

Presentation #4 - Coral Restoration Decision-Making Framework for Hawaii

Wednesday, November 17, 2020 – 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. PST

PRESENTER

- Bert Weeks, National Coral Reef Management Fellow, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources

ABSTRACT

In response to the decline of coral reefs globally, there has been an increase in diverse and innovative conservation efforts. The State of Hawaii suffered dramatic coral losses during the 2014, 2015, and 2019 coral bleaching events and coral reef restoration has emerged as a strategy critical to ensuring the survival of these imperiled ecosystems. The Department of Land and Natural Resources - Division of Aquatic Resources (DLNR-DAR) is working with communities, researchers, managers, and non-governmental organizations to develop a decision-making framework for coral reef restoration activities in the state. The collaborative development of the framework evaluates coral restoration methods, location evaluation, and prioritization, all of which support the State's first wetland program plan. At the end of this endeavor, the state will be better positioned to fulfil its regulatory role for permitting coral restoration projects both fostering advancement and innovation while ensuring protection of these invaluable aquatic ecosystems.

BIO



Bert Weeks recently graduated from Scripps Institution of Oceanography with a master's degree in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation and is currently working with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources as part of National Coral Reef Management Fellowship. Bert provides support and coordination on a variety of coral reef conservation and restoration efforts. Among his many responsibilities, he has seen to the rapid progress of the state's coral restoration framework and will continue to develop and facilitate a collaborative process with stakeholder communities.