
Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources
DLNR-DAR
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES
January 26th, 2023
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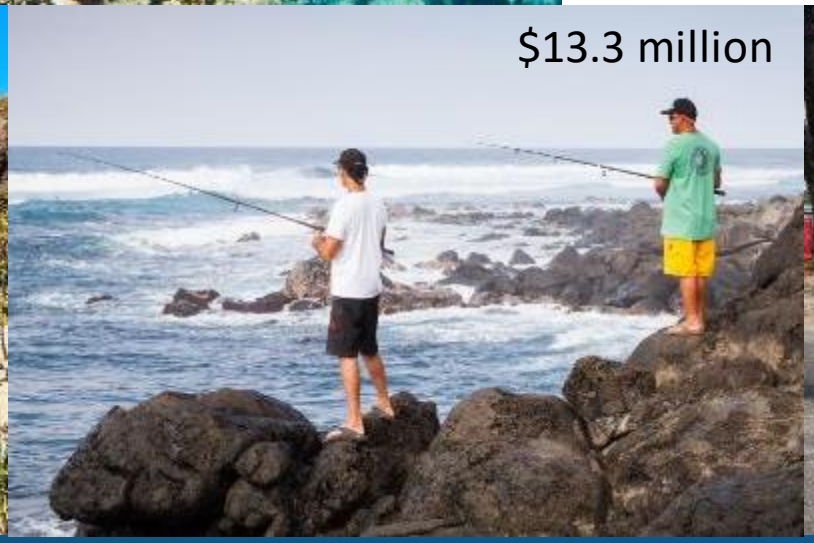
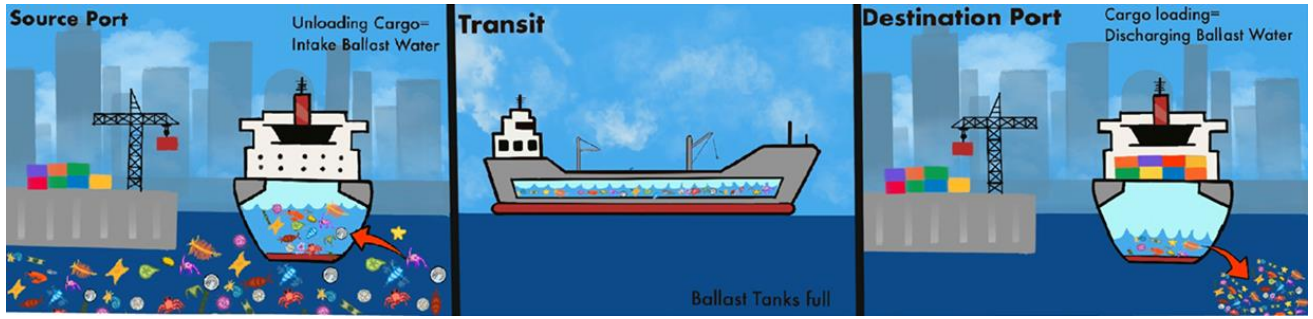
Aquatic Biologist IV, Ballast Water and Hull Fouling Coordinator

Hawai‘i Division of Aquatic Resources

Hawai‘i’s Aquatic Resources



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)



Aquatic Invasive Species:
A non-native aquatic species that, if introduced into an ecosystem, may cause harm to Hawai‘i’s economy, environment, human health, or public safety and welfare.

- Vectors:
  - Ballast Water and Biofouling
  - Release (Aquarium and Aquaculture)

- Strategy to minimize adverse impacts
  - 1. Prevention
  - 2. Early Detection and Rapid Response
  - 3. Management and Control

Structure of the AIS Team

Aquatic Restoration and Environmental Program

Aquatic Invasive Species Team

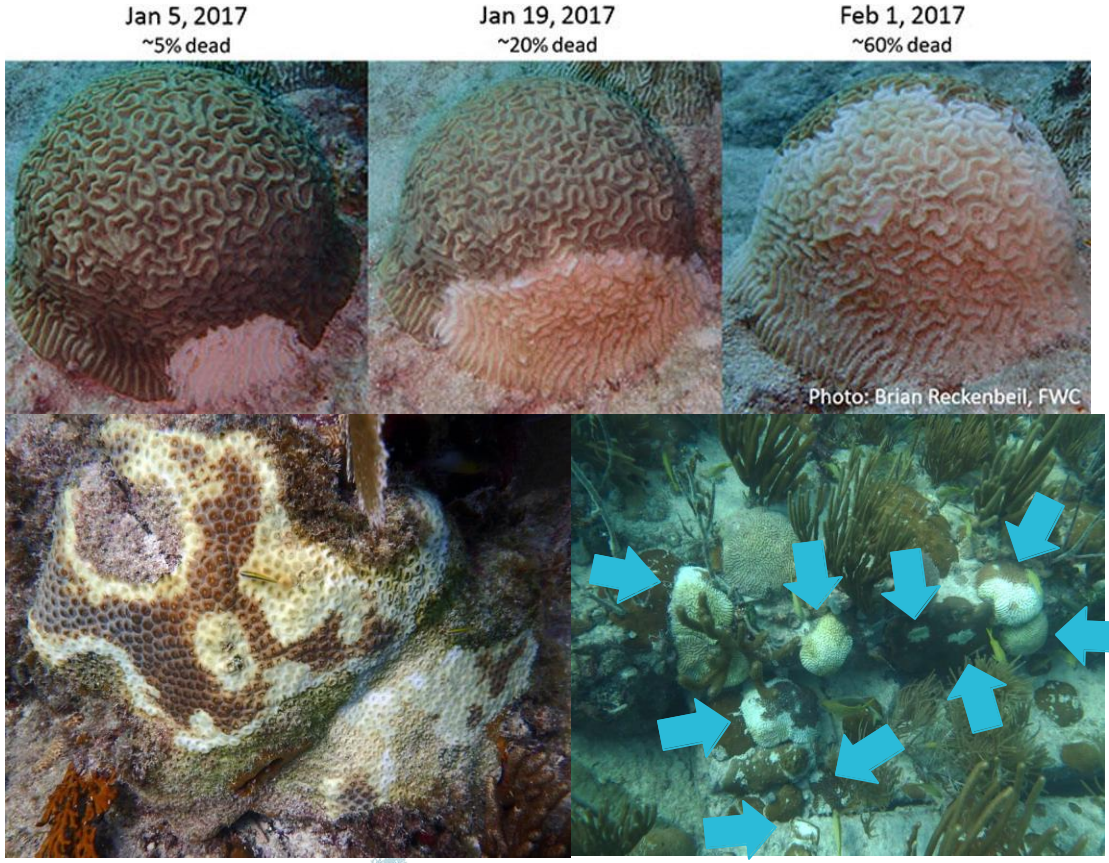
Urchin Hatchery (Contract)

- AIS Field Team Staff:
  - Civil Service
    - 1 Aquatic Biologist IV
    - 1 Aquatic Biologist III
    - 4 Fisheries Technicians IV
  - Contract
    - 1 Monitoring Coordinator
    - 1 Habitat Monitoring Technician

- Ballast Water and Biofouling Staff:
  - Civil Service
    - Aquatic Biologist IV
  - Contract
    - 1 Planning Associate
    - 1 Kupu AmeriCorps Intern

Prevention: Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD)

- Currently devastating Caribbean- rapid spread and high mortality
- Has been shown to travel via ballast water and is assumed to travel via biofouling communities – high risk to Hawai'i
- Formed SCTLD working groups, collaborated nationally and internationally to develop response plans, and educated stakeholders.
- Bill



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Challenge: The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA)

VIDA will:

- **Preempt states** from developing and enforcing ballast water and vessel hull in-water cleaning regulations that are more stringent than the federal regulations
- Allow states to **enforce/co-enforce** the new federal regulations or enforce state regulations that mirror federal regulations
- Prohibit states from charging shipping companies a **fee** to support this regulatory work = *no revenue to build a DAR team*

Prevention: Risk Screening

- Completed risk screenings for species to assess the risk of invasion to Hawai‘i.
- Completed ongoing ballast water risk screenings to identify high risk vessels.

Rapid Response to AIS

- Since 2020 we have rapidly responded to 4 high risk introductions
  - Dry Dock
  - Kāne‘ohe Corals and Anemone
  - Kaua‘i Corals
  - Ala Wai Corallimorph

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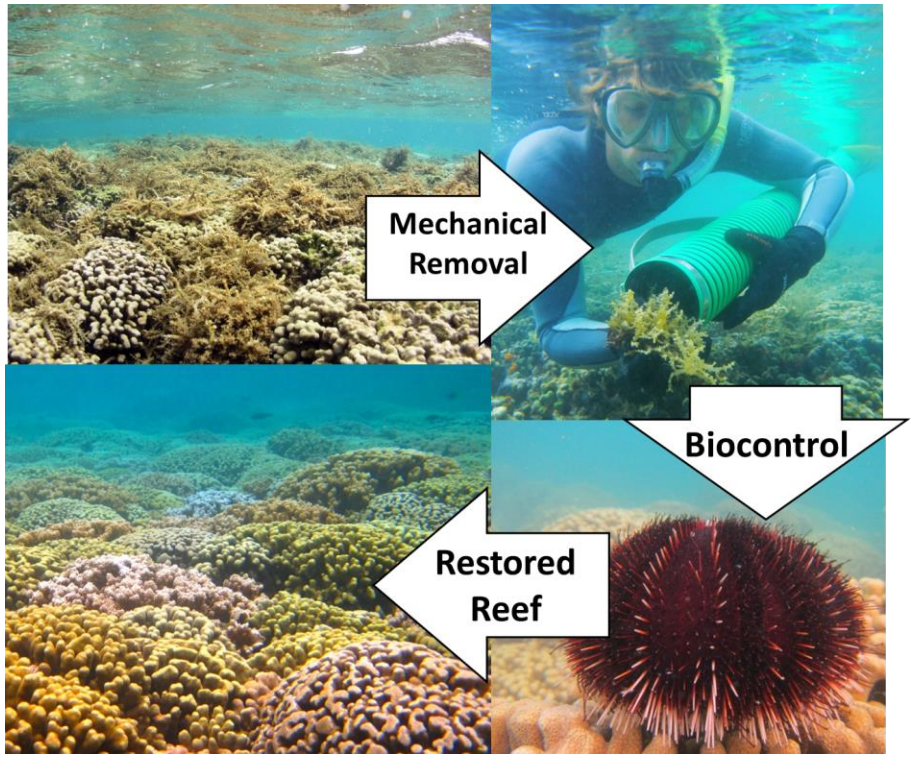
Invasive Algae Management



- Approximately 988,000 urchins produced
- Kāne‘ohe Bay Area Treated: 951,132 m^2 (~235 acres)
- Waikīkī MLCD Area Treated: 120,000 m^2 (~30 acres)
- Pilot projects with community groups and researchers

AIS 2022 – Challenges

- Challenges with revenue (VIDA)
- 3 Unfunded Civil Service Positions: 1- Aquatic Biologist III, 2- AIS Fishery Technicians
  - Funding Restored as of January 2023!!!
  - Selected AB III
  - Hoping to hire FT IV ASAP

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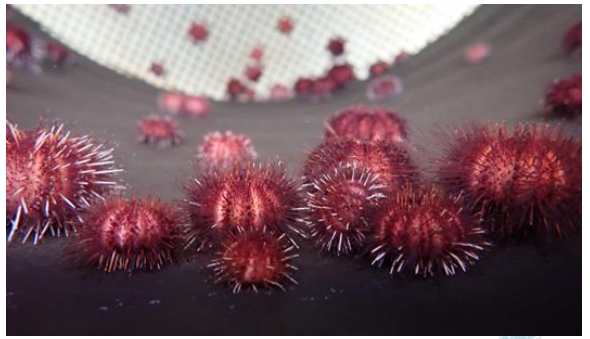
AIS 2023 – Priorities

- Work to educate on VIDA and implications for AIS in Hawaii
- Prioritize prevention and response to species of concern such as SCTLD and pathways that are high risk
- Continue invasive algae management with native urchin biocontrol
- Expand DAR AIS program capacity and reach



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http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/ais/