

West Hawai'i Aquarium Project: Fishery Management of Marine Protected Areas



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WHAP survey status

as of August 2002



East Hawai'i (Kapoho & Richardson's)

- Four surveys conducted this year; 41 total (n=268)

West Hawai'i (23 sites)

- Two surveys conducted this year; 19 total (n= 1743 transects)
 - 6 pre-reserve closure; 13 post-reserve closure

WHAP Results



1. Aquarium fishes in Fishery Replenishment Areas continue to increase in abundance relative to open areas
2. Recruitment of juvenile fishes is an important process influencing reserve effectiveness
3. Yellow tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*) juveniles are more abundant in finger coral (*Porites compressa*) relative to other habitats; habitat may also influence reserve effectiveness

WHAP Plans



1. Continue surveys in east and west Hawai'i into late summer and fall
2. Installation of echo sounder almost complete; begin habitat surveys at study sites
3. Prepare and submit manuscript on pre-reserve WHAP surveys to *Ecological Applications*
4. Plan and develop proposal to *NSF Biocomplexity* program for continued funding source