

Luna Kekoa
Division of Aquatic Resources
Department of Land and Natural Resources
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Aloha Mr. Kekoa,

On behalf of the Miloli'i fishing village in South Kona, Hawai'i the non-profit organization Kalanihale is writing to express our intent to work with the Department of Land and Natural Resources on the development of fisheries management rules, other regulations, and a management plan for the Miloli'i Community-based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA).

Organization Mission and Founding Date: Founded in 2012, Kalanihale's mission is to improve the educational, environmental, and cultural well-being of community members of Miloli'i and South Kona. Our vision is that Miloli'i is a thriving Hawaiian fishing community with a healthy environment including abundant marine resources and successful families that have a strong sense of place and identity, a pride in their Hawaiian culture, and a healthy quality of life socially, economically, and culturally.

CBSFA Site: The CBSFA that is the focus of this LOI is the Miloli'i CBSFA, which was designated by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 2008. The proposed boundaries for this area are from Kipāhoehoe to Kauna. Exact GPS coordinates will be provided as the management plan and draft rules are developed. This covers an approximately 18 mile area of coastline that is the traditional fishing area of the Miloli'i community.

Representation: Kalanihale was founded by and is comprised of community members from Miloli'i. The members of Kalanihale have been working to improve the environmental, educational, and social aspects of the Miloli'i community for more than 10 years. They participated in the process that led to the creation of the Miloli'i CBSFA in 2008 and since then have worked to raise community member attention on the needed to address the ongoing declines in marine resources in Miloli'i.

Consultations and Support: We have attached both a draft proposed set of rules and a draft summary of our management actions. These have been developed by a core group of community members through a series of community consultations. Our consultation process took place over the past three plus years and included:

1. From 2015-2017, a series of community family consultations. Members of our core group undertook interviews with nearly all community families. This included 65 people. During these consultations the majority of people interviewed indicated that they felt the marine resources of Miloli'i had declined in their lifetimes and that managed action should be taken.

Specific input was provided on the types of management actions that those interviewed felt should be taken.

2. Based on the input provided, a core group spent nearly two years developing a set of draft rules and management actions. The process included securing input of community kūpuna, periodic community meetings to secure additional community member input, guidance of marine biologists. The draft rules and management actions were presented to DAR Biologist, previous CBSFA coordinator, and other staff (Dr. Bill Walsh, Shae Kamaka‘ala, Megan Lamson, Lindsey Kramer, and Nikki Sanderlin) in a meeting in Miloli‘i with our core group and received their support.
3. These draft rules and management actions were presented back to community members and to individuals living in the sub-division near the Miloli‘i community. This was done both through one on one meetings, through an on-line survey, outreach events and through a community meeting held during September 2019. The feedback from these most recent consultations both with community members and people living in the sub-division was universal support for the draft rules and management actions.

Fisheries Management Issues: The major fisheries management issue in Miloli‘i is the long -term decline in the abundance and diversity of priority fish and invertebrate species that have long been important to the community for cultural, economic, and social reasons. Specific concerns include:

1. Community members believe declines in key species are primarily a result of long-term overfishing and disregarding of traditional management approaches that were historically practiced and maintained abundant populations of priority species.
2. Additionally, in recent years coral bleaching and high mortality as a result of increased sea surface temperatures during El Nino years has caused significant concerns among community members.
3. Seasonal changes in fish behavior, migration and spawning are also a concern.
4. Aquarium fishing which has been practiced in a portion of the proposed CBSFA boundary is also something that several community members are concerned about having an impact on their nearshore fisheries.
5. Illegal use of animal-based baits to catch ‘ōpelu and lack of legally enforceable seasonal closures has also been a long-term concern for community members.

Develop a CBSFA Proposal: Kalanihale with the support of CI and many community members has already developed a draft set of fisheries management rules and draft management actions. We have the capacity and technical support to complete the management and rules and to participate in the public process for consideration of these rules. We look forward to working with the DLNR to further the development of the Miloli‘i CBSFA.

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Sincerely,



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