JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIAʻĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIAʻĀINA

STATE OF HAWAIʻI | KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA ʻOIHANA KUMUWAIWAI ʻĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKAʻOLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKAʻOLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1190
RELATING TO THE HAWAIʻI INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Senate Bill 1190 appropriates funds to the Hawaiʻi Invasive Species Council (HISC) to support its initiatives to control and eradicate invasive species in the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

Since the HISC was established in 2003, the Department has managed and coordinated the HISC and its programs. Created as a cabinet-level council to strategically coordinate invasive species efforts in the State, the HISC has aimed to raise awareness about invasive species among all levels of government and the public in Hawaiʻi.

Through the HISC's efforts, strategic partnerships have been formed and gaps in the State's invasive species response have been filled. The HISC has advocated for funding and positions at member agencies, including the Department, the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), the Department of Health, and the Department of Transportation. The HISC has also continued to support and fund important projects at the University of Hawaiʻi, including programs, research, and support for the HISC's work itself.

When the HISC was proposed by the Legislative Reference Bureau in 2002, it was recommended that the HISC receive $10 million annually to address invasive species needs statewide. Although the HISC has not received that level of funding, the proposed annual budget of $4.25 million would significantly support its strategically coordinated projects. These include funding for research, partial support for the county-level Invasive Species Committees, the Port of Entry Monitoring program, the 643-PEST.org online pest hotline, and the Hawai‘i Pacific Weed Risk Assessment.

Act 236, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2025 mandates the transfer of the HISC from the Department to DAB, with management to be assumed by DAB by 2030. The Department supports continued funding for the HISC to be allocated to the Department until the transition is finished.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor

SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS AND AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEO CONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 1190
RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1190 relating to the Hawaii invasive species council. This measure appropriates funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to support its initiatives to control and eradicate invasive species in the State.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) supports this measure. The HISC and the projects it funds are essential to the State's efforts to combat invasive species. Additionally, these funds are critical for research that will develop innovative tools and technologies to strengthen State's biosecurity capacity. Furthermore, pursuant to section 141-3.5(b)(1) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Department is tasked with leading and coordinating the State's invasive pest control and eradication biosecurity efforts. Providing sufficient funding to HISC will enable its programs to effectively support the Department's biosecurity responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1190
RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL.

SENATOR CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date, Time: Wednesday, 2/11/2026, 1:00 PM, Room Number: 224

Fiscal Implications: The Department of Health ("Department") requests that this measure be considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the priorities and requests outlined in the Governors executive budget request.

Department Position: The Department supports this measure.

Department Testimony: The Environmental Health Services Division, Vector Control Branch, provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

SB1190 appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to support its initiatives to control and eradicate invasive species in the State.

The Department supports HISC and its programs to prevent, reduce, and eliminate invasive species in Hawai'i. Vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever, Zika, chikungunya, Lyme disease, and many others are transmitted via animals and insects that are invasive to Hawai'i. Vector-borne diseases are increasing worldwide, often exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. To protect Hawai'i from diseases transmitted by invasive species, efforts must be prioritized to prevent their spread and establishment.

HISC plays a critical role as a cross-jurisdictional organization that coordinates, supports, and funds research while directing invasive species control activities. These activities are essential in the fight against organisms that harm public and environmental health. The Department is a voting member of HISC and has participated in funding decisions which promote the reduction of impacts invasive species cause statewide.

Offered Amendments: None

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Nature Conservancy
Hawai'i and Palmyra

The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra
923 Nu'uanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508
nature.org/HawaiiPalmyra
hawaii@tnc.org

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting SB1190, Relating to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 11, 2026 at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 224 and via Videoconference

Dear Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra supports SB1190, which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to support its initiatives to control and eradicate invasive species in the State.

HISC is a cross-departmental partnership that coordinates statewide strategies to prevent, detect, and control invasive species threats that endanger Hawai'i's biodiversity, agriculture, economy, and natural resources. Hawai'i's native species evolved in extreme isolation, making them particularly vulnerable to aggressive invasive plants, animals, and pathogens introduced through global travel and trade. Maintaining a strong, unified, and science-driven invasive species response is essential to protecting the Hawai'i's economic stability.

Additional funding will strengthen the State's ability to respond quickly to high-impact pests and support island-based teams that carry out critical on-the-ground work. Stable resources are necessary to contain and control species such as little fire ants, coqui frogs, and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to spread and affect agriculture, natural resources, and community well-being. Investments in research and early-detection tools will also ensure the State can keep pace with emerging threats.

This bill strategically invests in Hawai'i's biosecurity system by supporting rapid response capacity, advancing applied research, and ensuring that each island has the resources needed to manage emerging threats.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1190.

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.

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cgaps
STOP THE SILENT INVASION

COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
1:00 PM Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 1190

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of SB 1190,** *Relating to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council*. This bill appropriates $4,250,000 for each of the fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) and provides that those funds shall be expended by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Part VII of Act 236 (2025) transfers all functions and duties of HISC from DLNR to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), effective January 1, 2030. (Part VII & §47(6) Act 236 (2025)) HISC will remain attached to DLNR for administrative purposes until that time. However, section 42 of Act 236 transferred funding for fiscal year 2026-27 for HISC to DAB. Shifting funds from where HISC staff and programs are administered to DAB before a transition plan is in place creates additional responsibilities at DAB at a time when energy and attention must be paid to other changes made by Act 236. If SB 1190 intends to remedy this situation, we strongly support this intention.

HISC has no statutory staff or positions. For years, DLNR has assigned its own civil service staff and has contracted additional project support to successfully carry out HISC duties and functions under chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). HISC's small staff carries out key invasive species prevention and response programs to extend the scope and reach of existing DAB, DLNR, Hawaii Department of Health, Hawaii Department of Transportation, and University of Hawaii biosecurity programs. HISC programs include 643PEST.org (an online reporting system developed and moderated by HISC), the Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment screening and Plant Pono program (programs to promote the use of non-invasive plants by consumers and land managers), and the Port of Entry Monitoring Program (a program that conducts monitoring surveys for high impact invasive species at air and sea port properties). Through its annual competitive grant program, HISC funding has also provided critical support for the island-based Invasive Species Committees and many other control and applied research projects on priority pests and weeds in each county. Sending HISC funds to DAB on July 1,

2026, to carry out the HISC duties in chapter 194, HRS, while HISC authorities are still attached to DLNR, does not seem efficient or practical.

For clarity, we respectfully suggest the Committees consider amending section 42 of Act 236 (2025) to provide that the fiscal year 2026-2027 HISC appropriation be expended by DLNR rather than DAB, as follows:

"Section 42 of Act 236, Sessions Laws of Hawaii, 2025, is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 42. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $4,250,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the operations of the Hawaii invasive species council.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of [~~agriculture and biosecurity~~] land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act."

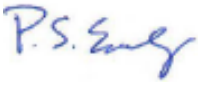
This amendment will prevent a situation in which two conflicting provisions appropriating funds for HISC exist: one in section 42 of Act 236 (2025), which provides HISC's funding to DAB, and one as set out in SB 1190, which provides the same funding to DLNR.

If the intent of SB 1190 is to provide additional funding above the amounts made available in Act 236 (2025), we strongly support this intent and appreciate the additional funding for HISC's important work to prevent and control invasive species in Hawaii.

We hope you will support SB 1190 to provide HISC's funding to its administrative agency for the fiscal year 2026-27. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and our support for this bill.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 11, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 1190
RELATING TO THE HAWAIʻI INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaiʻi Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaiʻi's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaiʻi Farm Bureau supports SB 1190, which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to strengthen statewide efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species.

Invasive species pose one of the most serious and ongoing threats to Hawai'i's agriculture, natural environment, food security, and local communities. Farmers and ranchers experience the impacts of invasive pests firsthand through increased production costs, reduced yields, land degradation, and long-term management challenges. Early detection, rapid response, and coordinated control efforts remain the most effective and cost-efficient strategies for limiting these impacts.

HISC plays a critical role in coordinating invasive species response across agencies, counties, and partners, and in supporting island-based response teams that address high-impact pests such as little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog. Continued investment in these efforts helps reduce the burden on individual landowners and producers while protecting shared public resources.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council received funding for FY 2025-2026 and FY 2026-2027 last year through Act 236 (Session Laws of Hawai'i 2025). To the extent that SB 1190 provides additional or supplemental resources to strengthen on-the-ground invasive species response efforts, HFB supports this measure.

Adequate and sustained funding for invasive species prevention and response is essential to protecting Hawai‘i’s agricultural economy, natural ecosystems, and quality of life. SB 1190 represents a greater investment in proactive solutions that benefit agriculture, conservation, and communities across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB1190
RELATING TO CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye & Richards, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB1190** which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to support its initiatives to control and eradicate invasive species in the State.

Invasive species threaten our ability to produce food and steward the land for future generations. The Hawaii Invasive Species Committee is critical for addressing invasive species and has awarded funds for research and early detection of invasive species that affect agriculture, such as the Two-lined Spittlebug. We support the continued funding of HISC.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Ranchers produce a high-quality protein and are the stewards of almost 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or nearly 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

O'AHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

The Senate
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, February 10, 2026
1:00 PM Conference Room 224
State Capitol

SUBJECT: Testimony – In Support of SB1190 "Relating to Hawai'i Invasive Species Council"

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Lee, Vice Chairs Richards and Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing on behalf of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) **in strong support of SB1190** which would appropriate funds for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC). I have included some statistics from 2025 OISC efforts utilizing HISC and leveraged funds to demonstrate the importance of the HISC allocation for biosecurity efforts across O'ahu.

Invasive species pose significant threats to the State, especially in terms of economic losses across some of the most prosperous industries in Hawai'i. According to a 2021 invasive species report, high-priority pests threaten well over $2 billion dollars in State assets and this amount has risen significantly since. Across North America this figure has climbed from $2 billion per year in the 1960s to over $26 billion per year in the 2010s, with a cumulative total cost estimated at $1.26 trillion between 1960 and 2017 (Crystal-Ornealas et. al. 2021). Globally, cost estimates resulting from invasive species threats have reached $423 billion dollars and are expected to quadruple each decade (IPBES 2023). HISC funds have saved the State billions of dollars. OISC hopes that these funds will continue to be available and that any proposed increases are also passed.

OISC provides relief to homeowners and business owners by being able to use HISC funds to work on their properties when many other agencies cannot. OISC works across all land-ownerships which makes our organization unique in the fight against invasive species. Other agencies cannot work on private lands, whether that is because of agency mandates or because capacity is limited. However, OISC is specifically set up to respond to priority pests regardless of property boundaries.

In utilizing FY2025 HISC funds actively and leveraging those funds to secure additional county and federal funds, OISC was able to:

- survey and treat across 834 acres for **Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*)**, including 280 responses and 13,823 vials analyzed for 27 unique sites;
- survey and treat across 203 acres for **Coqui Frog (*Eleutherodactylus coqui*)**, including 83 responses and 14,450 lbs of citric acid deployed for 3 unique sites;
- collect 26 samples across 121,652 survey acres of trees showing signs of **Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (*Ceratocystis lukuohia* and *C. huliohia*)**, leading to felling of one infected tree;

743 Ulukahiki Street • Kailua, Hawai'i 96734 • Ph: (808) 266-7994 Fax: (808) 266-7995
www.oahuisc.org

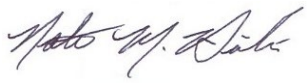
- treat 4,245 **priority weeds (including but not limited to miconia, devil weed, cane tibouchina, cape ivy, and Himalayan blackberry)** across 4,151 survey acres;
- engage the community by delivering outreach messaging regarding **priority pests** via 11,537 person-to-person contacts, 3,376 K-12 students, and 242,998 social media connections.

HISC provides OISC with much needed funding to be the second layer of protection when priority pests make it past inspection at the border and begin to establish in peoples backyards and on commercial properties. OISC utilizes HISC funds for early detection and rapid response to some of the world's worst invasive species that infiltrate our borders. OISC also utilizes HISC funds for public awareness and outreach efforts that are key to successful control. Species like little fire ant, coqui frog, miconia, fireweed, and many more. Without HISC funds, this work would not be possible.

By working in backyards and the low-elevation forest, OISC also protects our priority watershed areas by dealing with these invaders before they are able to establish in high-value forest. If OISC were not able to respond to these species and they establish in State Forest Reserves or Natural Area Reserves, they would become the responsibility of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). These HISC funds are also leveraged to secure other county and federal funding sources so that we can provide the most extensive response possible. HISC funds are critical to OISC's mission, the protection of the community, and the protection of our watershed.

OISC is grateful for the continued support from all of our partners at the State, the legislature, and the members of these Committees. In addition to our support for the continued baseline allocation for the HISC, we also encourage the proposed increase in appropriation to increase biosecurity efforts that protect our State. Invasive species will continue to be a threat to our economy, watersheds, and our way of life. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Nate Dube, OISC Manager

SB-1190
Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:29:21 PM
Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverley Brand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators Lee & Inouye, Senitors Gabbard & Richards,

I support SB 1190,

Mahalo, Beverley Brand

SB 1190 Testimony Opposed to passage.

By Ron Tubbs B.S.N.D.

Quick review of Uhu, and do we really need to ban them?

Adult Uhu release 5 million eggs per year per female. Most of Hawaii's population is not affected by fisheries because of isolated habitat and depth refuge locations. Near-shore fish counts and popular fishing areas are sure to show declines due to fishing pressure, but most populations observed at depth in remote areas seem intact and not in decline.

Uhu (parrotfish) are essential, color-changing reef grazers in Hawaii, with seven main species (including *Chlorurus perspicillatus*, *C. spilurus*, and *Calotomus carolinus*) that produce vital white sand by eating algae off coral. Key species include the large Ember (uhu 'ele'ele/pālukaluka) and Spectacled (uhu uliuli/ahu'ula) parrotfish, along with smaller Bullethead, Stareye, Palenose, and Regal type. Specifically, which species does Bill 1190 want to ban, and where are the fish counts to substantiate such a ban? How has that data been reviewed?

Blue Uhu the main species of fished UHU in Hawaii Chlorurus perspicillatus in fish base embedded link review shows

IUCN Red List Status:	Least Concern (LC); Date assessed: 16 September 2009 Ref. (130435)

Uhu are not CITES listed as endangered. Uhu are reef-associated; marine fishes with a wide depth range from shallow 1 - 71 m zero to 232 feet deep. They are abundant at depths beyond the fisherman's dive or free dive range.

Uhu (Hawaiian parrotfish) are incredibly prolific breeders, with large females or harem-leading males capable of producing and fertilizing **hundreds of thousands to millions of eggs** per spawning season. Uhu release large batches of tiny, buoyant eggs directly into the water column, often daily or weekly, typically during, or leading up to, a full moon.

Key facts about uhu reproduction and egg production:

- **Fecundity:** A single large male (or a large female in a harem) can fertilize or produce millions of eggs in a season.
- **Spawning Behavior:** They are pelagic spawners, releasing eggs into the current to be fertilized externally.

- **Spawning Season:** In Hawaii, large-bodied uhu spawn mainly from February to May, with peak activity in March and April.
- **Role of Size:** Larger, older female uhu are significantly more productive, producing many more eggs than smaller, younger fish.
- **Gender Changes:** Most parrotfish start as females (red/brown) and turn into males (blue/green) as they mature, with the largest individuals being the most productive.
- We have ignored the value and sustainability of ocean resources and overregulated sustainable fisheries to support unsustainable Tourism. With over 80% of our goods imported at extremely high carbon-footprint costs and very few exports, this policy is unsustainable.
-
- Seafood fisheries are in great decline! Fishers no longer go out due to overregulation and management. Please read about the decline in food fisheries in West Hawaii.
-
- **From the Findings and Recommendations of the Effectiveness of the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area (WHRFMA), Link:** Dar_hrs188-2025.pdf https://share.google/Oe2n82gYYINtg0KY1
-
- Pro-tourist groups would like nothing more than to increase our economy's dependence on them and for them to own the oceans to be seen and not used, but that is anti-ecology thinking.
-
- Sustainable use of renewable resources is key to Hawaii's ecological future. Anti-fishing policies must be implemented to have any chance of reducing the carbon footprint and meeting Hawaii's zero-carbon footprint goals.
-
- Thousands of DAR fish counts summarized in the "Findings and Recommendations of the Effectiveness of the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area (WHRFMA)" have shown low impacts and sustainable take, even at high numbers.
-
- No declines in fishery populations during aquarium fisheries activities in West Hawaii from 1999 to 2017, when the fishery was closed to do an environmental review. Please do not overburden sustainable high-value fisheries.
-

- **From the Findings and Recommendations of the Effectiveness of the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area (WHRFMA), Link:** Dar_hrs188-2025.pdf https://share.google/Oe2n82gYYINtg0KY1 and
- **DC114 | Hawaii 2020 | Rpt; Findings and Recommendations of ...** https://trackbill.com › bill › hawaii-senate-other-114-rpt-...
- See summary below of the most current fish populations, which are made up of the highest fished aquarium fish, showing no decline in populations after the fishery closed. In addition, look at the graphs. During the fishery collections, the highest fish populations were shown. If the fishery were not sustainable, there would have been a decline. **Ctenochaetus Strigosus Kole Tangs, Zebrasoma flavescens Yellow Tangs are among the most populous fish**. See the findings in the chart below.
-
- Hawaii DC114 *2020* Rpt; *Findings and Recommendations* of *Effectiveness of the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area* (WHRFMA) Report; DLNR.
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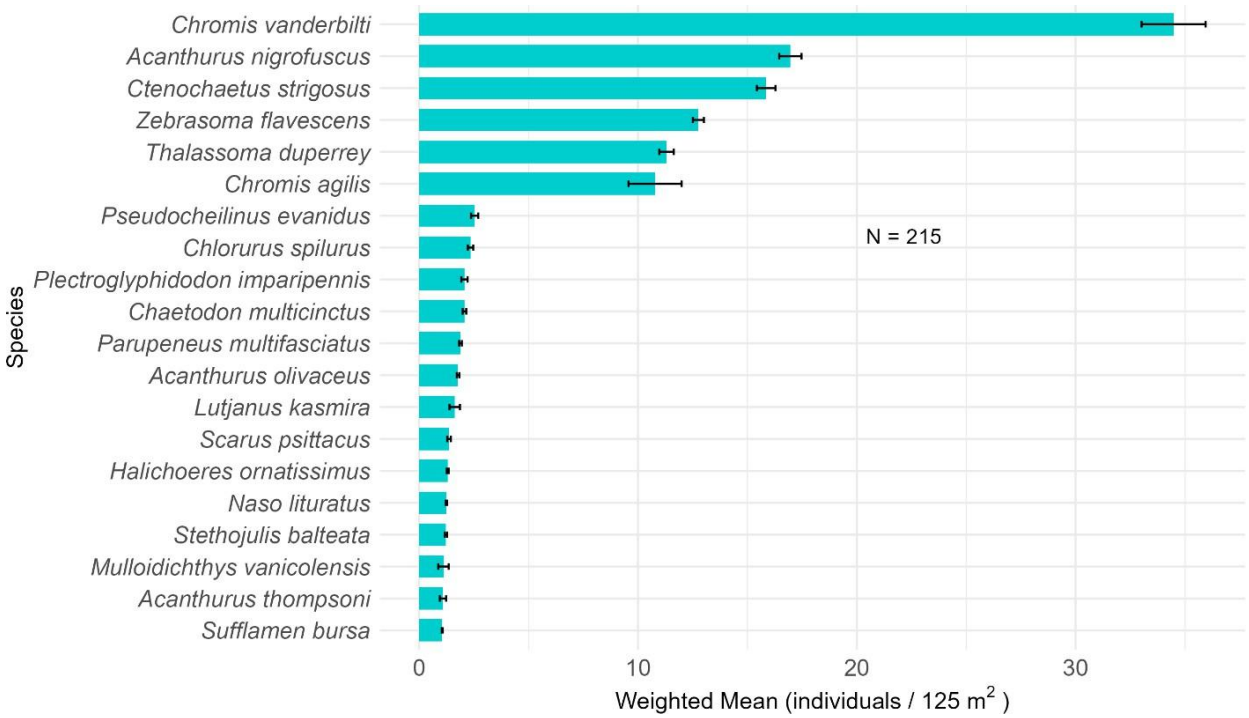


- ***Figure 20.*** *The 20 most abundant reef fish species recorded during 2022-2023 FAHU surveys. Mean density per transect (125 m^2) weighted by stratum weights with error bars to show weighted standard error for the sample size of 215 surveys across nine strata. Scientific names were used to distinguish*

species with overlapping Hawaiian names. Translations can be found in Appendix table A-1.

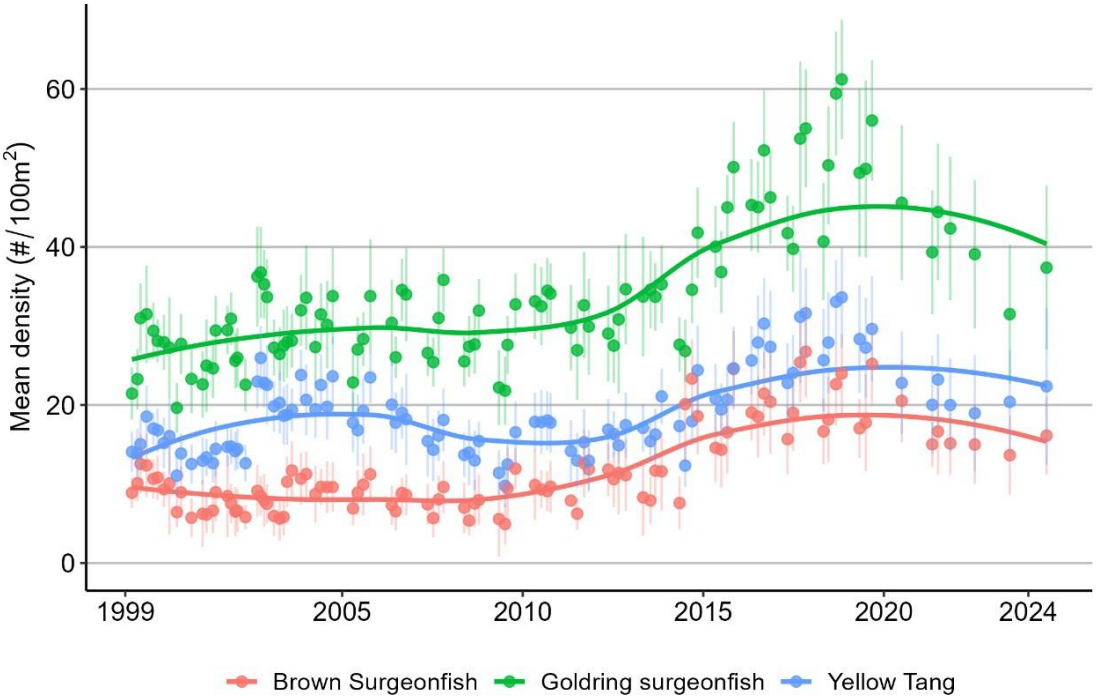
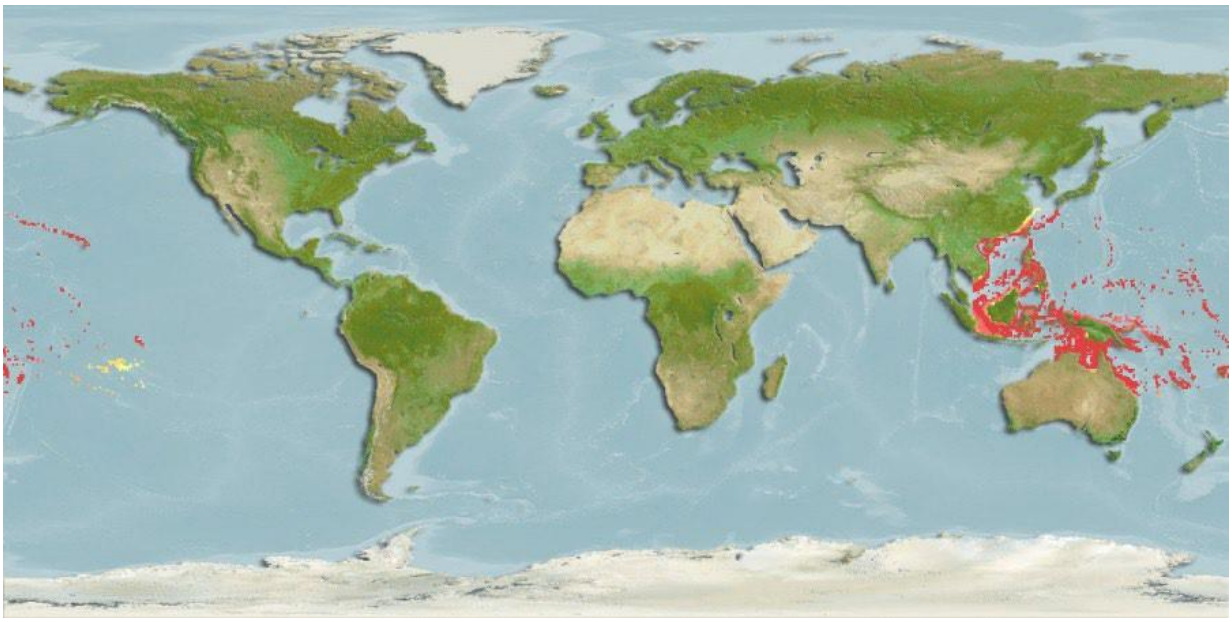


Figure 23*. Mean density of select small surgeonfishes in WHAP surveys. Points represent mean density across 25 WHAP sites for each survey round per species. Error bars represent standard deviation to depict the level of variability between sites. Recruit sized individuals are removed from these data for maʻiʻiʻi (red), kole (green), and lauʻīpala (blue) .*

- While these events create "feast or famine" conditions for species like salmon, they are part of a natural cycle that governs population dynamics. However, extreme events, now more frequent with climate change, can lead to dramatic, temporary collapses in certain fisheries. Embedded NOAA link.
- **Here is one review and the best example, based on the fisheries' most popular fish and the fish populations' resilience to the fishery.**
- **Yellow Tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*) E*cology***

- The Yellow Tang is one of the most popular aquarium species, growing to 8 inches in length, oval in shape, and laterally compressed. It has a small mouth and eyes set high on its head. Adults are bright yellow and have modified scales along the base of the tail, which can be exposed when the fish flexes its tail. These modified scales or spines are used for defense from predators and competition for feeding areas. At night, the yellow color darkens, and a white band appears along the lateral line (University of Hawai'i 2016).
- The Yellow Tang is the only solid yellow fish common throughout Hawai'i. This species is found in subtropical waters and is rare on the western extremes of its range. Flexible comb-like teeth are used to pick algae and seaweed that grow along the reefs. Young Yellow Tang are associated with finger coral (*Porites compressa*), which is abundant in the coastal waters of the island of Hawai'i, but less so on O'ahu (Dr. Bruce Carlson, pers. comm.). They spend a large amount of time feeding and aggressively protecting prime feeding territories (University of Hawai'i 2016). Yellow Tang are found from shallow surge zones to a depth of 130 feet. They occur in the Pacific Ocean: Ryukyu, Mariana, Marshall, Marcus, Wake, and the Hawaiian Islands. (Froese and Pauly 2020). Fish Base



- AquaMaps

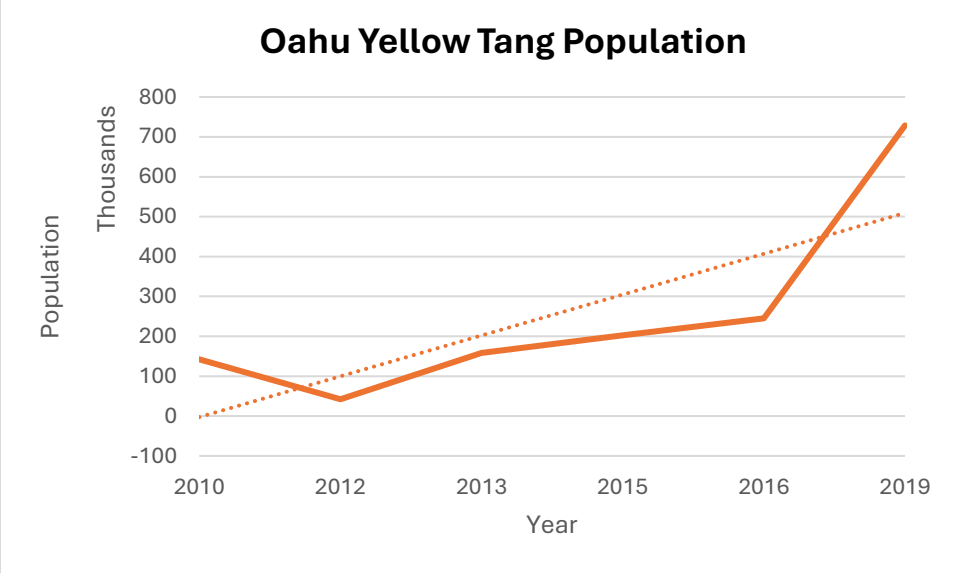
Computer Generated Native Distribution Map for Zebrasoma flavescens (Yellow tang), with modelled year 2050 native range map based on IPCC RCP8.5 emissions scenario

Currently known distribution: Pacific Ocean: Ryukyu, Mariana, Marshall, Marcus, Wake and Hawaiian islands. Has been reported off the coast of Florida in the Western Central Atlantic (Ref. 51238).

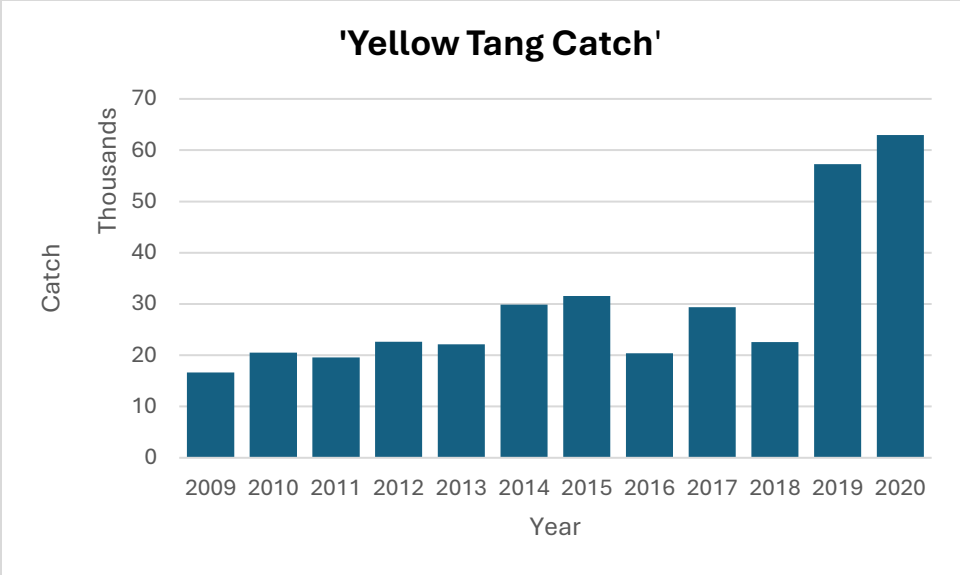
-
- Froese, R. and D. Pauly. Editors. 2024.FishBase. World Wide Web electronic publication. www.fishbase.org, (02/2024)
- Yellow tangs are not endemic to Hawaii with distribution Pacific Ocean: Ryukyu, Mariana, Marshall, Marcus, Wake and Hawaiian Islands. Has been reported off the coast of Florida in the Western Central Atlantic. They are normally 0 to 150 feet deep but have been reported in depths as deep as 265 feet. (Fish Base) The depth of yellow tangs can also protect populations from environmental effects. Deep Refuge Theory
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) **(https://www.iucnredlist.org/).** The cumulative review concluded that Yellow tangs are a species of "**least concern**" for management, environmental factors, and vulnerability to fishing.
-
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**https://cites.org/eng/disc/species.php**), CITES, does not list Yellow tangs in the red endangered species list.
-
- The Hawaii State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) does not list yellow tangs as a species of concern for further monitoring. Key factors considered for inclusion are individual species information, distribution, abundance, location, and key habitat, threats like fishing pressure and pollution, to produce conservation actions, monitoring, and identifying research priorities. In most cases IUCN Red List status is not considered
- (Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources. 2015. Hawai'i's State Wildlife Action Plan. Prepared by H. T. Harvey and Associates, Honolulu, Hawai'i. http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/swap/)
-
- Fish counts from 1999 to 2017 show an increase in fish counts according to the 2020 West Hawaii report to the Legislature, Overall Yellow Tang abundance in the 30'-60' depth range over the entire West Hawai'i coast is estimated to have increased by

over 3.4 million fish from 1999/2000 to 2017/2018 (150% increase) to a current population of about 5.7 million fish within this depth range alone.

- Oahu saw a similar increase, see below data tables. Indeed, at a number of locations around the state, 2014 recruitment has been termed ‘biblical’ (Talbot 2014). At the most southerly WHAP survey site (Manukā, Ka'u District), the number of Yellow Tang recruits in July 2014 was 390% higher than on any other previous survey at the site over the last 20 years.
- Oahu Yellow Tang, ***Zebrasoma flavescens,*** **DAR** Catch Report Data for the Aquarium Fishery between 2009 to 2020, comparison to Fish Populations 2010 to 2019 done by **PIFSC,** Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC). One would expect to see an inverse relationship in these charts if the fishery were not sustainable. The Oahu Aquarium Fishery's most targeted species, Yellow Tangs, from 2009 to 2020, has the following data that supports the fishery despite increased take being done at a sustainable level.



- 2010 to 2019 done by PIFSC, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC)
- Yellow Tangs Zebrasoma flavescens 2010-2019 Oahu Population Hard Bottom
- 0-98 ft only.



- DAR Catch Report Stats Yellow Tangs Zebrasoma flavescens 2009-2020

- Catchability of yellow tangs I considered medium, with most fish in an area available to avoid capture. There is no bycatch, and under- or oversized illegal-sized fish are released unharmed if captured. Small mesh nets do not entangle fish but block their paths long enough to be caught with hand nets. Entanglement of fish or gill nets is highly avoided because any damage to the fish results in unsellable fish. Fish become net-wise quickly, and fishermen must move to new locations after two net sets. Fish regularly avoid nets passing on either side or going under them in coral or rocky areas. Fish can easily outswim divers who travel at most 1.726 mph while fish can swim up to 67 mph. With the aid of underwater scooters, a diver may be able to reach speeds of 3 mph. But most divers do not use underwater scooters. Divers also employ fishery management techniques to enhance their catch by avoiding certain areas for 6 months or more. Fish return to their fishing grounds quickly and also repopulate quickly.

- In 2015, laws enacted utilizing Oahu Fisher's and DAR scientist reviews placed further restrictions on Yellow Tangs with a lengthy rules package. These were done to address any future environmental effects and increased fishing pressure even though the fishery was considered stable at the time.

- Net lengths were reduced to 30 feet in length and 6 feet in height. That reduces potential catch greatly. In addition, size limits for catch were imposed. No yellow tang less than 1.5 inches in length can be taken, and no yellow tang more than 5

inches in length can be taken. The total daily catch was also limited to 100 yellow tangs per day by law, which are still in effect. (BLNR rules package Oahu 2015)

- Yellow Tang are broadcast spawners. Many broadcast spawners migrate to the edge of the reef drop off to spawn at dusk or dawn (Thresher 1984). Males and females simultaneously release eggs and sperm into the water column, where the eggs are fertilized before floating to the surface until they hatch 20-30 hours later (Thresher 1984).). Over time, the larvae develop the ability to adjust their depth and eventually become strong swimmers (reviewed in Christe et al. 2010).
- Successful larvae dispersal data shows the main deeper depth habitat of larvae to be 100m, below PIFSC-ESD (2020) data depth count range of 30 m, and the larvae can travel from one end of the Main Hawaiian Islands to the other in 45 days. (Wren, Johanna LK. *Reef fish connectivity in the Hawaiian archipelago: A biophysical modeling approach*. University of Hawai'i at Manoa, 2016.)
-
-
- Christe et al. (2010) conducted a novel parentage analysis that matched post-settlement juveniles with their parents. This study demonstrated that larval yellow tangs disperse from 15 to 184 km from the place they were spawned (Christe et al. 2010). Over longer (evolutionary) time scales, yellow tang populations show signs of genetic connectivity across thousands of kilometers of ocean (Eble et al. 2009).
-
- However, survival of recruits increases in areas with suitable habitat and few adult fish (i.e., reduced competition) (Claisse et al. 2009b), suggesting that high fecundity and robust source populations (such as in marine protected areas [MPAs]) could restock areas that had been depleted due to overfishing
-
- Tissot and Hallacher (2003) did not find widespread coral or habitat damage associated with this fishery. Fishing with poison and other destructive fishing methods is illegal in Hawaii and these practices are not commonly employed (Walsh et al. 2004).
-
- Because they are key to the aquafarm fishery , Yellow Tangs DNA Dispersal, and Biodiversity Journal Genetic population connectivity has been studied extensively in the Hawaiian Archipelago.
- Despite decades of research, factors that drive population patterns and connectivity in the ocean are Still hotly debated and largely unknown. With a changing climate and an ever-increasing anthropogenic strain, protecting our oceans for future generations is vital. Coral reefs are some of the most productive

ecosystems on earth, and in order to protect them we need to gain a deeper understanding of the biological and physical dynamics that govern species distributions and survival.

-
- Connectivity patterns in the Main Hawaiian Islands are not explained by the
- physical oceanographic environment, rather, biological and anthropogenic factors are likely important for dispersal. The biophysical model identified distinct breaks in the archipelago where larval exchange is limited, and I was able to describe the directionality and relative size of dispersal between the MHI and the NWHI. Understanding larval exchange between the MHI and NWHI is important because the MHI are heavily fished while the NWHI are protected as part of one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

-
- These periodic long distance dispersal events may contribute to the exchange
- of genes between distant populations, and allowing greater genetic diversity and potentially building resilience towards changing environments.
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- https://www.proquest.com/openview/3b37a5eabdbcd58f342db462d01c61f4/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750
- Wren, Johanna LK. *Reef fish connectivity in the Hawaiian archipelago: A biophysical modeling approach*. University of Hawai'i at Manoa, 2016.

-
- Yellow tangs have a lower reproductive fecundity at 1.14 million larvae per pair per year, estimated to be lower than other tangs. Still, that is an impressive number despite a less than one percent larvae survival rate to the adult breeding stage. (E.S.Munday, BN Tissot)

- Yellow tangs produce 44 to 24,00 eggs per spawn two days in a row, mainly around the full moon. An estimate of annual fecundity (mean ±s.e. 1, 055 628 ± 120 596 eggs) was also generated using a simple model of the lunar variability in egg production. Females greater than 20mm in length are estimated to produce one million 55 thousand eggs per year, similar to the reported 1.14 million reported in a different study. Yellow tangs as small as 2.6 inches 65mm have reproductive organs and oocytes in their ovaries.

- Schemmel, Eva. "Size at maturity for yellow tang (Zebrasoma flavescens) from the Oahu, HI, aquarium fishery." *Environmental Biology of Fishes* 104.9 (2021): 1139-1147.
-
- So with 12 full moons two days of spawning per full moon = 24 spawn days x 24,000

= 576,000 and 44,000 x 24 =1,066,000 larvae per female per year. Females are the rate-limiting sex as males produce more sperm than females produce oocytes.

-
- So per pair per year, depending on reproductive size, yellow tangs produce 576,000 to 1 million 66 thousand eggs per spawn per pair per year.
- Multiply the total range by times the number of estimated yellow tangs, 728,777 each on Oahu for the 0- 98 foot survey range alone. To get potential renewal populations, we can now estimate renewal based on a low average of 1 % survival to the adult breeding stage.
- So on Oahu alone, 414 billion 550 million new yellow tang fry <98ft times 1% survival adult stage per year, divided by two for one male and one female pair results in an estimated 4 billion 145 million potential new adult stage yellow tangs on Oahu reefs every year. The estimate does not include a reduced amount for size fecundity or increased populations for depths greater than 98 feet. However, it also does not account for the much greater populations that we know exist and extend deeper than 98 feet, so these figures are very conservative.
-
- With a conservative maximum sustainable yield of 25%, catch equals 1 billion 36 million sustainable catches, with a current 2024 value of $ 169.00 per tank-raised yellow tang.
- That would mean a potential income of $175 billion in highly renewable, sustainably caught fish for yellow tangs alone.

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- Bushnell, M. E., J. T. Claisse, and C. W. Laidley. "Lunar and seasonal patterns in fecundity of an indeterminate, multiple-spawning surgeonfish, the yellow tang Zebrasoma flavescens." *Journal of Fish Biology* 76.6 (2010): 1343-1361.
-
- Yellow tangs reach sexual maturity at 4–6 years old and can live for at least 41 years (J.T. Claisse, unpublished data). Individuals that reach adulthood have the potential to be reproductively active for decades.
- Male yellow tangs grow quicker than females, which ensures female egg fertilization. The aquarium fishery is a juvenile fishery that does not remove the highly reproductive breeders, instead leaving them on the reefs to quickly repopulate.
- Earlier studies (2004 Tissot) regarding fishery impacts and population decreases, and it was disproved over time. The 2003, 2004 **(Tissot and Hallacher 2003)** West Hawaii studies were just a snapshot in time; impact of fishery less than 2004

study implied. Populations vary depending on various ecosystem variations and fish count dates. West Hawaii Alone reported from 1999/2000 to 2017/2018 (150% increase) to a current population of about 5.7 million fish within the 30-98 foot depth range alone. After recruitment, counts will be higher than before recruitment. 2014 and 2015 warming events in the Pacific saw a biblical increase in fish population when, more than likely, a greater than 1% occurred to the adult breeding stage. Oahu reported these same fish population increases, as also reported in the West Hawaii 2020 report to the Legislature.

- Thornhill, Daniel J. "Ecological impacts and practices of the coral reef wildlife trade." *Defenders of Wildlife*
- 187 (2012): 137-141.
-
- Froese and Pauly (2023) indicate that Yellow Tang populations have high resilience, with a population doubling time of less than 15 months.

- (Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**-10**).
-
- PIFSC-ESD (2020) data indicate that the 2019 island of O'ahu population of Yellow Tang at the 0–98-foot depth in hardbottom habitats was approximately 728,777 individuals. Furthermore, they are found to inhabit depths of 2 to 46 meters, 6 ft-150 ft (Froese and Pauly 2023), and therefore the actual population may be higher since PIFSC-ESD surveys are limited to 30 meters in depth. The species is listed as 'Least Concern' by the IUCN (Mcllwein et al. 2012a; Table Error! No text of specified style in document.**-10**).

- Mismatch analyses indicate the oldest contemporary populations are in the Hawaiian Archipelago (ca. 318000 yr) with younger populations in the West Pacific (91000 to 175000 yr). Estimates of yellow tang historical demography contradict expectations of Hawaii as a population sink and instead indicate asymmetrical gene flow, with Hawaii exporting rather than importing yellow tang larvae.

- Yellow tangs originated in the Western Pacific and migrated to Hawaii. Many considered endemic species have their origins elsewhere than Hawaii and rode in on currents from areas like those from Okinawa, which is 4820 miles away from Hawaii. Once reaching Hawaii, they continued to spread long distances using broadcast breeding. Early DNA studies linked Maui as an original destination hotspot for these larval Hawaii Imports, which has greatly expanded from the young 1.3 million-year-old Maui to the 3 to 4 million-year-old Oahu and the 500,000-year-old Big Island. A recent article by Reef Builders discusses the fact

that Yellow tangs are also found in the Calayan Islands, 5,325 miles away from Hawaii. This validates other information showing distribution to and from very distant distances.

- https://reefbuilders.com/2024/09/30/rvs-finds-yellow-tangs-noble-anthias-and-more-at-calayan-island-
- philippines/#:~:text=But%20with%20the%20Hawaii%20fishery,in%20the%20far%20North%20Philippines.
-
-
- Eble, J. A., Toonen, R. J., Sorenson, L., Basch, L. V., Papastamatiou, Y. P., & Bowen, B. W. (2011). Escaping paradise: larval export from Hawaii in an Indo-Pacific reef fish, the yellow tang Zebrasoma flavescens. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, *428*, 245-258.
- Williams, I. D., et al. "Impacts of a Hawaiian marine protected area network on the abundance and fishery sustainability of the yellow tang, Zebrasoma flavescens." *Biological Conservation* 142.5 (2009): 1066- 1073.
-
- Claisse, Jeremy T., et al. "Habitat-and sex-specific life history patterns of yellow tang Zebrasoma flavescens in Hawaii, USA." *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 389 (2009): 245-255.
- Claisse, Jeremy T., et al. "Habitat-and sex-specific life history patterns of yellow tang Zebrasoma flavescens in Hawaii, USA." *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 389 (2009): 245-255.
- *Cultural Significance*
-
- The Yellow Tang, called *lā'ī pala* or *lau'ī pala* in Hawai'i, although small, was considered a delicacy and also involved in healing rituals.
- A much higher value is obtained by using the fish for aquarium purposes. Each yellow tang is currently valued at $169.00 in retail.
- **Findings and Recommenda ons of Effec veness of the West ...**
- Department of Land and Natural Resources - Hawaii (.gov)
- https://dlnr.hawaii.gov › 2024/12 › ar_hrs188-2025
-
- Dec 4, 2024 — This report, which covers the period between *2020* - 2024, is submited in compliance with Act. 306, Session Laws of *Hawai'i* (SLH) 1998, ...
- **Findings and Recommendations of Effectiveness of the West ...**
- Department of Land and Natural Resources (.gov)
- https://dlnr.hawaii.gov › 2020/05 › ar_hrs188_2020

- In December 2013, the *West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area* (WHRFMA) Hawai'i. Administrative Rule (HAR) was amended to include a ban on SCUBA ...
- 107 pages

Source:

Reef Fish Reproduction - Frank Baensch https://share.google/jxzffibnCMGJFeJA1

How to Identify Maui's Regulated Uhu (parrotfish) Species

Department of Land and Natural Resources - Hawaii (.gov)
https://dlnr.hawaii.gov › 2015/05 › Maui-uhu-ID
Uhu 'ahu'ula ♀ Broad white band at base of caudal fin, extending into the fin. Reddish-brown anteriorly, abruptly changing to yellowish-gray posteriorly.

Comparisons of body sizes at sexual maturity and at sex change in the parrotfishes of Hawaii: input needed for management regulations and stock assessments

EE DeMartini, KG Howard - Journal of **fish** biology, 2016 - Wiley Online Library
... **Chlorurus** spilurus, stareye Calotomus carolinus, spectacled **Chlorurus perspicillatus** and ...
, and other size-structured reef-**fish populations**, should be recorded either by species or by ...
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Parrotfish population dynamics from the Marianas Islands, with a description of the demographic and reproductive characteristics of Chlorurus sordidus final report to ...

JL McIlwain, BM Taylor, AW Bruckner - 2009 - repository.library.noaa.gov
... and optimal effort and thus have severe, negative effects on the targeted **fish populations**. ...
phase **fish** (Figure 21b). These included sites along the northeast coasts such as **Hawaiian** ...
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Comparative growth, age at maturity and sex change, and longevity of Hawaiian parrotfishes, with bomb radiocarbon validation

EE DeMartini, AH Andrews, KG Howard... - ... Journal of **Fisheries** ..., 2018 - cdnsciencepub.com

... **Chlorurus** spilurus, and to 15–20 years in Scarus rubroviolaceus and **Chlorurus perspicillatus**
... of coral reef **fish populations** in the Main and Northwestern **Hawaiian** Islands. PLoS ONE, ...
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[PDF] researchgate.net

Bioerosion of coral reefs by two Hawaiian parrotfishes: species, size differences and fishery implications

L Ong, KN Holland - Marine biology, 2010 - Springer
... sized **Hawaiian** parrotfishes with two different feeding modes (Scarus rubroviolaceus—a
scraper and **Chlorurus perspicillatus**... that large parrotfishes in **Hawaii** are ecologically important ...
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Length-based assessment of coral reef fish populations in the Main and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

MO Nadon, JS Ault, ID Williams, SG Smith... - PLoS ..., 2015 - journals.plos.org
... local **population**. However, a major stock assessment of **Hawaiian** coral reef **fish populations**
has ... phase of the **population** (L)", estimated from size composition data from commercial ...
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[PDF] academia.edu

Assessing the importance of fishing impacts on Hawaiian coral reef fish assemblages along regional-scale human population gradients

ID Williams, WJ Walsh, RE Schroeder... - Environmental ..., 2008 - cambridge.org
... , coral reef **fish stocks** close to human **population** centres will ... impact of **fishing** on coral reef
fish assemblages in **Hawaii**, ... a variety of **fish** stock metrics and local human **population** using ...
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[PDF] peerj.com

Use of multivariate control charts to assess the status of reef fish assemblages in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

A Fukunaga, RK Kosaki - PeerJ, 2017 - peerj.com

... analyzed reef **fish** monitoring data collected annually on shallow (≤30 m) reefs across the
... **Hawaiian** Islands (NWHI), part of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. **Fish** ...
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SB-1190
Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:13:41 PM
Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

SB-1190
Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:41:50 AM
Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Support

1190 SB RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL.

SB-1190
Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:54:43 PM
Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Euaparadorn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB1190, which appropriates funds to the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to support efforts to control and eradicate invasive species in the State. HISC plays a critical role in Hawai‘i’s biosecurity system by coordinating cross-agency response, supporting early detection and rapid response, and funding on-the-ground programs that protect our environment, agriculture, and communities. Continued and reliable funding for HISC is essential as Hawai‘i faces ongoing and emerging invasive species threats, including little fire ants and other high-impact pests.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.