



FISHERS FORUM: The Future of Honu Management
6 to 9 p.m., June 16, 2011
2933 Kalakaua Ave, Honolulu HI (Elks Club)

Hawaiian green turtles, also known as *honu*, have been protected under state and federal regulations for nearly four decades. In the early 1970s, the honu population depended on about 150 females nesting in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, but it has since increased steadily at a rate of 5.7% annually. Today, residents and visitors of Hawaii frequently see honu in the waters and on the beaches of the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI). Scientific research estimates the current population to be at over 80% of pre-exploitation levels (early 1940s). Some foraging areas around the MHI, such as at Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park, are approaching or have reached carrying capacity, according to a recent study.

The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), under which the honu is listed as threatened, aims to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. When a listed species reaches a level where long-term survival in the wild is ensured, the species may be removed from the list (“delisting”) and the ESA goal of recovery is achieved. The delisting process includes a thorough scientific assessment of the species status, a review of the threats to the species and its habitat, and an examination of the regulatory protections and management mechanisms for the species outside of the ESA. The process, while taking many years to complete, ensures that a species is no longer threatened or endangered before delisting, and that it and its habitat are adequately protected and managed after delisting. ESA recoveries include the American alligator (delisted in 1987), gray whale (delisted in 1994), and bald eagle (delisted in 2007), among others.

In this forum, a panel of experts and community members will share their knowledge about the science, threats and regulatory mechanisms regarding honu and explore ideas for the future management of the honu if the population is delisted.

DRAFT AGENDA

6:00pm Informational Booths and Refreshments

Learn about current status, research and conservation of green turtles in Hawaii, and enjoy educational activities with the keiki.

6:45pm Welcome & Introductions

Opening Remarks by Micah McCarty, Chairman of Makah Tribe
“Makah Tribe’s Experience with Gray Whale Management”

7:15pm Panel Discussion

Moderator: Stewart Allen, Social Scientist, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

Panelists:

- Scientist (Thierry Work, U.S. Geological Survey)
- NMFS (Lance Smith, NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office)
- DLNR (Earl Miyamoto, Marine Wildlife Program, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources)
- Tourism Representative (Danny Akaka Jr., Mauna Lani Resort)
- Fisherman (Frank Farm)
- Native Hawaiian (Mac Poepoe)

8:15pm Public Forum & Door Prizes

Join the discussion & share your mana`o! Stay with us to the end for your chance to win prizes from Pacific Ocean Producers, Nico’s at Pier 38, Hawaii Fishing News, and more.

The Fishers Forum is part of the 151st Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, being held June 15-18, 2011, at the Waikiki Marriott Resort and Spa.

More information at www.wpcouncil.org/meetings, email info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov or call 522-8220.