



Enforcement Working Group

Work Plan

Issue: Enforcement

Enforcement ensures compliance with existing regulations and laws. The entire spectrum of enforcement including a review of existing laws and regulations that serve to protect sanctuary resources and current efforts in ensuring compliance will be addressed. A variety of management strategies might be considered to address the issue, such as voluntary compliance, penalty and fines, protocols and community engagement.

Description:

The SAC Enforcement Working Group will look at enforcement as an important issue raised by the public. A standing Sanctuary Interagency Law Enforcement Task Force was organized to coordinate enforcement efforts within the Sanctuary and includes the following responsible offices: NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard, State of Hawaii DLNR DOCARE and NOAA General Counsel. The members of this SAC Enforcement Working Group consist of the task force members in addition to SAC representatives and other members of the public.

The group will engage in two primary activities: 1) describing and evaluating current enforcement efforts and the public's perceptions of those efforts based on current regulations (what's working vs. what's not working, etc); and 2) evaluating future enforcement based on possible future regulations (what can be enforced, etc). Recommendations may address the entire spectrum from removing restrictions to methods to enhance compliance with existing regulations to proposing changes to existing regulations or crafting completely new regulations.

Method of Communication within the Working Group:

The Enforcement Working Group will meet on a regular basis, at least monthly by conference call or in-person as available. A regular schedule will be established.