

MILOLI‘I COMMUNITY BASED SUBSISTENCE FISHING AREA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

WHAT IS A CBSFA?

“(a) The department of land and natural resources may designate community based subsistence fishing areas and carry out fishery management strategies for such areas, through administrative rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91, for the purpose of reaffirming and protecting fishing practices customarily and traditionally exercised for purposes of native Hawaiian subsistence, culture, and religion.” CBSFA Statute - Act 271 - HRS § 188-22.6 (1994)

WHY IS A CBSFA BEING PROPOSED?

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 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 fishers and 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.

WHY DO WE NEED A CBSFA?

Key subsistence species in Miloli‘i, such as pāku‘iku‘i, kole, uhu, among others are declining. We need to restock our ice box and protect the subsistence livelihoods of the Miloli‘i families and others who depend on this area for food. The Miloli‘i CBSFA draft proposed rules and management plan will ensure that Miloli‘i families and future generations will have the resources to continue to thrive through subsistence practices.

WHO IS BEHIND THIS PROPOSAL?

A letter of Inquiry (LOI) was submitted by Kalanihale on behalf of the Miloli‘i Community in Dec 2019 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to let them know the community is interested in a formal process to develop fisheries management rules, other regulations, and a management plan for the Miloli‘i CBSFA. 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, pride in their Hawaiian culture, and a healthy quality of life socially, economically, and culturally.

WILL THE AREA BE KAPU TO ALL FISHING?

No. Under this proposal, some type of fishing will be allowed in the whole area. However, this proposal includes bag limits, size limits, seasonal closures, and gear restrictions for certain species, as well as special regulations in the Pu‘uhonua’s, Pāku‘iku‘i & ‘Opihi rest area’s and the Miloli‘i Bay Community Fishing Area.

DO THESE RULES EXCLUDE PEOPLE FROM FISHING?

No, the proposed rules will apply to everyone equally. Unlike Marine Life Conservation Districts (MLCDs) and other Fish Replenishment Areas or no-take areas, these draft proposed CBSFA rules do not restrict all types of fishing. Subsistence and recreational fishing activities will continue, but they will be guided by traditional and customary fishing management practices.

WHAT INFORMATION AND SCIENCE INFORMS THESE DRAFT PROPOSED RULES?

This proposal has been informed by generational observations, understanding and wisdom of fishing families of Miloli'i. Since 2016, community members have been actively monitoring the area by conducting nearshore fish, coral and intertidal surveys. Local fishers have also provided observations of this area and described a decline in size, population and catch of pāku'iku'i, 'opihi, and 'ū'ū. We have also partnered with local researchers from Conservation International, University of Hawai'i and Division of Aquatic Resources to conduct biological surveys of the resources.

HOW WILL THE AREA BE ENFORCED?

DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) is responsible for enforcement of rules that are adopted for the CBSFA. DOCARE will patrol the area and respond to reported violations as time and resources allow. In addition, DLNR will provide training to community volunteers and any interested persons on how to properly observe, document, and report violations. DLNR does not condone the use of threatening or other criminal behaviors by any member of the public, nor does it authorize any member of the public to enforce natural resource laws. Miloli'i Makai Watch has also been re-activated and community members were trained in current rules and regulations to know if illegal activities are being practiced and how to report them to DOCARE.

IS THIS CBSFA A DONE DEAL?

No. DLNR encourages any interested person to attend the upcoming public scoping meetings to learn more about the proposal and provide feedback and comments. Your input will be carefully considered and will help to ensure that the area remains abundant in marine resources to support traditional and customary native Hawaiian fishing and gathering practices for current and future generations. After five years, the community will work with DAR to evaluate the status and progress of the CBSFA and management plan and adjust accordingly.

HOW WAS THE SITE SELECTED?

The area was designated by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 2005. 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 18.6 mile area of coastline that is the traditional fishing area of the Miloli'i community. This boundary covers the traditional near shore fishing area of the Miloli'i community and includes all reef and 'ōpelu ko'a which are important for subsistence fishing and to the cultural practices of the community.

WHY DID YOU SELECT THESE SPECIES?

These species were selected based on results from community participant interviews. The results showed that these species were important food fish and that their population numbers were of concern. Specific rationale is also noted in the management plan.