extensive outreach, consultation, and discussions with stakeholders be conducted statewide before and as part of any decision-making process to pursue any of the RPL options.

More than a year after the report had been released, DAR contacted the study group in 2018 to thank the members for the report and inform them that DAR intended to pursue legislation in 2019 to create a fee-based RPL system. DAR recognized, however, that statewide outreach on the issues was still needed. DAR asked the study group to share its report findings with stakeholders, statewide.

After much discussion and deliberation, the study group members agreed to design a statewide effort to share the report findings. They recognized that, after being publicly available for more than a year, the report had not been shared as broadly as they had hoped. They also recognized that DAR’s outreach capacity with non-commercial fishermen is limited.

The study group took DAR’s request as an opportunity to make progress on the study group’s recommendation for statewide outreach. The study group members have a sincere desire to ensure that fishers’ voices are thoroughly gathered and documented—enabling agencies, decision makers, and members of the public to make more informed decisions.

Between June and December 2018, the study group members jointly designed and implemented a statewide effort to invite non-commercial fishers and other interested stakeholders to share their thoughts, concerns, questions, and suggestions on the topic of non-commercial marine fishing registry, permit, or license systems for Hawai‘i. The study group selected a third-party facilitation team of Hawai‘i-based consultants to help carry out this statewide effort, Miranda Foley of ecoLOGIC Consulting, and Cynthia Y.H. Derosier of The Good Juju Co.

The study group tested two distinct outreach approaches during this period. The study group initially designed an approach that focused specifically on information gathering using a two-phased design, including both a small group and large group format. Challenges were encountered during the first phase of small group implementation which led to a redesign of the approach. Details outlining the first approach can be found in Section III.A. This community input report, however, focuses primarily on the second approach, which emphasized making the information from the study group’s 2016 report more accessible to fishers and other interested stakeholders. These “information exchanges” were intended to share the report information in multiple ways; to provide a safe, neutral space for attendees to share information with each other; and to collect input directly from attendees (in their own words).



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Eight information exchanges were held on six islands between November 20, 2018 and December 13, 2018. Each exchange was three-hours long and was held in venues that could hold anywhere from 50-150 people on either on a weekday evening (5-8 p.m.) or a Saturday morning (9 a.m.-noon). An online participation option was also available for attendees to share with friends, family, or colleagues who couldn’t attend in person. The online participation was open until December 25, 2018.

The table below provides a brief summary of the small group information gathering meetings and the large group information exchange series.

Table 1: Small Information Gathering Meetings

Island	Location/Subject Matter	Number of Attendees	Link to Collected Comments in Appendix 2
Oahu	Spear fishers	6	Oahu collected comments: pages 2-11 of Appendix 2
Oahu	Shoreline fishers	8	
Oahu	Boat-based fishers	10	
Oahu	Tackle Suppliers	12	
Oahu	Native Hawaiian traditional fishing	8	
Oahu	Charter operators	0	N/A – Attendance impacted by hurricane
Kauai	Lihue	6	Kauai collected comments: pages 12-17 of Appendix 2
Kauai	Kapa'a	3	
Hawaii	Hilo	32	Hilo collected comments: pages 18-23 of Appendix 2
Maui	N/A - Cancelled for safety due to hurricane	N/A	N/A
Lanai	N/A - Cancelled for safety due to hurricane	N/A	N/A

Table 2: Large Information Exchanges

Location	Venue	Registered Attendees	Completed Event Surveys	Percent Surveys Complete	Link to Surveys and Community Input in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4
Honolulu	UH at Manoa – Keoni Auditorium	19	19	100%	Surveys on pages 2-24 of Appendix 3  Community Input on pages 2-9 of Appendix 4
Kona	NELHA Gateway Center	90	18	20%	Surveys on pages 25-46 of Appendix 3  Community Input on pages 10-14 of Appendix 4
Hilo	Mokupapapa Discovery Center	94	11	12%	Surveys on pages 47-61 of Appendix 3  Community Input on pages 14-29 of Appendix 4
Lihue	Kauai Veterans Center	13	3	23%	Surveys on pages 62-68 of Appendix 3  Community Input on pages 30-36 of Appendix 4
Wailuku	The Cameron Center	60	26	43%	Surveys on pages 69-98 of Appendix 3  Community Input on pages 37-53 of Appendix 4
Kaunakakai	Mitchell Pauole Community Center	19	9	47%	Surveys on pages 99-111 of Appendix 3  Community Input on pages 54-57 of Appendix 4

Lanai City	Lanai Community Center	14	8	57%	Surveys on pages 112-123 of Appendix 3 Community Input on pages 58-59 of Appendix 4
Honolulu	UH at Manoa – Keoni Auditorium	9	7	78%	Surveys on pages 124-135 of Appendix 3 Community Input on pages 60-63 of Appendix 4
Online Participation from 11/20/18 to 12/25/18		28 unique clicks	26	92%	Community Input on pages 64-71 of Appendix 4

Each information exchange event is discussed in detail in the report, including context, unique challenges, and feedback received after the events. Each section also provides a reference to the appendix and page numbers where the community input collected from the exchange can be viewed.

The community input sessions of the information exchanges provided an opportunity for attendees to share thoughtful questions, concerns, comments, and suggestions. This report provides that input as it was collected—directly from attendees. This community input is the most valuable part of this report. To avoid misinterpreting the input that was collected, this report does not provide summaries of it. Instead, readers are highly encouraged to read the input forms and comment sheets for themselves, so they can hear directly from members of the fishing community and others who participated in these information exchanges.

An important part of the study group’s objective with this effort was to create a new model for sharing information and engaging with the fishing community. The model was not perfect, but the study group members feel it was an important step in the right direction.

At the time of the study group’s 2016 fact-finding study, it was estimated that there were somewhere between 155,000 and 396,000 non-commercial marine fishers across the state of Hawai‘i. The collective efforts of the study group members and its facilitation team were able to engage approximately 400 of these fishers. This report is a small but representative collection of the thoughts, concerns, and suggestions that exist across the state about this issue among fishers.

The study group members appreciate the time and effort of the individuals of all ages who spent their evenings or weekend mornings attending these events to provide comments, questions, and suggestions. The study group members also readily acknowledge that these 400 or so individuals do not and cannot speak for all the non-commercial fishers in Hawai‘i. Nor should they have to. Without knowing the entire universe of non-commercial fishers in Hawai‘i, it is not possible to talk with a much larger population. And it was not the intent of the study group’s outreach effort to talk with the entire population of non-commercial fishers. These 400 or so individuals have only started this conversation—with each other and with decision makers—about whether a registry, permit, or license for non-commercial marine fishing has the potential to provide any value to fishers and fisheries managers in Hawai‘i. The study group members hope that, by making their 2016 report more accessible to fishers and providing a forum for thoughtful discussions, they have empowered more people across the state to participate in an informed way in any discussions or decision-making processes that may take place in the future on this topic.

## II. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In 2016, Conservation International's Hawai'i program and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council discovered that they had a common interest. They both wanted to better understand the issues and find the available facts about whether a registry, permit, or license (RPL) system for non-commercial marine fishing could be possible in Hawai'i. The two organizations jointly invited fishing experts and leaders in Hawai'i to create an informal study group on the issue. The core members of this study group included Kevin Chang, Eric Co, Joshua DeMello, Frank Farm, Phil Fernandez, Aarin Gross, Christopher Hawkins, David Itano, Jack Kittinger, and Ed Watamura. It also included non-voting members from agencies or entities that had some form of responsibility or interest in the issue, including Bruce Anderson, Michael Fujimoto, Alton Miyasaka, David Sakoda, Matt Ramsey, and Wayne Tanaka. This volunteer study group guided a joint fact-finding process that took place over most of 2016.

These individuals are interested in fisheries issues and supporting fishing traditions today and into the future for Hawai'i. They each wanted to understand if a registry, permit, or license system could offer any benefits to the challenges facing Hawai'i's fisheries management today. They wanted to take a fresh look at the issues and the available facts and ask, "What would be the pros? What would be the cons?"

It took five months to bring the group of diverse individuals together and another eight months to research the available facts in Hawai'i and in other U.S. coastal states and territories. The joint fact-finding process included commissioning attorney Malia Akutagawa<sup>1</sup> to provide a legal analysis of the Native Hawaiian rights that might be impacted by a registry, permit, or license system. It also included a preliminary financial impact analysis of several different RPL system designs. The joint fact-finding process also involved interviewing fisheries managers from nine other U.S. coastal states and territories to learn from their experiences.

In total, more than 1,000 hours of inquiry and discussion among individuals who do not usually agree on fishing issues went into this fact-finding

process. Throughout the process, the inquiry and discussion was guided by three specific questions:

- **Could the RPL options provide better data?**

The study group wanted to know if a registry, permit, or license system could help to better manage the fisheries and support fishing traditions into the future by understanding who is fishing, how they are fishing, when and where fish are taken, and how much is caught.

- **Could the RPL options improve communication between fishers and managers?**

More and better communication between fishers and managers means that fishers can have a greater voice in decision-making and managers can stay informed about what matters to the non-commercial fishing community. So, the study group wanted to know if the RPL options could help with that.

- **Could the RPL options provide a source of independent, continuous funding?**

Current funding for fisheries management is very, very small in Hawai'i – about 0.014% of the state operating budget. The study group wanted know if the RPL options had any potential to generate funds that could benefit fisheries conservation, management, and enforcement.

After looking into the available facts together, the study group produced a report of what it had found. In the report, the study group took a neutral approach and did not take a position on whether any registry, permit, or license option should be pursued, or if any specific option was preferred over others. The report did provide over twenty recommendations of what needed attention, if any option were to be moved forward. All these recommendations can be viewed in Appendix 1 to this report. One of the report's primary recommendations was that extensive outreach, consultation, and discussions with stakeholders be conducted statewide before and as part of any decision-making process to pursue any of the RPL options.

The intention of the study group's report was to provide an examination of the known issues and the facts that were available. The report identifies areas of alignment and shared goals of a diverse set of people who are interested in ensuring abundant fisheries and non-commercial fishing traditions for future generations in Hawai'i. The 28-page report and its supporting appendices were made publicly available in December 2016 and provided directly to the Division

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<sup>1</sup> Malia Akutagawa is an assistant professor of law and Hawaiian studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's William S. Richardson School of Law and Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge. She has been involved in many community-based resource management efforts. She is also a fisher and traditional practitioner from the island of Molokai.

of Aquatic Resources (DAR) for consideration. The report is still available online at <http://bit.ly/2RkxDiS>.

More than a year after the report had been released, DAR contacted the study group in 2018 to thank the group for the report and inform the group that DAR intended to pursue legislation in 2019 to create a fee-based RPL system. DAR recognized, however, that statewide outreach on the issues was still needed. DAR asked the study group to share its report findings with stakeholders, statewide.

After much discussion and deliberation, the study group members agreed to design a statewide effort to share the report findings. They recognized that, after being publicly available for more than a year, the report had not been shared as broadly as they had hoped. They also recognized that DAR's outreach capacity with non-commercial fishermen is limited. The study group took DAR's request as an opportunity to make progress on the study group's own recommendation for statewide outreach. The study group members have a sincere desire to ensure that fishers' voices are thoroughly gathered and documented—enabling agencies, decision makers, and members of the public to make more informed decisions.

### III. FISHER OUTREACH APPROACHES USED

Between June and December 2018, the study group members jointly designed and implemented a statewide effort to invite non-commercial fishers and other interested stakeholders to share their thoughts, concerns, questions, and suggestions on the topic of non-commercial marine fishing registry, permit, or license systems for Hawai'i. The study group selected a third-party facilitation team of Hawai'i-based consultants to help carry out this statewide effort, Miranda Foley of ecoLOGIC Consulting, and Cynthia Y.H. Derosier of The Good Juju Co.

The study group tested two distinct outreach approaches during this period. Each is described in detail below.

#### A. APPROACH #1: INPUT GATHERING ONLY

The first approach focused primarily on listening to attendees and gathering their input, questions, and recommendations on the topic of RPL systems and on DAR's expressed intent to pursue a fee-based license option in the 2019 legislative session. The gathered input would be made available to the public

and shared with DAR to inform its plans for the 2019 legislative session and for future management efforts.

This approach would use three different methods for gathering input:

1. Small group meetings: Sixteen small meetings would be held on six islands where leaders of different fishing groups and other experts would be invited. The purpose of the small group meetings was to gather input from specific fishing groups based on gear type (for example, shorecasting, trolling, spearfishing, etc.), location, and topic (for example, Native Hawaiian rights, retail operations, scientific data, etc.).

The goal of these small meetings was to gather highly detailed input from subject matter experts. The meetings were designed to be comfortable, informal discussions that hosted 10-12 subject matter experts per meeting. A study group member volunteered to be the lead for each small meeting. The lead would help generate the list of experts to be invited, lead the invitation process, and attend the small group meeting to support the discussion. Staff from Conservation International's Hawai'i program provided logistics support and notetaking during the meetings.

2. Large, professionally facilitated meetings: Eight large meetings would be held on six islands where anyone interested in the topic could attend. The goal of the large meetings was to encourage anyone to provide input, regardless of their fishing experience or expertise. They would also provide a list of commonly asked questions or commonly voiced concerns to inform DAR and other decision makers in developing future outreach efforts. These meetings were also designed to provide additional input opportunities for subject matter experts who could not attend a small group meeting.

The large meetings would be professionally facilitated with the purpose of gathering input from all attendees who expressed interest. The facilitation team would also provide notetaking for the meeting. A study group member volunteered to be the lead for each large meeting. The lead would help open the large meeting, welcome attendees, and introduce the facilitation team. Staff from Conservation International's Hawai'i program provided logistics support for meeting planning and implementation.

3. Opportunistic meetings: The study group members also agreed to take advantage of meetings hosted by other groups between July and September 2018 that might provide opportunities to gather input

from specific stakeholder groups. Meeting leads and logistics support needs would be worked out when the opportunity was identified.

This first approach was launched in July 2018 but not completed. Nine of the sixteen small group meetings were held on Oahu, Kauai, and in Hilo. A series of hurricanes and tropical storms also contributed to the cancellation of meetings on Oahu, Maui, and Lanai. The results of these nine small group meetings can be viewed in Appendix 2.

Feedback from early meeting attendees and others was that these meetings and this approach were creating confusion and anxiety in the fishing community. Specifically, study group members were told that these meetings did not provide enough information about the study group itself, the report findings, or the intent of the meetings. As a result of this feedback, in September 2018, the study group members agreed to suspend further meetings until their approach could be redesigned to address these concerns.

## **B. APPROACH #2: INFORMATION SHARING AND INPUT GATHERING**

The redesigned approach focused primarily on information sharing. Input would still be gathered to share with decision makers, if attendees opted to provide it. The redesigned events focused on making the information from the study group's 2016 report more accessible to fishers and other interested stakeholders. Under this approach, the events were intended to share the report information in multiple ways; to provide a safe, neutral space for attendees to share information with each other; and to collect input directly from attendees (in their own words). They were also purposefully designed to be a learning experience completely different than a state-run, formal meeting typically associated with the administrative rulemaking process.

These events were called information exchanges. The specific design of these events is described in detail in Section IV below. Eight information exchanges were held on six islands between November 20, 2018 and December 13, 2018. Each exchange was three-hours long and was held in venues that could hold anywhere from 50-150 people on either on a weekday evening (5-8 p.m.) or a Saturday morning (9 a.m.-noon). An online participation option was also available for attendees to share with friends, family, or colleagues who couldn't attend in person. The online participation was open until December 25, 2018. The

different interactive components of these exchanges are described in detail in the Section IV below.

Outreach and marketing by the study group for these exchanges was primarily limited to social media and other online networks with which the study group members had existing contacts. Unfortunately, there was not enough time for the study group to provide a press release to local newspapers ahead of the information exchange series. In some cases, however, flyers were sent to on-island newspapers (such as Maui and Molokai) or a newspaper article was written by an on-island reporter (such as in Kona and Hilo) ahead of an exchange taking place. The specific circumstances for each of the exchanges is discussed in more detail in Section V below.

During the implementation of the information exchanges, study group members received feedback and suggestions for improving the approach. Although some small adjustments were made, in general, major changes to the approach were not made during implementation to maintain consistency of the process for all attendees across all eight information exchanges. The study group members and facilitators made note of areas for improvement, which are reflected in the discussion of each exchange in Section V.

Over the last three years, all the work to convene the study group members, commission the analyses that informed the joint fact-finding process, and share the report findings with fishers and the broader community has been funded by grants from three sources: 1) The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation; 2) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant program; and 3) the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. A fourth informal but significant source of support has been all the volunteer time that the study group members and their friends and families have contributed to this effort.

# **IV. A CLOSER LOOK AT THE INFORMATION EXCHANGES**

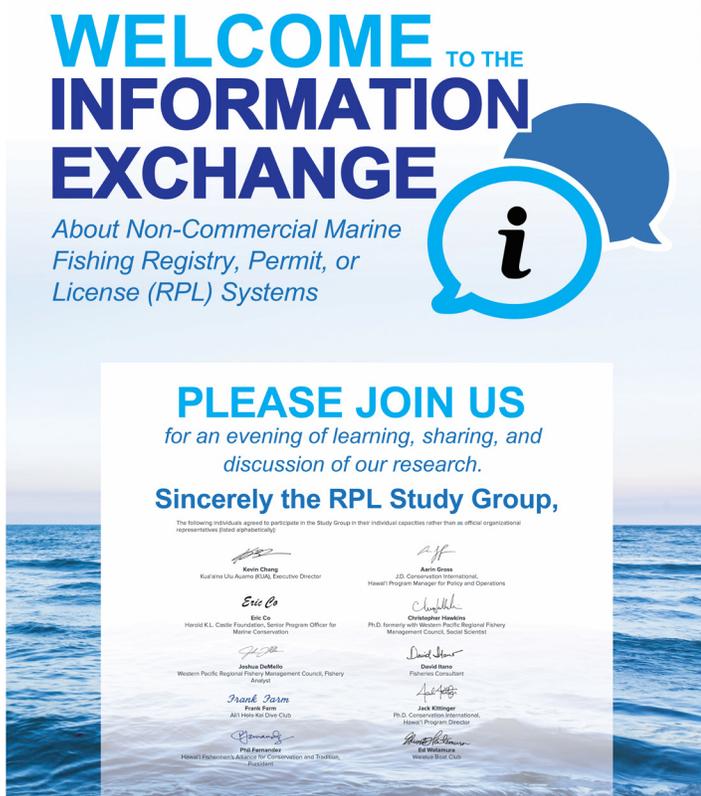
## **A. WELCOME & E KOMO MAI**

The first thing information exchange attendees saw when they approached the venue was a welcome poster that provided a list of core study group members who were supporting the events. Another poster provided a description of the study group formation, its report, as well as the purpose and objective of the information exchange. These

“Welcome” and “E Komo Mai” posters can be viewed in Appendix 5 on pages 2-3.

## B. REGISTRATION TABLE

At the registration table, a sign-in sheet was used to collect emails for those who wanted to receive a copy of this community input report and name tags were offered to attendees. An overview handout with key definitions and online links to the 2016 study group report and supporting analyses were provided to each attendee, along with a notetaking sheet and event survey. A copy of the overview handout, notetaking



“Welcome Poster” created for the RPL outreach meetings

sheet, and event survey can be viewed in Appendix 5 on pages 4-7. For attendees who brought children with them, crayons and coloring pages were provided.

## C. PROGRAM OVERVIEW & GROUND RULES

Prior to attendees entering the information exchange space, the facilitators provided an overview for of what would and would not happen during the event, including that:

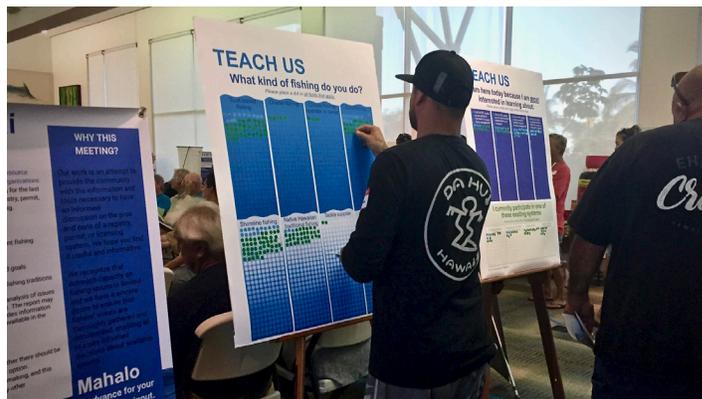
- The focus of the event was information sharing.
- The event was not a public hearing.
- No proposal was being made or position was being advocated for.
- Attendance to the event was free and open to anyone who could agree to the ground rules. A

copy of the ground rules poster can be viewed in Appendix 5 on page 8.

- The people wearing blue hats during the event were part of the team that put the event together and could help answer questions or direct attendees to more information.
- The people wearing blue hats were neutral and took no position on whether any RPL system should be pursued.

## D. POSTER GALLERY

Once inside the information exchange, attendees were invited to walk through a gallery of posters. Attendees were given sticky dots to share information with the study group members and each other about what they were most interested in learning about, the RPL systems that they already participate in, and the type of fishing experience they brought with them. These interactive “Teach Us” posters can be viewed in Appendix 5 on pages 9-13.



“Teach Us” Poster Gallery at the information exchange in Kona, Hawaii, Photo by Jhana Young

After the interactive posters, the rest of the gallery provided 5-foot tall posters with information about the study group’s fact-finding process, the information they gathered, and the findings and recommendations they made in their 2016 report. Study Group members were available to help guide attendees to specific posters to answer any initial questions. Copies of each poster were also provided as handouts. This gave attendees the option of reading through the posters or taking the handouts to read later during the event or at home. These information gallery posters can be viewed in Appendix 5 on pages 14-19.

## E. SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

After the information gallery had been open for approximately 30-45 minutes, attendees were asked to gather for a brief speaker presentation. Study group members provided an overview of how the informal study group had been formed, the issues and questions of common interest to the study group

members, what was involved in the joint fact-finding process, and the funding that supported the study group's work. Following the study group presentation, the facilitators gave a brief overview of the next sessions of the event (the "Information Booths" and "Group Input").



Speaker presentation at the first Oahu information exchange, Photo by Jhana Young

## F. INFORMATION BOOTHS

In four separate areas of the event space, 20-30 chairs were grouped to face a poster that identified a specific "Information Booth" topic:

1. Data
2. Communication
3. Funding or
4. Government Processes.



"Funding Information Booth" at the Maui information exchange, Photo by Jhana Young

At each poster, one to two study group members lead a question-and-answer session focused on the topic of the "Information Booth." During 15-20-minute sessions, these study group members provided a short overview of the topic's issues and findings that had been co-discovered during the 2016 fact-finding process. They then invited questions from session attendees about that topic. Each Information Booth provided a handout with additional details on the topic for attendees to take with them. These handouts can be viewed in Appendix 5 on pages 20-31. After each 15-20-minute

session, attendees were invited to rotate to a different Information Booth and topic. Time was allotted for each attendee to sit at each Information Booth topic, if they choose to.

## G. GROUP INPUT STATIONS

After four rotations through the Information Booths, the facilitators invited attendees to gather into groups of three to five people around table-sized paper templates with markers. Each group was asked to identify one person in the group to facilitate the table's discussion, another to write down the table's comments on the template, and another to keep time. Each paper template provided the following questions with room for attendees to write-in responses:

1. *Do you feel you have enough information to understand the RPL System options and to decide if you prefer one of them?*

- Yes, I feel I have enough information.
- No, I feel I do NOT have enough information.
- I prefer not to say, or I am not sure.

*If you answered "No": What additional information do you need to help you decide which RPL System, if any, you would prefer?*

2. *If DAR (Division of Aquatic Resources) moves forward with trying to implement an RPL System, are there any other criteria, objectives, or factors they should consider?*

*What else do you feel this Study Group might include in a "Community Input Report" that could be helpful for decision makers as they review the various RPL System options?*

3. *Of the four RPL System options the Study Group researched, what suggestions or details can you offer to make one or more of the systems more desirable or acceptable?*

- Fee-Based License with Fee Waivers or Reductions for Certain Categories of Fishers
- Free Mandatory Registration
- Low-Fee License with Permits or Tags at Additional Charge
- Free License with Permits or Tags at Additional Charge

4. *Please share any additional comments, ideas, solutions, or unanswered questions you might have.*

If any attendees preferred to work alone, rather than in a group, they were provided with an individual

template that could be filled out on their own. The group and individual template forms can be viewed in Appendix 5 on pages 32-33. If attendees left before the input session of the event or preferred to provide input after the event, they were provided with a web address where they could provide input online. The online participation remained open until December 25, 2018. A copy of the online participation form can be viewed in Appendix 5 on pages 34-41.

## V. WHAT WE HEARD FROM FISHERS AND OTHERS IN THE COMMUNITY

### A. BACKGROUND AND DESIGN OF THE PROCESS

Critical in the background and design of the process was that the study group wished to remain neutral and not push either a fee-based or free registry, permit, or license system. No endorsement of one over another system was desired by the study group. Likewise, discussions at the information exchange sessions were limited to information that was discussed during the study group meetings in 2016. These meetings in 2016 were "joint fact-finding" meetings. Information that became available to individual study group members but not shared within the meetings were specifically excluded. Additionally, new information that became available after 2016 was excluded from the information exchange materials. The purpose of this procedure was to prevent spreading information that was not "jointly" discovered and prevent the expression of opinions from one individual or a subset of the whole study group.

### B. INTENT OF THE PROCESS

The intent of the rather strict rules of the event process was to try to make sure that information given to attendees at all meetings was the same. The rigid event process prevented new information being added during the series of information exchanges, which would make the content of the first events different than the last events. Consistency of the information provided at the information exchanges was considered important to the study group.

While the background, design, and intent was well-intentioned, the implementation of the process had to be adjusted from meeting to meeting due to the number of attendees, physical layout of each venue, and profile of attendees. Other factors that caused the process to vary included repeated requests for clarification of certain questions earlier in the program, such as how or why the study group was formed, how

the work was funded, and which event team members were study group members and which were support staff.

### C. CAVEAT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED AND PUBLISHED IN THE APPENDICES

The information that was collected at the series of information exchanges is presented in this report verbatim and without edits. The study group chose not to edit or interpret information that was received. Verbal information that may have been expressed by attendees was not recorded in any way and no staff or study group member took down notes. The information in the appendices is provided in as-close-to-the-original form as possible, and the reader is asked to interpret and come to his/her own conclusion on what was said.

As is mentioned above and also mentioned in the description of each meeting, each meeting operated slightly differently due to the different number of attendees and venue, as well as other differences. The dynamics of the attendees also influenced the outcomes of the meetings. In some meetings at the smaller islands, the attendees tended to be more cohesive, while at other meetings attendees were fragmented. It is possible that some attendees felt that the meetings were too large and that individual attendees were getting ignored; therefore, some attendees may have left before input was gathered from them. It is also possible that input received from attendees focused on topics that were discussed at the "information booths." Additionally, input written on handout materials may not have been collected, since attendees may have taken those handouts with them with the intention of reading the handout after the event. Because of the variations from event to event, as well as a potential bias due to reactions focused on the topics discussed at the information booths, the readers of this report are cautioned against making broad conclusions based on the specific input gathered in this report.

### D. OVERVIEW OF INFORMATION EXCHANGES

The study group's information exchange series began on November 20, 2018 and concluded on December 25, 2018. The table below provides a summary of certain details from the event series.

Table 2: Large Information Exchanges

Location	Venue	Registered Attendees	Completed Event Surveys	Percent Surveys Complete	Link to Surveys and Community Input in Appendix 3 and Appendix 4
Honolulu	UH at Manoa – Keoni Auditorium	19	19	100%	Surveys on pages 2-24 of Appendix 3 Community Input on pages 2-9 of Appendix 4
Kona	NELHA Gateway Center	90	18	20%	Surveys on pages 25-46 of Appendix 3 Community Input on pages 10-14 of Appendix 4
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Lihue	Kauai Veterans Center	13	3	23%	Surveys on pages 62-68 of Appendix 3 Community Input on pages 30-36 of Appendix 4
Wailuku	The Cameron Center	60	26	43%	Surveys on pages 69-98 of Appendix 3 Community Input on pages 37-53 of Appendix 4
Kaunakakai	Mitchell Pauole Community Center	19	9	47%	Surveys on pages 99-111 of Appendix 3 Community Input on pages 54-57 of Appendix 4
Lanai City	Lanai Community Center	14	8	57%	Surveys on pages 112-123 of Appendix 3 Community Input on pages 58-59 of Appendix 4
Honolulu	UH at Manoa – Keoni Auditorium	9	7	78%	Surveys on pages 124-135 of Appendix 3 Community Input on pages 60-63 of Appendix 4
Online Participation from 11/20/18 to 12/25/18		28 unique clicks	26	92%	Community Input on pages 64-71 of Appendix 4

Each of these events had unique circumstances and challenges. For example, a frontpage newspaper article was published ahead of both the Kona and Hilo exchanges. In Kaunakakai on Molokai, the information exchange was scheduled on the same night as a Department of Hawaiian Home Lands meeting.

The details of each information exchange is described in the following sections, including context, any unique challenges, and feedback received after the events. Each section also provides a reference to the appendix and page numbers where the community

input collected from the exchange can be viewed. A similar reference is provided to the appendix and page numbers where the completed surveys from the exchange can be viewed.

The community input sessions of the information exchanges provided an opportunity for attendees to share thoughtful questions, concerns, comments, and suggestions. This report provides that input as it was collected—directly from attendees. This community input is the most valuable part of this report. To avoid misinterpreting the input that was collected, this report

does not provide summaries of it. Instead, readers of this report are highly encouraged to read the input forms and comment sheets for yourselves, so you can hear directly from members of the fishing community and others who participated in this information exchange.

## **E. OAHU (1) – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2018**

### **1. Event Details**

This information exchange was held at the Keoni Auditorium of the East-West Center's Imin International Conference Center on the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's campus in Honolulu. The event was prepared to host up to 150 people from 5 to 8 p.m. Six study group members supported the event: Phil Fernandez, Ed Watamura, Josh DeMello, David Sakoda, Matt Ramsey, and Aarin Gross. In addition to facilitators Miranda Foley and Cynthia Derosier, support for the meeting was provided by Jhana Young and volunteer Zachary Yamada.



Communications Information Booth at the Oahu information exchange, Photo by Jhana Young

### **2. Unique challenges or constraints**

Holding this event series in November and December meant that most large rental spaces on Oahu were in high demand for private holiday events. Given the possibility of needing to host up to 150 people and provide enough space for the different interactive sessions of the information exchange design, the Keoni Auditorium was selected based on availability. Unfortunately, using this venue meant that attendees would have to pay a fee for parking of \$6 per car. Additionally, University of Hawai'i at Manoa campus is not a commonly used location for fisher meetings and can be a difficult location to get to for an event that starts at 5:00 p.m. on a weekday.

### **3. Pre-event media coverage**

Since the study group is an informal entity, generating a traditional press release for this event series proved

to be difficult. The alternative, creating a press release from only some of the study group members, would not have reflected the study group's true composition or its position of neutrality. For these reasons, a traditional press release was not used to generate pre-event media coverage. Instead, the informal networks of the study group members were used to get the word out about the event, relying heavily on social media.

### **4. Pre-event study group outreach:**

On November 7, 2018, a flyer for the first Oahu information exchange was distributed to the study group members for sharing through their fisher networks online and via email. A copy of the flyer can be viewed in Appendix 6 on page 2. An updated flyer that provided dates and locations for all the information exchanges planned across the state was distributed to the study group members on November 16, 2018. A copy of the flyer with combined dates can be viewed in Appendix 6 on page 3-5. Both flyers contained an online event invitation link with details for each event location. A copy of the online invitation can be viewed in Appendix 6 on page 6-8.

### **5. Attendance**

Attendance at the first information exchange was much lower than expected. Nineteen people signed in or provided email addresses at registration.

### **6. Community Input**

Most attendees that stayed until the input session provided comments on the group input templates. One attendee opted to provide input on an individual form. The comments included a lot of good questions and thoughtful suggestions. The unattributed comments and input from these attendees can be viewed in Appendix 4 on page 2-9.

### **7. Feedback from surveys**

A summary and scan of the completed surveys received at this event can be viewed in Appendix 3 on pages 2-24. Of the 19 people who signed in at registration, 19 completed surveys.

Most survey respondents at the first Oahu event had heard about the exchange from a family member, friend, or colleague. About half of them knew something about the study group or its report before the event. The majority of them felt the most useful part of the event was the information booths and the least useful part was tied between the information gallery and the group input session.

All respondents said either they would probably or would definitely attend an information exchange in the future. Similarly, all respondents said that they thought they would share what they learned with a friend or family member and felt more informed about the RPL system options after attending the event.

## **8. Post-event feedback from study group networks**

One attendee of the first Oahu event was a gyotaku print artist. After the event, he approached the study group to offer his support of its outreach efforts through use of his gyotaku prints in the study group's outreach materials. Unfortunately, time constraints did not allow the study group to take advantage of his offer for the event materials or for this report.

## **F. KONA – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018**

### **1. Event details**

This information exchange was held at the Friends of Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority Gateway Visitor Center in Kona on Hawai'i Island. The event was prepared to seat up to 70 people from 5 to 8 p.m. Four study group members supported the event: Phil Fernandez, Chris Hawkins, Matt Ramsey, and Aarin Gross. In addition to facilitators Miranda Foley and Cynthia Derosier, support for the meeting was provided by Jhana Young and Ulu Ching.

### **2. Unique challenges or constraints**

The major constraint at this event was that the venue could only provide seating for 70 people. Parking was free, but spaces were limited. It was also a challenge to provide separate spaces for each segment of the information exchange program within the smaller venue space.

### **3. Pre-event media coverage**

On November 26, 2018, a story on the meeting series was published on the front page of West Hawai'i Today. See pages 2-9 of Appendix 7 for a copy of the article.

Also on November 26, 2018, the Associated Press released an edited version of the West Hawai'i Today article with the title "Public meetings set for Hawai'i fishing regulations proposal." See pages 10-11 of Appendix 7 for a copy of the article. As described in the previous sections above, no proposal or position was presented by the study group during the information exchanges. The Associated Press article inaccurately stated, "The proposal would carry annual fees for registry, permits or licensing on recreational fishing in Hawai'i, the only U.S. state without non-commercial fishing regulations." Unfortunately, the

Associated Press article was picked up by numerous national news outlets, disseminating this inaccurate description of the information exchanges prior to the Kona event.

### **4. Pre-event study group outreach:**

In addition to the initial study group member distribution of the combined flyer dates and locations on November 16, 2018, individual study group members sent follow up notifications to fishers in their networks who were on Hawai'i Island. In addition to social media posts, over 500 emails were sent out ahead of the Kona event. Event series information was also provided to a member of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee network on November 26, 2018.

### **5. Adjustments to program and implementation**

Study group members were told to expect possible protests or demonstrations of some kind at the Kona event. As a result, study group members discussed adjustments to the registration process and to the program to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all attendees. In anticipation of large crowds and long lines, cookies were provided to people waiting in line to register. To support a more informal and relaxed atmosphere, music was played through a portable speaker while attendees browsed the information gallery posters.

### **6. Attendance**

In total, 90 people signed in or provided email addresses at registration for the Kona event; however, there were estimates that more than 100 people had waited in line. Although the venue capacity was capped at 70 chairs, the study group decided to allow a total of 85 people to come in before starting the event program. It took approximately 45 minutes for everyone in line to register and agree to the ground rules before entering the event.

### **7. Community Input**

Unfortunately, of the 90 people who signed in to the event, only a small number stayed to provide input during the last session of the event. The few who stayed provided thoughtful questions, comments, and suggestions. The unattributed comments and input from these attendees can be viewed in Appendix 4 on pages 10-14.

### **8. Feedback from surveys**

A summary and scan of the completed surveys received at this event can be viewed in Appendix 3 on pages 25-46. Of the 90 people who signed in at registration, eighteen completed surveys.

The majority of survey respondents heard about the information exchanges from social media or from a family member, friend, or colleague. Half of them knew something about the Study Group or its report before attending the event. The majority of respondents said they learned something new from the event. The majority found the information booths to be the most useful part of the event and the information gallery and speaker presentation to be the least useful parts. Most respondents said they probably or definitely would attend an information exchange in the future.

## 9. Post-event feedback from study group networks

Study group members received feedback about the event after it was over. Some heard that folks that stayed all the way to the end of the event got the idea of what was going on and what the study group was trying to accomplish. There were some positive results and even some advocacy for fishermen to stay until the end from some social media posts and emails.

Other people left angrier than when they arrived, because they didn't get to say their piece. They were upset that the meetings were not what was advertised in the newspaper articles. They felt that every time they tried to bring up what they wanted to say, they were "bullied" into writing it down on paper or shouted down by the facilitators.

Study group members also heard that a lot of people left still wondering where the whole idea of the RPL feasibility study came from and who funded it.

## G. HILO – WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2018

### 1. Event details

This information exchange was held at the Mokupapapa Discovery Center in Hilo on Hawai'i Island. The event was prepared to seat up to 100 people from 5 to 8 p.m. Three study group members supported the event: Chris Hawkins, Matt Ramsey, and Aarin Gross. In addition to facilitators Miranda Foley and Cynthia Derosier, support for the meeting was provided by Jhana Young and Ulu Ching.

### 2. Unique challenges or constraints

The main challenge at this event was that the registration area was on the first floor of the venue and the rest of the program stations were on the second floor. This provided much more room to work with than was available at the Kona event, but it also separated members of the event team between two floors when attendees were arriving. The first floor was very spacious which also created challenging acoustics for

the overview and ground rules provided at registration without the help of a microphone.



The poster gallery at the Mokupapapa venue, photo by Jhana Young

### 3. Pre-event media coverage

On November 26, 2018, the same article that had been published in West Hawai'i Today was published on the front page of the Hawai'i Tribune Herald. See pages 12-17 of Appendix 7 for a copy of the article.

As mentioned above, also on November 26, 2018, the Associated Press released an edited version of the West Hawai'i Today article with the title "Public meetings set for Hawai'i fishing regulations proposal." As described in previous sections, no proposal or position was presented by the study group during the information exchanges. As with the Kona event, unfortunately, the Associated Press story was picked up by numerous national news outlets, disseminating an inaccurate description of the information exchanges prior to the Hilo event.

### 4. Pre-event study group outreach

In addition to the initial study group member distribution of the combined flyer dates and locations on November 16, 2018, individual study group members sent follow up notifications to fishers in their networks who were on Hawai'i Island. Event series information was also provided to a member of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee network on November 26, 2018.

Information about the event was shared widely on social media and an unofficial notice was posted at S. Tokunaga Store in Hilo. One support staff member is a resident of Hilo. She shared information about the event through her own community networks, as well.

## **5. Adjustments to program and implementation**

Similar to what they heard ahead of the Kona event, study group members were told to expect possible protests or demonstrations in Hilo. As a result, facilitators required all Hilo attendees to listen to an overview of the event program to clarify that no proposal would be presented, that this was not a government meeting, and that no testimony would be taken. They also required all attendees to agree to a set of ground rules before they could enter to ensure a safe and respectful environment for attendees.

## **6. Attendance**

In total, 94 attendees signed in or provided email addresses at registration; however, it was estimated that more than 130 people may have waited in line. As with the Kona meeting, it took approximately 45 minutes for everyone who stayed to register and agree to the ground rules before entering the event.

## **7. Community Input**

More people stayed to provide input during the last session of the event than had stayed in Kona. About half of them provided input as a group. The other half provided input on individual forms or as written comments on informal notetaking sheets. The unattributed comments and input from these attendees can be viewed in Appendix 4 on pages 14-29.

## **8. Feedback from surveys**

A summary and scan of the completed surveys received at this event can be viewed in Appendix 3 on pages 47-61. Of the 94 people who signed in at registration, eleven completed surveys.

Survey respondents heard about the information exchanges through three main methods: social media; newspaper; and family member, friend, or colleague. Most of them did not know anything about the study group or its report before the event and most of them learned something new from attending the event. The majority of respondents found the community input workgroup to be the most useful part of the event. The presentation and the information gallery were identified by some as least useful. All but one respondent said that they probably or definitely would attend an information exchange in the future.

## **9. Post-event feedback from study group networks**

Following the Hilo event study group members received feedback from their networks through social media forums, email, direct phone calls, etc.

One person observed approximately 30 people waiting outside the event space 15 minutes before the event was scheduled to begin. By the time the doors opened approximately 60-70 people were trying to move inside the space. Recommendations were made to open the doors 15 to 20 minutes earlier to allow people to be signed in before the meeting start time.

Study group members heard frustration that the acoustics on the ground floor of the venue made it very difficult to hear the facilitators who were requiring all attendees to listen to an overview of the event program and agree to ground rules before being let in to the event.

Similarly, study group members heard that during the information exchange program, it was difficult to hear the speakers during the interactive question and answer sessions. There was no microphone for those speakers and the room was too noisy. Recommendations were made to physically separate the four information booth sessions to make it easier to hear during that part of the program.

Another study group member received a concern that there was a particular misstatement of fact during an information booth session on data. During that discussion the speaker misstated that knowing the number of non-commercial marine fishers in Hawai'i could help increase the level of federal funding that the state currently receives for fisheries management. As was correctly pointed out by the person who raised this concern, under the current formula used by the federal government, knowing the number of non-commercial marine fishers in Hawai'i would not increase the amount of federal funding that Hawai'i receives for fisheries management. For more information on this issue, please see pages 11-14 of Appendix E of the study group report, available here: <http://bit.ly/2Tg0jGP>.

As with the Kona exchange, another study group member heard that folks that stayed all the way to the end of the event got the idea of what was going on and what the study group was trying to accomplish. Some positive results and even some advocacy for fishermen to stay until the end from some social media posts and emails.

As with the Kona event, it was reported that other people left angrier than when they arrived because they didn't get to say their piece. They were upset that the meetings were not what was advertised in the newspaper articles. Every time they tried to bring up what they wanted to say, they were "bullied" into

writing it down on paper or shouted down by the facilitators.

As with Kona, a concern was received that a lot of people were still wondering where the whole idea of the RPL feasibility study came from and who funded it. Some people felt that a third party should not be doing this study, particularly not Conservation International. There was mistrust of a particular entity pushing its own agenda. There was a desire for more transparency. Some people felt that there was not enough opportunity to actually exchange.

Study group members also reported hearing positive comments that people didn't know a lot of the information that was presented, and they liked the set up. Once they got past the initial part of understanding what was going on, they felt it was valuable. Another person reported that the small groups were really good and that a lot of learning took place.

On a content note, there was concern about the use of the term "barter" as part of the "non-commercial" activity described in the study group's report. It was recommended that the term "customary exchange" be used instead of the term "barter" for any future decision making efforts.

On a process note, it was recommended that the event team more clearly distinguish between the contracted facilitators (Miranda Foley and Cynthia Derosier) and the study group members. During the Hilo event, one attendee was under the impression that the facilitators were employees of Conservation International. When the facilitators urged attendees to transition to the next program session to keep on time with the program schedule, this attendee was very upset by what appeared to be an attempt to cut their comments short. It was particularly upsetting to the attendee because that attendee believed a Conservation International employee had dismissed their comments. It was recommended that it be made more clear at future events which "blue hats" were study group members and which ones were support or facilitation staff. One recommendation was for the facilitation and support staff to wear hats that were a different color than blue.

## 10. Post-event media coverage

On November 29, 2018, Big Island Video News released coverage of the Hilo information exchange. That coverage can be viewed here: <http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2018/11/29/video-crowded-hilo-meeting-on-fishing-registry-permit-license-study/>

Also on November 29, 2018, KITV news ran a story that incorporated some of the Big Island Video News footage. The KITV coverage described the event as a "public meeting" for a "non-commercial fishing license system." The KITV news story can be viewed here: <https://www.kitv.com/clip/14703044/public-meeting-regarding-non-commercial-fishing-license-system>

## H. KAUAI – SATURDAY DECEMBER 1, 2018

### 1. Event details

This information exchange was held at The Kauai Veterans Center in Lihue on Kauai. The event was prepared to seat up to 100 people from 9 a.m. to noon. Three study group members supported the event: David Sakoda, Matt Ramsey, and Aarin Gross. In addition to facilitators Miranda Foley and Cynthia Derosier, support for the meeting was provided by Jhana Young and on-island volunteer, Casey Fitchett.

### 2. Unique challenges or constraints

For reasons driven by event team member and venue availability, the Kauai information exchange had to be held on a Saturday morning rather than a weekday evening like the other information exchanges. Scheduling conflicts also led to only three study group members being available to attend. Unfortunately, all the available study group members were associated with Conservation International (i.e. Matt Ramsey and Aarin Gross) or the Division of Aquatic Resources (i.e. David Sakoda). This limited availability of study group members made it challenging to reflect the true diversity of the study group at the Kauai event.

Additionally, none of the study group members were residents of Kauai, which meant that effectively getting the word out to the non-commercial fishing community was particularly difficult. Study group members reached out for help to on-island members of their own fisher networks, but were not able to support those in-person outreach efforts ahead of the date of the event.



Group Input Stations at the Kauai information exchange, photo by Jhana Young

### **3. Pre-event media coverage**

On November 27, 2018, an article on the information exchange series was published in The Garden Island. See pages 18-21 of Appendix 7 for a copy of the article. The article described the upcoming Kauai information exchange as “[a] public meeting on potential statewide non-commercial fishing regulations” and stated that “[t]he proposal is a result of a Conservation International Hawai’i and Western Pacific Fishery Council report.” As stated in the previous sections above, no proposal or position was presented by the study group at any of the information exchanges.

### **4. Pre-event study group outreach**

In addition to the initial study group member distribution of the combined flyer dates and locations on November 16, 2018, individual study group members sent follow up notifications to fishers in their networks who were on Kauai. As mentioned previously, the event series information was also provided to a member of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee network on November 26, 2018. Study group members also reached out to their fisher networks ahead of the Kauai event to emphasize that the information exchange was neutral. They had been hearing skepticism about the neutrality of the group and the event. Specifically, they heard that many previous exchange attendees had walked in expecting a biased, agenda-driven presentation.

### **5. Adjustments to program and implementation**

To address repeated questions and concerns that the study group heard after the Kona and Hilo events, adjustments were made to the study group members’ overview presentation that specifically addressed where the study came from and who funded it.

Additionally, a “library” area was added to the event design that provided a few copies of the study group’s 28-page 2016 report and its key supporting analyses for event attendees who preferred to browse the full report during the event.

### **6. Attendance**

In total, thirteen attendees signed in or provided email addresses at registration during the Kauai event. Based on the small number of attendees, some adjustments were made to the program design, including combining the information booths into one session of question and answer with a combined panel of the three study group members in attendance.

### **7. Community Input**

About half of the attendees who stayed to provide input did so as a group. The other half provided input on individual input forms. The unattributed comments and input from these attendees can be viewed in Appendix 4 on pages 30-36.

### **8. Feedback from surveys**

A summary and scan of the completed surveys received at this event can be viewed in Appendix 3 on pages 62-68. Of the thirteen people who signed in at registration, three completed surveys.

Of the limited number of survey respondents, all had heard about the event from a family member, friend or colleague. None of them had heard about the study group or its report before attending the event.

### **9. Post-event feedback from study group networks**

Most of what the study group members heard about the Kauai event was that not enough outreach had happened ahead of the event to properly notify fishers. Some recommendations were made during the event that print outs of the flyers and information should have been posted in the tackle shops on Kauai.

### **10. Post-event media coverage**

On December 2, 2018, an article on the Kauai information exchange was published in The Garden Island. See pages 2-23 of Appendix 7 for a copy of the article.

## **I. MAUI – TUESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2018**

### **1. Event details**

This information exchange was held at the J. Walter Cameron Center in Wailuku on Maui. The event was prepared to seat up to 100 people from 5 to 8 p.m. Four study group members supported the event: Phil Fernandez, Chris Hawkins, Matt Ramsey, and Aarin Gross. In addition to facilitators Miranda Foley and Cynthia Derosier, support for the meeting was provided by Jhana Young and volunteer Simeleke Gross.

### **2. Unique challenges or constraints**

The primary constraint for this event was the layout of the venue space. A wall dividing the back half of the venue space, which required the information gallery to be split in two sections: half the posters were provided at the mid-line of the room and the other half were provided at the front of the room. With half of the posters lined up at the front of the room, attendees needed to walk to the front of the room, in view of all the people seated in chairs, to review the full set of posters. It appeared that some attendees were not comfortable standing at the front of the room to

view the second half of the posters. For that reason, it is very possible that many attendees at the Maui event did not see all the posters in the information gallery.

Additionally, as a result of a logistics mix-up, there was no microphone available at the Maui event for the study group overview presentation or for the information booth speakers.



Facilitators Cynthia Derosier and Miranda Foley at the Maui information exchange, photo by Jhana Young

### **3. Pre-event media coverage**

On Monday December 3, 2018, an event flyer and brief description was provided via email to The Maui News. As discussed below, an article was published following the Maui exchange.

### **4. Pre-event study group outreach**

In addition to the initial study group member distribution of the combined flyer dates and locations on November 16, 2018, individual study group members sent follow up notifications to fishers in their networks who were on Maui. As mentioned previously, event series information was also provided to a member of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee network on November 26, 2018.

### **5. Adjustments to program and implementation**

Based on feedback from the Hawai'i Island and Kauai meetings, the Maui information exchange was the first where all the study group members in attendance stood together at the front of the room during the overview presentation. This provided a more accurate representation of the study group membership for the event attendees.

Additionally, in response to concerns expressed after the Hilo meeting, the label "Study Group" was added to blue hats worn by study group members, and

the label "Support" was added to blue hats worn by facilitators and support staff.

### **6. Attendance**

In total, 60 attendees signed in or provided email addresses at registration. A large number of these attendees stayed through the interactive segments of the information exchange.

### **7. Community Input**

The majority of attendees who stayed to provide input used individual input forms or informal notetaking sheets. The unattributed comments and input from these attendees can be viewed in Appendix 4 on pages 37-53.

### **8. Feedback from surveys**

A summary and scan of the completed surveys received at this event can be viewed in Appendix 3 on pages 69-98. Of the 60 people who signed in at registration, 26 completed surveys.

Most of the survey respondents heard about the information exchange through social media or from a family member, friend, or colleague. The majority of them did not know anything about the study group or its report before attending the event. The majority of attendees found the information booths to be the most helpful part of the event and the presentation to be the least helpful part. All survey respondents probably or definitely would attend an information exchange in the future.

### **9. Post-event feedback from study group networks**

One study group member reported hearing that really good dialogue was happening on fishing forums about the Maui information exchange the day after the event.

### **10. Post-event media coverage**

A reporter from The Maui News contacted study group members for additional information after the Maui information exchange. The Maui News published an article on December 7, 2018. See pages 24-31 of Appendix 7 for a copy of the article.

On December 12, 2018, a podcast was posted by Hilo-based Ryan Kohatsu focusing on the topic of a Hawai'i Non-commercial Fishing License. The podcast featured a conversation with Darrell Tanaka, a Maui fisherman very active in fisheries issues, who had also attended the Maui information exchange. The podcast can be accessed here: <https://hicontry>.

## J. MOLOKAI – WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5, 2018

### 1. Event details

This information exchange was held at the Mitchell Pauole Community Center in Kaunakakai on Molokai. The event was prepared to seat up to 100 people from 5 to 8 p.m. Five study group members supported the event: Phil Fernandez, David Sakoda, Eric Co, Matt Ramsey, and Aarin Gross. In addition to facilitators Miranda Foley and Cynthia Derosier, support for the meeting was provided by Jhana Young and volunteer Simeleke Gross.

### 2. Unique challenges or constraints

The main challenge for this event was that study group members were not aware that a Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) meeting had been scheduled for the same date and time as the Molokai information exchange.

Several people who arrived at the information exchange stated that they had to leave shortly after arriving to avoid missing the DHHL meeting. They expressed regret that the two events had been scheduled for the same time. It was noted that any future information exchange series should confirm that there are no other important community meetings taking place on Molokai on the date the information exchange is planned. If so, the information exchange should be rescheduled.



Cynthia Derosier, Jhana Young, Simeleke Gross, Aarin Gross, Phil Fernandez, Miranda Foley, Eric Co, and David Sakoda at the Molokai information exchange, photo by Jhana Young

### 3. Pre-event media coverage

On Monday December 3, 2018, an event flyer and brief description was provided via email to The Molokai Dispatch.

### 4. Pre-event study group outreach

In addition to the initial study group member distribution of the combined flyer dates and locations on November 16, 2018, individual study group members sent follow up notifications to fishers in their networks who were on Molokai. As mentioned previously, event series information was also provided to a member of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee network on November 26, 2018.

Some study group members received recommendations that invitations should be sent directly to Molokai fishing community leaders, some of whom were also elected officials. Study group members acknowledged that this was a good recommendation, but since similar direct invitations had not been sent to elected officials of other islands ahead of previously held information exchanges, this recommendation was not followed for Molokai. It was noted that for any similar information exchange series in the future, it would be ideal to send direct invitations to elected officials ahead of each event.

### 5. Adjustments to program and implementation

Based on the small number of attendees, the registration protocol was adjusted to allow most attendees to hear the meeting overview and ground rules in a single group before entering. The information booths were also combined into a single question and answer panel because of the small number of attendees.

### 6. Attendance

In total, 19 attendees signed in or provided email addresses at registration. Many of them left shortly after arriving at the information exchange to attend the DHHL meeting.

### 7. Community Input

All the attendees who stayed to provide input used the group input forms rather than the individual forms. The unattributed comments and input from these attendees can be viewed in Appendix 4 on pages 54-57.

### 8. Feedback from surveys

A summary and scan of the completed surveys received at this event can be viewed in Appendix 3 on pages 99-111. Of the nineteen attendees who signed in, nine of them completed surveys.

The majority of survey respondents heard about the information exchanges through social media or from a family member, friend, or colleague. Most of

them did not know anything about the study group or its report before attending the event. The majority of respondents found the presentation and the information booths to be the most useful parts of the event. All the respondents said they definitely or probably would attend an information exchange in the future.

## 9. Post-event feedback from study group networks

Study group members did not report feedback specifically from the Molokai information exchange.

## 10. Post-event media coverage

Study group members were not aware of post-event media coverage of the Molokai information exchange.

# K. LANAI – TUESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2018

## 1. Event details

This information exchange was held at the Lanai Community Center in Lanai City on Lanai. The event was prepared to seat up to 100 people from 5 to 8 p.m. Two study group members supported the event: Matt Ramsey and Aarin Gross. In addition to facilitators Miranda Foley and Cynthia Derosier, support for the meeting was provided by Jhana Young.



Discussions at the Lanai information exchange, photo by Jhana Young

## 2. Unique challenges or constraints

The main constraint at this event was the small size of the event team—two study group members and one support staff. All other study group members had professional or personal conflicts that prevented them from joining the event on Lanai.

## 3. Pre-event media coverage

The study group was not aware of any additional media coverage specific to the Lanai event.

On December 8, 2018, study group members were contacted by a reporter with Hawai'i Fishing News, who was working on a story about the information exchange series slated to be published in the January issue of the Hawai'i Fishing News.

## 4. Pre-event study group outreach

Study group members contacted the Lanai Post Office to post the announcement. They also called the gas station, the Blue Ginger restaurant, and Pine Isle Market to ask them to post info.

## 5. Adjustments to program and implementation

Since only two study group members were able to attend in person and both were associated with Conservation International, the event team anticipated that attendees would have a hard time seeing the study group and information exchange process as neutral. To try and address this concern, study group members were asked to provide a short video message that could be played at the Lanai meeting to reflect the true diversity of the study group members. Study group members from KUA were able to provide a short video message ahead of the meeting that was played after the study group overview presentation, prior to transitioning to the information booths session.

## 6. Attendance

In total, fourteen attendees signed in or provided email addresses at registration. Most of them stayed through the end of the event for the community input session.

## 7. Community Input

Attendees who stayed for the community input session chose to provide input using a single wall-sized group form with the help of the facilitators. The unattributed comments and input from these attendees can be viewed in Appendix 4 on pages 58-59.

## 8. Feedback from surveys

A summary and scan of the completed surveys received at this event can be viewed in Appendix 3 on pages 112-123. Of the fourteen attendees who signed in, eight of them completed surveys.

Most of the survey respondents heard about the information exchange through social media or through a family member, friend, or colleague. Most did not know about the study group or its report before attending the information exchange. All respondents said they learned something new from the exchange. The majority thought the community input session was the most useful or valuable part of the event. Half of them thought the information gallery was the least useful or valuable part. All the survey respondents said

they probably or definitely would attend an information exchange in the future.

## 9. Post-event feedback from study group networks

Study group members did not share specific feedback from their networks related to the Lanai information exchange.

## 10. Post-event media coverage

Study group members were not aware of specific post-event media coverage related to the Lanai information exchange.

# L. OAHU (2) – DECEMBER 13, 2018

## 1. Event details

This information exchange was held at the Keoni Auditorium of the East-West Center's Imin International Conference Center on the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's campus in Honolulu. The event was prepared to host up to 150 people from 5 to 8 p.m. Six study group members supported the event: Phil Fernandez, Ed Watamura, Josh DeMello, David Sakoda, Matt Ramsey, and Aarin Gross. In addition to facilitators Miranda Foley and Cynthia Derosier, support for the meeting was provided by Jhana Young and Eva Schemmel.



Study Group members at the second Oahu information exchange, photo by Jhana Young

## 2. Unique challenges or constraints

Study group members received feedback ahead of this event that a different venue should have been used to be more convenient for fishers. Feedback received prior to the event was the people are just getting off work at 5 pm and heading home to have dinner with their families. Many aren't willing to pay \$6 for parking. Those living on the west side would fight traffic for an hour to get to UH. With these obstacles, the assessment by some commenters was that the study group would not get the broad feedback needed to make this a meaningful process.

Given constraints on venue availability on Oahu in December and limited resources to identify and contract with an alternate venue, the second information exchange on Oahu was again held at the Keoni Auditorium. The event team recognized ahead of the information exchange that this was an unfortunate but necessary compromise.

## 3. Pre-event media coverage

Study group members were not aware of additional media coverage ahead of the second Oahu information exchange.

## 4. Pre-event study group outreach

Based on the lower-than-expected turnout at the first Oahu information exchange on November 20, 2018, event information about the second exchange was emailed to individuals who had attended the study group's small group meetings on Oahu in July 2018.

Printed flyers were also dropped off for posting at Oahu tackle shops on December 10, 2018, including Charley's Fishing Supply, POP, West Marine, Hanapa'a Hawai'i, Brian's Fishing Supply, J. Hara Store, McCully Bike Shop, and Maui Sporting Goods.

## 5. Adjustments to program and implementation

Based on the small number of attendees, the study group overview presentation was more informal with the study group members seated together at the front of the room. This same informal set up was used for a session with the information booths combined.

## 6. Attendance

In total, nine attendees signed in or provided email addresses at registration. Most of them stayed for the entire program.

## 7. Community Input

Attendees who stayed for the community input session chose to provide input using group input forms rather than individual forms. The unattributed comments and input from these attendees can be viewed in Appendix 4 on pages 60-63.

## 8. Feedback from surveys

A summary and scan of the completed surveys received at this event can be viewed in Appendix 3 on pages 124-135. Of the nine attendees who signed in, seven of them completed surveys.

Most of the survey respondents heard about the information exchange through social media. Respondents were almost evenly split between knowing and not knowing about the study group and

its report before the event. Respondents were also almost evenly split between thinking the community input session and the presentation were the most useful or valuable part of the information exchange. The majority thought the information gallery was the least useful or valuable part of the event. All respondents said that they probably or definitely would attend an information exchange in the future.

### **9. Post-event feedback from study group networks**

One study group member heard from an attendee after the event that he really appreciated seeing the number and diversity of study group members at the Oahu event.

### **10. Post-event media coverage**

At the time of this report, the study group members were not aware of media coverage following the Oahu information exchange. Based on the inquiry made by a Hawai'i Fishing News reporter on December 8, 2018, study group members anticipate a story related to the information exchange series in the January issue of Hawai'i Fishing News.

## **M. ONLINE PARTICIPATION –COMMENTS CLOSED ON DECEMBER 25, 2018**

An online participation form was made available to information exchange attendees, beginning with attendees of the November 20, 2018 event on Oahu. The opportunity for online participation was shared with attendees of every information exchange, and attendees were encouraged to share the link with family, friends, or others who could not make it to an information exchange in person. The online participation link remained open to receive comments until December 25, 2018.

As of December 26, 2018, twenty-eight people participated online and provided comments. The unattributed comments and input from these online participants can be viewed in Appendix 4 on pages 64-71.

The largest number of online participants were from Oahu and Kauai. The online participants were split evenly between those who had attended an information exchange and those who had not attended any of the events.

## **VI. LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

An important part of the study group's objective with this effort was to create a new model for sharing information and engaging with the fishing community. The model was not perfect, but the study group members feel it was an important step in the right direction. Below are a few observations made during the planning and implementation of this new model, as well as recommendations for improving on the model in the future.

In general, the strengths of the fisher information exchange design were that it provided multiple ways to make complex information more easily sharable, particularly when audience members had varied levels of familiarity with the topic. The structured sessions in the program allowed a mostly consistent experience to be recreated across six islands, in a wide range of venues, and with different team members available to support each events. Providing handouts that could be taken home and an online participation link also empowered attendees to share what they heard with others who could not attend in person. Additionally, the professionally facilitated events created a safe and respectful environment where all attendees could feel comfortable providing input, if they chose to.

The format also presented the following challenges. To be most effective, the ideal event team consisted of two facilitators, two support staff, and at minimum four study group members. This event team size required a significant amount of time and resources to plan and coordinate for the six-island series. This was made more challenging when it was unclear how many people were likely to attend any particular event. Since one goal of this effort was to exchange information with as many people as effectively possible, each event was prepared to host close to 100 people, even if less than 20 actually attended. To make the most of limited resources, any similar information exchange efforts in the future should try to closely calibrate the likely number of attendees and the necessary number of event team members during the process design phase.

While implementing these information exchanges, the Study Group learned the following lessons. Most importantly, more time and resources should be dedicated to a media and marketing plan in advance of launching the event series. A clear press release that provides details about what the events are and

what they are not should be readily provided to as many media contacts as possible. Any necessary approvals for joint-entity press-releases should be worked out early.

Communication and marketing ahead of the actual events becomes even more important when sharing a suite of information rather than a specific option. Unlike most public-style meetings, the study group's efforts were designed to share and receive information on a wide range of possibilities. This was challenging because the public often attends meetings to provide input on a specific action or option. It was often the case that people attending the meetings came with a specific purpose in mind such as to oppose a specific proposal. It was also the case that people attended the meetings seeking information on a specific action. For example, questions were asked about the use of any license funds. In some cases, it appeared as if attendees left more at ease because there were no specific options being proposed. In other cases, study group members received comments from participants who felt discontentment or anger that the study group members did not provide specific answers to any of the options that were being discussed. When it was explained that the study group could not provide specifics on different options because there were no options being formally presented, some participants were not pleased with the response. For future efforts, much of this can be addressed early in the process, if more resources are dedicated to advanced media and marketing to ensure that participants' expectations are in alignment with the goals of the meetings.

Based on this experience, the Study Group would make the following recommendations to anyone interested in using this model for future information sharing efforts. For a statewide effort, it is really helpful to find people on each island who can recommend the best ways to reach your target audience and the best venues to use. On Molokai and Lanai, make sure there are no other important community meetings scheduled for the same date and time. If travel funds are limited or team member schedules do not align, use short video messages to provide a voice from members of your team who could not travel off-island for the event. Resources permitting, provide food of some kind for attendees for long evening meetings that conflict with dinner time. If possible, use venues where parking is free and ample.

## VII. CONCLUSIONS

Over the last six months, the study group members worked together to design and deploy two different approaches to specifically engage and gather input from non-commercial fishermen on a topic that has the potential to impact them and fisheries they rely on.

At the time of our 2016 fact-finding study, it was estimated that there were somewhere between 155,000 and 396,000 non-commercial marine fishers across the state of Hawai'i. The collective efforts of the study group members and its facilitation team engaged approximately 400 of them in person. There was also a significant amount of discussion occurring online on social media, in the national and local news, and in fishing-related papers. While it is difficult to quantify the total number of fishers reached by this effort, it is estimated that the numbers of fishers who are more aware of the issues is significantly higher than the 400 individuals who attended the meetings. It is also important to note that the process was limited in its ability to formally track and document conversations outside of the process. It is likely that the online form captures only a small percentage of the discussions and input that was and still is occurring outside of the process. This Community Input Report is a small but representative collection of the thoughts, concerns, and suggestions that exist across the state about this issue among fishermen.

The study group members appreciate the time and effort of the individuals of all ages who spent their evenings or weekend mornings at the information exchanges to provide comments, questions, and suggestions with the hope that they would inform future conversations about this topic.

The study group members also readily acknowledge that these 400 or so individuals do not and cannot speak for all the non-commercial fishers in Hawai'i. Nor should they have to. They have only started the conversation—with each other and with decision makers—about whether a registry, permit, or license for non-commercial marine fishing has the potential to provide any value to fishers and fisheries managers in Hawai'i.

The study group members hope that, by making the information from their 2016 report more accessible to fishers and by providing a forum for thoughtful discussions, they have empowered more people across the state to participate in an informed way in any discussions or decision-making processes that may take place in the future on this topic.

# APPENDICES

## **APPENDIX 1**

Recommendations from the 2016 Study Group Report

## **APPENDIX 2**

Comments: Small Meetings (Approach #1)

## **APPENDIX 3**

Event Surveys: Information Exchanges (Approach #2)

## **APPENDIX 4**

Community Input: Information Exchanges (Approach #2)

## **APPENDIX 5**

Posters: Information Exchanges (Approach #2)

## **APPENDIX 6**

Outreach: Information Exchanges (Approach #2)

## **APPENDIX 7**

Media Coverage: Information Exchanges (Approach #2)