

# Scoping Meeting

## Proposed Hawaii

### National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)

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OFFICE FOR COASTAL MANAGEMENT  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

# Presentation Outline

- **National Environmental Policy Act and Environmental Impact Statement**
- **NERR National System**
- **State and Federal roles**



# National Environmental Policy Act

## NEPA

- Consider environmental impacts of proposed Federal actions
- Inform public that environmental concerns have been considered in the decision making process
- Environmental Impact Statement



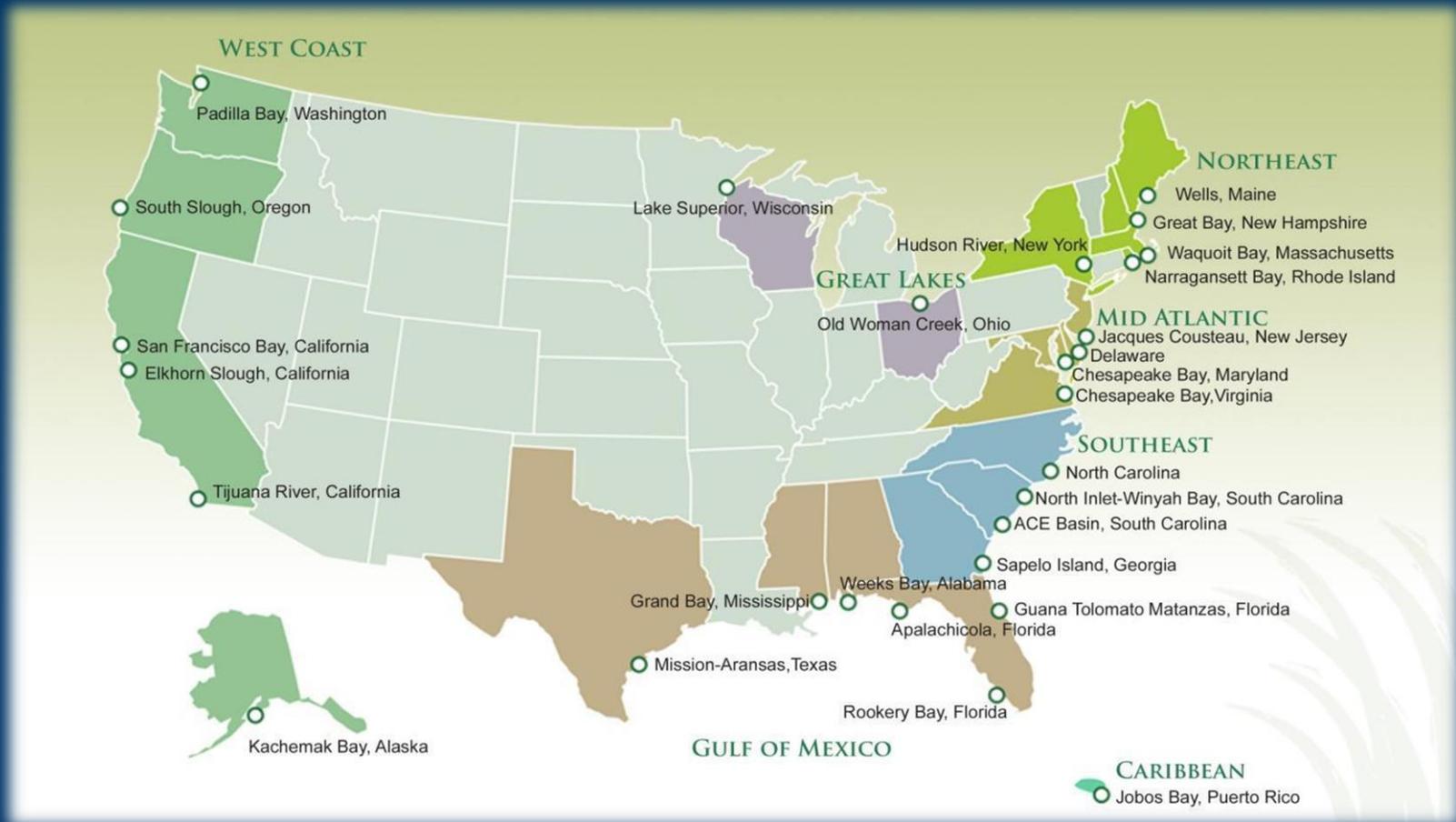
# Scoping

**Open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed related to a NERR designation**

- Identify environmental effects
- Formulate alternatives



# A Network of 28 Protected Places



# Benefits of Having a NERR

- Increase research, education and training, and resource stewardship locally
- Be part of a larger network of NERRs
- Enhance the understanding and conservation of estuaries



# Why NERR Are Designated and Managed

- Long-term research and monitoring
- Education and training
- Resource stewardship

No new regulations



# Locally Relevant, Nationally Significant

<b>People</b>	K-12 and public education and training
<b>Science</b>	Monitoring and research efforts to address local issues
<b>Protected places</b>	Resources stewardship



# A State-Federal Partnership

## State role:

- Land ownership and management
- NERR staff members
- Program implementation (30 percent match)

## Federal role:

- Funding (70 percent)
- National coordination
- Technical assistance



# The Federal Partner

- Coordinates system-wide activities
- Produces system-wide products
- Administers cooperative agreements and financial awards
- Supports initiatives focused on reserve system priorities (climate, habitat, and water quality)



# National Programs

- System-Wide Monitoring Program
- Coastal Training Program
- K-12 Estuarine Education Program
- National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative



# System-Wide Monitoring Program

- Abiotic monitoring
  - Water quality
  - Weather parameters
- Ecological monitoring
  - Habitat change
  - Eutrophication
- Land use changes
- Sentinel sites



# Coastal Training Program

- Enhance the capacity to use scientific information for decision making
- Increase networking and collaboration among coastal decision-makers



# K-12 Estuarine Education Program

- Student programs
- Curriculum and web-based programs
- Teacher professional development



# Science Collaborative

Enhances the ability of research reserve sites to help local communities address coastal resource management problems

- Competitive funding
- Knowledge transfer
- Collaboration assistance



# Future Designation Steps

Hawaii and NOAA prepare draft environmental impact statement and draft management plan



Public comment on drafts



Environmental impact statement and management plan are finalized



NOAA signs designation findings and record of decision



Hawaii hosts designation ceremony



# Questions?

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# He`eia National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Management Plan

Office of Planning  
Coastal Zone Management Program

Ku`iwalu Consulting Team  
Paul Conry

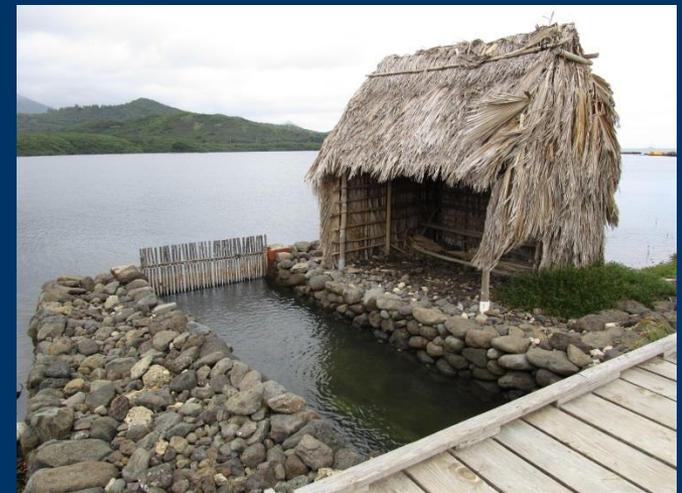
## *He`eia NERR Management Plan will:*

- **Be based upon a cultural foundation that honors and respects the cultural resources, assets, and protocols of this Ahupua`a and reflects the community's mana`o to ensure the protection and sustainable management of valued cultural, historical and natural resources in the proposed He`eia NERR.**



# *He`eia NERR Management Plan will be used to:*

- Support local management goals and objectives such as restoring taro cultivation and fish pond aquaculture
- Support research, monitoring, stewardship and education projects



# *He`eia NERR Management Plan will be used to:*

- **Develop and support local partnerships**
- **Contribute to national efforts such as climate change research**
- **Guide NERR activities for next 5 years**



# Content of the Management Plan

- Introduction
- Strategic Plan (vision, goals, objectives)
- Program Foundation
- Administrative Plan
- Resource Protection Plan



# Content of the Management Plan

- **Ensure Public Access and Visitor Use Plan**
- **Facilities Development and Improvement Plan**
- **Land Acquisition Plan**
- **Resource Manipulation Plan**
- **Restoration Plan**



# Management Plan – Step 1: Draft Plan

Scoping meeting for Management Plan



State Drafts Strategic Plan and Management Plan  
based upon public input



Draft Management Plan and Draft NEPA document  
(projected) completion by June 30, 2015

# Management Plan –Step 2: Finalize Plan

Draft Management Plan and Draft NEPA document to be released for Public Comment and Public Hearing



Draft Management Plan and Draft NEPA document to be revised based upon public comment and input



Final Management Plan and Final NEPA document (projected) completion by the end of 2015