



Our Objective

The objective of the NFOP is to build a strong cadre of Observers from among residents of Hawai'i, the Western Pacific, and other parts of the Pacific Rim. The implications should the fishery diminish to unrecoverable levels, are devastating. The loss of species that are integral to traditional beliefs of the Natives, is a major factor for consideration in the retention of native observers.

The successful completion of the Observer Program will deem the participant eligible to apply for employment, which will ultimately strengthen the communities from which they come.

Stewardship of the Oceans has long been the responsibility and life of the Natives of the region. The mission of ALU LIKE, Inc. is to "kokua (help) Hawaiian Natives in achieving their potential for their families, their communities and themselves". The NFOP will assist in both endeavors and ensure the fisheries and species of Hawai'i flourish for generations to come.

Recruitment

At present time the greatest need for trained Observers is within the Hawaiian Fisheries. Thus, the bulk of recruitment will be within Hawai'i. Of equal importance are the fisheries in American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Marianas, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and, Alaska. In the recruitment process particular emphasis will be Hawaiians and other islanders. Both groups have a cultural affinity in that they are members of the Polynesian race. As such, they have similar cultural practices and traditions with a strong and proud seafaring background. Recruitment will be conducted utilizing the ALU LIKE Island offices, Job fairs, local media and, recruitment forays outside of Hawaii.

Preparatory Training

Through a contractual agreement with the University of Hawai'i's Marine Option Program, the OPT (Observer Preparatory Training) course will be 13 days in duration. This course is designed to cover all facets of the NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) course, which is required to become a qualified Fisheries Observer. The content of the course will cover, but not be limited to the following:

- fisheries science and oceanography
- metric system, data collection
- ocean safety, marine radio use
- first aid and CPR training
- species identification
- tissue sampling procedures
- one day aboard the University's long-line vessel

During the duration of the training course students will be monitored and additional tutoring, as may be required, will be made available. All students will have living quarters available. Each student will receive a living allowance based on school days during the training inclusive of the NMFS Observer course. To further enhance the career tracking of the NFOP recruits, a course in Ocean Hazardous Materials is offered by GLOBETECK Group Inc. This course will be made available to students that successfully completed the NMFS training course, and will also be offered as an alternate career pathway.

Eligibility

- 21 YEARS OF AGE
- Native Hawaiian, Native American, Native Alaska Indian, Pacific Islander (Born within the western Pacific Islands) are encouraged to apply, however all ethnicities are eligible to apply.
- Able to pass mobility examination
- Vision correctable to 20/40
- Pass background and drug screen.
- Minimum of 12th grade level on CASAS TEST
- A desire to make a difference in the stewardship of our Ocean resources

Our History

The preservation and safety of endangered species within the Western Pacific Ocean fisheries, is of paramount importance, both economically and culturally, to natives of the region. The longline fishing industry inadvertently has placed many of these species in harms way, possibly destined for extinction. Federal District Judge Ezra realizing the need for immediate action required more observer coverage on vessels operating in the Hawai'i long line fishing industry. Qualified trained observers were already at a premium and this ruling added to the already realized shortage. Federal contractors were hired to recruit and train observers to alleviate this shortage. Prerequisite for the training program, was a degree in one of the biological sciences. Because few natives were able to meet the stringent recruitment requirements, they for the most part were excluded from the recruitment process.

Our Purpose

ALU LIKE believes that the natives of the Western Pacific region should not be excluded from the recruitment process for the lack of a degree or experience. What we do believe rather, is that given proper orientation, the Native Hawaiians, American Samoans, et al, can pass the Observer training class and in time become proficient Fishery Observers. The NFOP (Native Fishery Observer Program), will recruit, assess, and place into a training program, those Natives who show an interest and aptitude for Fishery Observer work.

Target Group



- Hawaii
- American Samoa
- Northern Marianas
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Palau
- Alaska.

Program Partners



University of Hawai'i,
Marine Option Program



Department of Commerce



National Marine Fisheries
Service

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MAHALO to Herb Kawainui Kane, artist-historian and author for allowing the use of his painting "THE FISHERMAN" on front cover.



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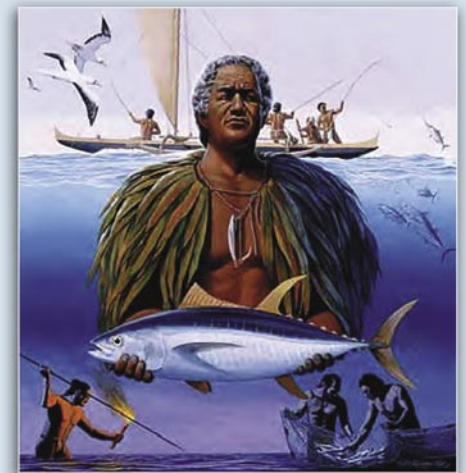
*E alu like mai kākou, e nā 'ōiwi o Hawai'i
Let Us Work Together, Natives of Hawai'i*

Our Mission

To kōkua native Hawaiians who are committed to achieving their potential for themselves, their families, and communities.



Longline Fishery Observer Preparatory Course



*He lawai'a no ke kai papa'u, he pokole ke aho;
he lawai'a no ke kai hohonu he loa ke aho.*

Translation:

A fisherman of shallow seas uses only a short line; a fisherman of the deep sea uses a long line.

Explanation:

You will reach only as far as you aim and prepare yourself to reach.