



Fishermen's Pledge for the Future

Pacific Islands Fisheries Group
"Accept Responsibility and Be Accountable"

I /We _____, pledge as a responsible fisherman to conduct fishing practices in a manner that demonstrates stewardship philosophies that sustain and perpetuate our ocean resources, island culture, community and family. The ocean is our icebox, be responsible when fishing by only taking fish needed, eating fish fresh and not wasting. Whenever possible, I/We will share catch with family, friends and the elderly so they can eat and enjoy healthy Hawaii seafood.

I /We will practice, and encourage others to practice, wise use of our fishery and aquatic resources by:

1. Learning and following fishing laws and regulations that apply to my fishing location and practices;
2. Taking only what is needed and practicing "catch & release" of fish that are unwanted or prohibited from being retained;
3. Practicing safe fishing principles and safety at sea by following the relevant laws and using common sense to prevent injury to one's self, others and property;
4. Engaging in rule-making processes that determine how our shared resources will be managed;
5. Being respectful of other resource users by:
 - Not over-crowding areas or interfering with other fishermen or resource users;
 - Observing private property by always asking and receiving permission before entering private lands;
 - Respecting all fishing practices, traditions and cultures and taking time to engage others in positive dialog.
6. Being knowledgeable about and respectful of all natural resources by:
 - Observing, monitoring and investigating the condition of our resources;
 - Learning the life cycles of fish, so you know when it is best to sustainably fish for them;
 - Being mindful of catching juvenile fish that have not yet been able to reproduce;
 - Protecting and monitoring fish habitat and reporting changes or degradation to appropriate authorities;
7. Properly disposing of opala or trash by:
 - Always containing and removing trash (plastics, old bait, fishing line, etc), and leaving fishing areas cleaner than when I / We arrived;
 - Helping to remove excess trash (going beyond my part);
 - Reporting the location of large marine debris to proper authorities; and
8. Setting a good example for others to follow – "walking the talk" – as good fishing and conservation practices and fellowship are infectious.

SIGNATURE

DATE