

Code of Conduct – A non regulatory process

As a non-regulatory process, a code of conduct becomes an informal social control that can complement an adaptive approach to resources management. Close knit communities may supplant law with informal social controls (Ellickson, 1991).

As traditional communities have come forward, specific codes of conduct have become site specific. While generally typical of the Hawaiian foundation of cultural social mores, community codes of conduct are respected although they differ according to their location. And while these differences are acknowledged, their commonalities are reflected in the example of Hui Malama O Mo'omomi who drafted a fishing code of conduct for shore fishing at Mo'omomi Bay:

1. Let the *keiki* and *kupuna* fish the easily accessible shores. Able-bodied adults can walk to more distant grounds.
2. The ocean is your icebox. Take only the fish you need to eat fresh in the next few days. Don't be greedy and fill up the freezer.
3. Don't waste. Use fish that come up dead or dying.
4. Learn the habits of fish. You will know when to catch them and when to leave them alone to reproduce. This way each fisher acts voluntarily as an individual "marine protected area."
5. Each fisher is his own/her own enforcement officer.
6. Whenever possible, share your catch with family, friends and the elderly so they can eat healthy, local seafood.
7. Respect the ocean and its resources as you would your own family.
8. You don't have to blow up or poison the reef to catch fish. Use legal gear.
9. Don't catch fish that are very large (because they are the most important for reproduction) or very small (before they reach reproductive size).
10. Be *Pono*. When you are making a big catch, think about your children and grandchildren. They will need fish too.

This code is a protocol for fishing commonly used through out the islands by the traditional communities. It demonstrates that the code of conduct is about how fishing is conducted and not how much is taken. It demonstrates that knowledge, of the resource and the environment, is necessary. The goal of the activity is sustainable use and the beneficiary of the activity is the people.

Harvest controls are based not on the amounts of fish but at the times and in the places that this activity could occur (Pacific American Foundation, 2001). This holds true for any natural resource whether it is fishing, farming, water or land use.

An important cultural value for the code of conduct is *Kuleana*, responsibility. One cannot exercise the privilege to participate in the management of the resource without being responsible for his/her actions and how those actions affect the resource and the community. The code is filled with expressions and demonstrations of *kuleana*.

The challenge for the community then is:

- Identify important resources and prioritize them,
- Learn and share information and knowledge, biological and cultural, about the resource,
- Establish a code of conduct by consensus for any interaction with the resource,
- Write the code of conduct down and make sure that it is known and understood throughout the community.