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Article type : Articles

**Title:** Seascape Models Reveal Places to Focus Coastal Fisheries Management

**Running head:** Focusing coastal fisheries management

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This is the author manuscript accepted for publication and has undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the [Version of Record](#). Please cite this article as [doi:](#)

[10.1002/eap.1696](https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.1696)

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## Abstract

To design effective marine reserves and support fisheries, more information on fishing patterns and impacts for targeted species is needed, as well as better understanding of their key habitats. However, fishing impacts vary geographically and are difficult to disentangle from other factors that influence targeted fish distributions. We developed a set of fishing effort and habitat layers at high resolution and employed machine learning techniques to create regional-scale seascape models and predictive maps of biomass and body length of targeted reef fishes for the main Hawaiian Islands. Spatial patterns of fishing effort were shown to be highly variable and seascape models indicated a low threshold beyond which targeted fish assemblages were severely impacted. Topographic complexity, exposure, depth, and wave power were identified as key habitat variables which influenced targeted fish distributions and defined productive habitats for reef fisheries. High targeted reef fish biomass and body length were found in areas not easily accessed by humans, while model predictions when fishing effort was set to zero showed these high values to be more widely dispersed among suitable habitats. By comparing current targeted fish distributions with those predicted when fishing effort was removed, areas with high recovery potential on each island were revealed, with average biomass recovery of 517% and mean body length increases of 59% on Oahu, the most heavily fished island. Spatial protection of these areas would aid recovery of nearshore coral reef fisheries.

## Key words

Coral reefs, essential habitat, fishing effort, fisheries replenishment, Hawaii, LiDAR, marine reserve design, marine protected areas, predictive modeling, recovery potential, spatial planning, species distribution modeling

## 8 1. Introduction

9 Coastal marine ecosystems are in decline worldwide due to multiple interacting stressors  
10 operating from global to local scales (Lotze et al. 2006, Norström et al. 2016). Fishing is one of  
11 the most direct of these stressors and removes fish biomass, distorts trophic and size structure,  
12 and alters community composition resulting in the loss of ecological functions and ecosystem  
13 services (Jackson et al. 2001). These demonstrated impacts point to a need for better

14 management of fisheries worldwide, including the implementation of additional marine reserves  
15 to recover fish biomass and restore key ecosystem functions (Edgar et al. 2014). Numerous  
16 studies have documented the benefits of spatial protection on exploited fish assemblages, such as  
17 increased biodiversity and resilience (Mellin et al. 2016), resistance to invasive species  
18 (Giakoumi and Pey 2017), and fisheries enhancement (Weigel et al. 2014). Increases in biomass  
19 and size of targeted fish species in marine reserves have been particularly well documented  
20 (Lester et al. 2009). Current research includes a focus on maximizing reserve benefits by  
21 incorporating connectivity, the demographic linking of local populations through dispersal of  
22 individuals as larvae, juveniles or adults, and habitat quality as explicit considerations in marine  
23 reserve design (Almany et al. 2009, Green et al. 2015). As larval export from marine reserves has  
24 been shown to replenish stocks in fished areas (Harrison et al. 2012), reserves that support  
25 healthy spawning populations which act as larval sources may be key for fisheries recovery.  
26 Thus, identifying areas with habitats that have the potential to support reproductive populations  
27 of targeted fishes is critical to the design of effective place-based fisheries restoration strategies.

28 Rarely, however, do studies of coastal marine ecosystems integrate local context and  
29 stressors in estimates of recovery potential. Specifically, fishing patterns must be considered to  
30 inform effective placement of marine reserves intended to enhance fisheries. Fishing effects vary  
31 geographically and are difficult to disentangle from other factors that influence targeted fish  
32 distributions, creating a spatially complex challenge for understanding patterns of fishing  
33 impacts on these assemblages (Taylor et al. 2015, Nash and Graham 2016). Spatial ecological  
34 modeling techniques, where predicted variable distributions are mapped across geographical  
35 space, have proven useful to examine spatial trends and fill gaps in coverage of empirical  
36 datasets (Guisan and Zimmermann 2000, Guisan and Thuiller 2005, Elith and Leathwick 2009).  
37 Models can be calibrated using ecological field survey data to establish relationships between  
38 fish species and/or assemblage characteristics and remotely sensed habitat and environmental  
39 variables. These calibrated models, referred to here as seascape models, can then be used to  
40 make spatial predictions of fish, or fishery indicators, across the area of interest (Pittman and  
41 Knudby 2014). However, these approaches have yet to incorporate spatially explicit estimates of  
42 fishing pressure and are rarely applied to prioritize areas to inform fisheries replenishment  
43 strategies in coastal marine ecosystems.

44 Seascapes variables such as seafloor topography, benthic cover, and wave exposure, at  
45 varying spatial scales, have been shown to be important predictors of fish assemblages  
46 (Friedlander et al. 2003, Bouchet et al. 2015, Galaiduk et al. 2017). Impacts from fishing have  
47 been inferred by comparing fish populations in populated versus remote areas (eg. Friedlander et  
48 al. 2017) and by using proxies such as local human population density and distance to markets  
49 (Williams et al. 2008, Cinner et al. 2013). Fishing effects have also been investigated through  
50 studies of fish populations along gradients of protection ranging from gear restrictions (Campbell  
51 et al. 2017), to rotational closures (Cohen and Foale 2013), to marine protected areas (MPAs)  
52 including full no-take marine reserves (Sciberras et al. 2013). Due to increased availability and  
53 coverage of empirical and remotely sensed datasets, there is opportunity to build on these studies  
54 by using seascape models to better understand fish habitat relationships in the context of fishing  
55 impacts and make realistic and spatially explicit estimates of recovery potential.

56 We address these knowledge and capacity gaps by developing a set of fishing effort map  
57 layers at high resolution and employing machine-learning techniques to create regional-scale  
58 seascape models and predictive maps of targeted reef fish biomass and body length for the Main  
59 Hawaiian Islands (MHI). We use a large and geographically comprehensive database of reef fish  
60 surveys and of predictor variables that includes measures of two-dimensional and three-  
61 dimensional spatial patterning of the seafloor and the distribution of wave energy. Study  
62 objectives were to 1) quantify and map fishing effort and habitat patterns around the MHI, 2)  
63 identify and characterize key habitat variables which promote high targeted fish biomass and  
64 body length, 3) model and quantify the recovery potential of targeted fish assemblages in the  
65 absence of fishing pressure (in terms of mean biomass and body length), and 4) identify areas  
66 with the highest recovery potential to prioritize for management actions.

67

## 68 **2. Methods**

### 69 **2.1 Study area**

70 The Hawaiian Islands are located near the center of the Pacific Ocean and are the most  
71 isolated archipelago in the world. The MHI consist of high volcanic mountain peaks, with steep  
72 topographic relief to the coastline and fringing reefs accreting on the submerged slopes. There  
73 are eight islands that comprise the MHI, six of which were evaluated in this study (from north to

74 south): Kaua‘i, Ni‘ihau, O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i islands (Fig. 1). The islands of  
75 Lāna‘i and Kaho‘olawe were not included due to the lack of high-resolution bathymetry data.

76

## 77 **2.2 Reef fish survey data**

78 A spatially comprehensive dataset of reef fish surveys of the MHI conducted between  
79 2010 and 2016 was contributed by the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center’s Coral Reef  
80 Ecosystem Program (Coral Reef Ecosystem Program; Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
81 2016). Fish surveys utilized a paired stationary point count (SPC) protocol and were conducted  
82 on hard bottom habitat, stratified by reef zone and depth (McCoy et al. 2017). A total of 1,184  
83 independent survey locations across the MHI were used for modeling (Fig. 1). Spatial  
84 predictions were generated on a 60x60 m resolution grid to account for the dimensions of the  
85 survey method and the positional uncertainty of the global positioning systems used to navigate  
86 to survey locations.

87 Targeted species of the MHI nearshore fishery were defined as coral reef fishes having  $\geq$   
88 450 kg of annual recreational or commercial harvest for the past 10 years (2000-2010), or  
89 otherwise recognized as important for recreational, subsistence, or cultural fishing  
90 (<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/fishing/hmrfs/>). Biomass was estimated using the allometric length-  
91 weight conversion:  $W = aTL^b$ , where parameters  $a$  and  $b$  are species-specific fitting parameters,  
92 TL is total length (cm), and  $W$  is weight (g). Parameters were obtained from a comprehensive  
93 assessment of Hawai‘i length-weight fitting parameters (M. Donovan, unpublished data) and  
94 FishBase (Froese and Pauly 2017). Cryptic and soft-bottom species were excluded due to low  
95 sampling effectiveness. Planktivores were excluded due to patchy distributions and weak  
96 benthic-habitat relationships, as were pelagic species (Table S1). Targeted species biomass was  
97 calculated as the sum biomass of modeled species at each survey location. Targeted species body  
98 length was calculated as the average recorded body length of modeled species at each survey  
99 location.

100

## 101 **2.3 Predictor data**

### 102 *2.3.1 Fishing Effort*

103 We modeled and mapped spatial patterns of fishing effort based on non-commercial island-scale  
104 effort estimates (McCoy 2015), following the methods of Lecky (2016). This previous work

105 mapped spatial patterns of catch, though did not incorporate measures of human population in  
106 the distribution of shore-based fishing estimates. We did not consider nearshore commercial  
107 fishing because it only represents a small fraction of total estimated effort and data quality is  
108 questionable (McCoy 2015). Furthermore, commercial fishing data are recorded for large  
109 reporting blocks that would obscure fine-scale spatial patterns of fishing effort. Shore and boat  
110 fishing were modeled separately by major gear type (line, net, and spear), which were assumed  
111 to have different spatial footprints. Despite different magnitudes, patterns of total shore effort  
112 hours between gear types were very similar among islands (Appendix S1: Fig. S1) and both  
113 shore and boat fishing effort layers were highly correlated among gear types ( $> 0.8$  Pearson  $r$ ).  
114 Because spear fishing had the largest spatial footprint, highest catch per unit effort, and targets  
115 the greatest variety of species, it was used as a proxy of total effort for both shore and boat  
116 fishing, respectively.

117 We used average annual fishing effort (hrs/yr) for reef fish by island from ten years of  
118 recreational fishery data (2004-2013) compiled by McCoy (2015) and distributed these values  
119 into the nearshore marine area based on weighting factors related to accessibility to fishers.  
120 Fishing effort showed a declining trend over time for all islands with the exception of Lānaʻi  
121 (McCoy 2015), so estimated values were conservative. Marine managed areas where fishing is  
122 prohibited were set to zero. For shore fishing, proximity and type of roads along with shoreline  
123 steepness were used as proxies for accessibility, and values were weighted by human population  
124 within 30 km. To model spear fishing, a logistic decay function was used so effort decreased  
125 with depth to a maximum distance of 2 km from shore. The parameters of the function were set  
126 based on discussions with fishing experts in Hawaiʻi and assume the vast majority of  
127 spearfishing effort is shallower than 20 m and there is no effort beyond 40 m (Lecky 2016). For  
128 boat fishing, accessibility measures were based on distance to boat launch/harbor weighted by  
129 human population within 30 km. There was no recreational fishery data available for Niʻihau  
130 (pop. 170) and while subsistence fishing does occur, shore fishing effort was assumed to be zero.  
131 To ground-truth the fishing effort maps, estimated shore-based spear fishing effort values were  
132 compared to total shore fishing effort values from 12 independent fishing (creel) survey locations  
133 across the MHI. Total shore fishing effort values were obtained from Delaney et al. (2017) and  
134 compared to derived spear fishing effort maps based on the sum of pixel values within polygons

135 matching the description of each survey area. Empirical boat based fishing effort estimates were  
136 not available for comparison.

137

### 138 2.3.2 *Habitat variables*

139 A set of 62 gridded environmental datasets at 60x60 m resolution was generated for each  
140 island as potential predictor variables used to model reef fish assemblage metrics (Stamoulis et  
141 al. 2016). Selection of predictors was based on an extensive literature review and input from  
142 experts in Hawaiian reef ecology (Delevaux 2017). There were four types of predictor variables:  
143 seafloor topography, benthic habitat composition, geographic, and wave energy.

144 Seafloor topography variables were included to account for variation in reef fish  
145 distributions due to direct and indirect effects of depth and seafloor structure. A gridded  
146 synthesis of multibeam sonar and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) bathymetry at 5 m  
147 resolution was used as the depth variable and to derive the suite of seafloor topography metrics.  
148 For example, the morphometric, slope-of-the-slope (a second derivative of bathymetry),  
149 measures the maximum rate of change in slope between cells within the specified analytical  
150 neighborhood. Slope-of-the-slope is a measure of surface topographic complexity, sometimes  
151 called terrain roughness, and has been shown to be positively correlated with finer scale *in situ*  
152 measures of rugosity such as chain-tape measurements (Pittman et al. 2009, Pittman and Brown  
153 2011). The modeled area was limited by gaps in the LiDAR bathymetry data. For this reason, the  
154 islands of Lānaʻi and Kahoʻolawe were not modeled, as well as much of the nearshore area  
155 around Niʻihau, and large portions of the north-east and south-east coasts of Hawaiʻi island.

156 Benthic habitat composition variables from existing habitat maps (Battista et al. 2007)  
157 were included to account for variation in reef fish assemblages arising from the direct and  
158 indirect effects of the spatial configuration of benthic habitats. Geographic variables were used to  
159 account for variation in reef fish assemblages arising from spatial location. Wave energy  
160 variables were included to account for variation in reef fish assemblages arising from the direct  
161 and indirect effects of ocean wave dynamics.

162 A pairwise correlation analysis was performed on the full set of predictors for the whole  
163 study area (MHI). Highly correlated predictors (Spearman  $|\rho| > 0.7$ ) were identified, and those  
164 highly correlated with two or more other predictors were removed. In cases where only two  
165 predictors were highly correlated, those with greater ecological importance (based on expert



166 opinion and scientific literature) were retained. After the correlation analysis, 25 out of 62  
167 seascape predictors were retained for model development (Table 1, Table S2).

168

## 169 **2.4 Seascape models**

170 Boosted regression trees (BRT) were used to estimate relationships between targeted fish  
171 assemblage metrics (biomass and length) and the predictor datasets (De'ath 2007, Elith et al.  
172 2008). These modeled relationships were then used to create spatial predictions of targeted fish  
173 biomass and body length. Each metric was modeled independently at the archipelago scale. To  
174 make predictions with fishing pressure removed, fishing predictors were set to zero. Statistical  
175 models and spatial predictions were generated in R (R Core Team 2014) using the *dismo*  
176 (Hijmans et al. 2014) and *raster* (Hijmans 2014) packages. BRT is effective at modeling  
177 nonlinearities, discontinuities (threshold effects), and interactions between variables (Breiman  
178 1996, 2001, De'ath and Fabricius 2000).

179 BRT can accommodate many types of response variables. Since the targeted fish  
180 assemblage metrics were continuous variables, they were modeled using a Gaussian (normal)  
181 distribution, and appropriate data transformations were applied to improve normality. Targeted  
182 fish biomass was fourth root transformed and targeted fish body length was square root  
183 transformed. Prior to model fitting, reef fish survey data were randomly divided into model  
184 training (70%) and test (30%) subsets. The test data set was withheld from model fitting and  
185 used only to evaluate predictive performance (map accuracy). Although boosting makes BRT  
186 models less prone to overfitting (Friedman 2002, Elith et al. 2008), predictive performance was  
187 evaluated using the test data to measure how well the model generalized to new data.

188 Model fitting and selection was accomplished following the procedures detailed in Elith  
189 et. al. (2008). To increase parsimony, selected models were then simplified to remove less  
190 informative predictor variables. This was accomplished by dropping the least contributing  
191 predictor, re-fitting the model, and computing the change in predictive deviance relative to the  
192 initial model (Elith et al. 2008). The predictive deviance indicates the amount of variation in the  
193 response variable not explained by the model. This process was repeated and the predictive  
194 deviance was plotted over the full range of predictors. The final number of predictors was  
195 selected at the inflection point in the predictive deviance curve, where change in predictive

196 deviance increased relative to previous values. In general, this resulted in removal of predictors  
197 which explained  $< 5\%$  of the variation in the response variable.

198         Bootstrapping was used to create spatially explicit predictions and calculate prediction  
199 precision. The model training dataset was repeatedly sampled with replacement to create 20  
200 bootstrap samples. Using the optimal parameter value combination and simplified set of  
201 predictor variables, a BRT model was fit to each bootstrap sample and used to make predictions  
202 to a spatially explicit gridded map using the values of the predictor variables at each grid cell.  
203 This resulted in a total of 20 spatial prediction grids that were used to calculate the mean and  
204 coefficient of variation (CV) in each grid cell (Leathwick et al. 2006), where low CV values  
205 indicate high precision. Prediction means and CVs were plotted against each other to visualize  
206 the relationship between the magnitude and precision of predictions. The mean of the  
207 bootstrapped predictions was used for interpretation and further analysis.

208         Model performance was evaluated using the cross-validation percent deviance explained  
209 (PDE) and test PDE. The cross-validation PDE is the 10-fold cross-validation estimate of the  
210 percent deviance explained for the best model (as described above). Similarly, the test PDE was  
211 determined by calculating the percent deviance explained by the model when evaluated using the  
212 model test dataset. Both metrics indicate overall model fit, but the test PDE also provides a  
213 measure of model performance when predicting data that were independent of model fitting. To  
214 better understand the relationship between measured and predicted values, average measured  
215 values by island were compared with predicted values under current fishing levels and with  
216 fishing pressure removed. Finally, the relative importance of predictor variables for each model  
217 was evaluated and partial dependence plots were generated for each predictor variable to  
218 interpret their individual effects on the response variables (De'ath 2007, Elith et al. 2008).

219

## 220 **2.5 Recovery potential in the absence of fishing**

221         Final BRT models were used to generate gridded predictions of targeted fish biomass and  
222 body length across the MHI study area (60x60 m resolution) under current fishing levels and  
223 with fishing pressure removed. Values from these layers were used to create distribution curves  
224 of predicted biomass and body length under each fishing scenario for each island. Differences  
225 were assessed visually and tested using a two-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Overall change  
226 in spatial patterns of high predicted targeted fish biomass and body length were assessed using

227 maps of predicted values. Finally, means and percent change between predicted values across all  
228 modeled habitats for present conditions and with fishing effort set to zero were calculated by  
229 island to estimate recovery potential at the island scale.

230

## 231 **2.6 Spatial prioritization for management**

232 To identify places that could be prioritized for management actions which would support  
233 fisheries restoration, we evaluated spatial differences between predictions of targeted fish  
234 biomass and body length under current fishing levels and predictions with fishing effort set to  
235 zero. We assumed that areas with the greatest differences have the highest potential for fisheries  
236 replenishment if fishing pressure were limited or removed through management actions. To  
237 identify areas where predictions differed significantly between models, we applied the  
238 methodology of Januchowski et al. (2010) using the SigDiff function in the R package  
239 SDMTools (VanDerWal et al. 2014). We computed the significance of the pairwise differences  
240 (for each grid cell) for the response variables (biomass and length) relative to the mean and  
241 variance of all differences for each island. The resulting probability values represent the area  
242 under the curve of a Gaussian distribution defined by the mean and variance across all cells for  
243 that island. The spatial grids representing the individual significance values were reclassified to  
244 indicate cells where predictions with fishing pressure removed were significantly higher than  
245 present predictions ( $p < 0.10$ ). Mean absolute difference and mean percent change relative to  
246 modeled values under current fishing pressure were calculated for cells showing significant  
247 increase by island. Finally, the spatial grids representing regions of significant increase for  
248 biomass and body length were combined into a single map for interpretation.

249

## 250 **3. Results**

### 251 **3.1 Fishing and habitat patterns**

252 Modeled shore spearing effort values under-estimated total shore effort from creel  
253 surveys by a factor of two. However, there was a strong positive relationship ( $r^2=0.7$ ) across all  
254 sites indicating that this measure of shore spearing effort provides a reliable proxy for overall  
255 shore fishing effort (Fig. 2). The highest intensity of shore fishing effort was estimated to be near  
256 the highly populated areas of Hawai'i Island near Hilo and Kona, followed by the south and  
257 southeast shores of O'ahu and near the populated areas around Kahalui and Kihei on Maui (Fig.

258 3A). Boat fishing effort for reef fish was generally much lower than shore fishing effort (Fig.  
259 3B). The highest values for boat fishing effort were found offshore of south O‘ahu. Moderate  
260 boat fishing effort was found along the southwest shore of Kaua‘i, south Moloka‘i, northwest  
261 Maui, and near Kona and Hilo on Hawai‘i Island (Fig. 3B).

262 While a more complete description of marine habitat patterns in the MHI is outside the  
263 scope of this study, here we focus on several key variables shown to be important determinants  
264 of targeted fish biomass and body length. Seafloor topographic complexity (slope of slope) was  
265 highly variable within islands. Generally, areas with low values (indicating flat bottom)  
266 encompassed the greatest area, while high values (indicating complex structure) were few and  
267 widely dispersed. Islands with more shallow water habitat such as O‘ahu tended to have more  
268 flat bottom. Sine aspect represents the E/W exposure of benthic habitats. The highest values were  
269 located on east-facing shores and the lowest values on west-facing shores. Eastern exposures are  
270 most exposed to the predominate trade winds and associated short-period swells. Wave power  
271 was highest on the north shores of all islands, with the exception of Hawai‘i Island, and generally  
272 decreased among islands from north to south. Depth increased with distance from shore on all  
273 islands, and the largest shallow water areas were found on O‘ahu and the south shore of  
274 Moloka‘i.

275

### 276 **3.2 Seascape models**

277 The final BRT model for targeted fish biomass had nine predictors. Cross-validation PDE  
278 was 37.5%, and test PDE was 35.3%. The final BRT model for targeted fish body length had  
279 nine predictors, a cross-validation PDE of 21.2%, and a test PDE of 21.4%. Based on these  
280 metrics, the biomass model fit better than the length model, and had higher predictive accuracy.  
281 Plots of prediction means vs CVs showed that higher predicted values generally had higher  
282 precision ( $CV < 0.5$  – Appendix S1: Fig. S2). When predictions for biomass and length under  
283 present fishing levels were compared to fish survey data at the island level, BRT predictions  
284 tended to underestimate means of field measured values within one standard deviation  
285 (Appendix S1: Fig. S3). This effect increased with the magnitude of the measured values.  
286 However, the BRT predicted values well represented the relative differences between islands  
287 (Appendix S1: Fig. S3).

288 Biomass was largely driven by shore fishing, while length responded primarily to boat  
289 fishing (Fig. 4). In terms of habitat, biomass was primarily driven by topographic complexity  
290 (slope of slope) and length was most associated with exposure (sine aspect). Depth and wave  
291 power were other key habitat variables that influenced both targeted fish biomass and body  
292 length (Fig. 4). These habitat variables all had positive relationships with the assemblage  
293 indicators, whereas the fishing variables had negative relationships (Fig. 4).

294

### 295 **3.3 Effects of fishing and habitat on fish biomass and body length**

296 Targeted fish biomass and body length had similar negative relationships with fishing  
297 predictors. Both declined rapidly from 0-2 hrs/ha/yr of shore (spear) fishing effort and 0-0.2  
298 hrs/ha/yr of boat (spear) fishing effort, then were relatively flat across a wide range of increasing  
299 effort values (Fig. 5, Appendix S1: Fig. S5). Areas of shore fishing effort < 2 hrs/ha/yr include  
300 the less populated islands, Ni‘ihau, Moloka‘i, and Lāna‘i, as well as remote and difficult to  
301 access areas of the more populated islands such as west Kaua‘i, east Maui, and south Hawai‘i  
302 Island (Fig. 3A). Areas of low boat fishing effort (< 0.2 hrs/ha/yr) included Ni‘ihau, northwest  
303 Kaua‘i, north O‘ahu, north Moloka‘i, west Lāna‘i, and north and south Hawai‘i (Fig. 3B).

304 Slope of slope, a measure of topographic complexity, was the most important habitat  
305 predictor for targeted reef fish biomass, which increased rapidly at the low end of the scale (0-8°)  
306 (Appendix S1: Fig. S4). Seafloor depth had a strong positive relationship with targeted fish  
307 biomass, which increased with depth before leveling off at around 17 m. Maximum slope in a  
308 240 m radius was also positively related to biomass with a steep increase from 0-10°. Sine aspect  
309 (exposure) was positively related to biomass, which increased linearly from -1 (west facing) to 1  
310 (east facing), and wave power, responding more at higher levels (> 10,000 kW/hr, Appendix S1:  
311 Fig. S4). Predictor relationships for fish body length were similar to those for biomass (Appendix  
312 S1: Fig. S5). However, there was a stronger relationship with wave power and a weaker  
313 relationship with slope of slope. In addition, the relationship of average body length and sine  
314 aspect was not linear and length increased with depth up to 25 m before leveling off. Targeted  
315 fish body length was also positively related to maximum slope of slope within a 240 m radius,  
316 peaking between 25-40°; and slope, increasing from 0-5° (Appendix S1: Fig. S5). Thus, in the  
317 absence of fishing pressure, targeted fish biomass and body length were generally predicted to

318 reach their highest values in habitats with slope of slope  $> 8^\circ$ , eastern exposures (sine aspect  $>$   
319 0), wave power  $> 10,000$  kW/hr, and at depths  $> 17$  m.

320

### 321 **3.3 Recovery potential in the absence of fishing**

322 All islands except for Ni‘ihau (which was assumed to have negligible fishing pressure)  
323 showed a significant increase in predicted biomass when the influence of fishing was removed  
324 (Fig. 6). Biomass predictions for these islands under present fishing levels had distributions that  
325 were right skewed, indicating primarily low biomass levels. When fishing effort was set to zero,  
326 these distributions flattened out, shifted right, and became more symmetrical, indicating overall  
327 increases in mean biomass (Fig. 6). Targeted fish biomass was highest in areas less accessible to  
328 humans such as the north shores of most islands and the east shore of Maui. However, when  
329 fishing pressure was removed biomass increased across all suitable habitats with the highest  
330 increases in deeper areas with high topographic complexity (Appendix S1: Figs S6-S7). O‘ahu  
331 (the most populated island, with highest overall fishing effort) showed the largest predicted  
332 increase in biomass, followed by Kaua‘i, Moloka‘i, Maui, Hawai‘i, and then Ni‘ihau (Table 2).

333 All islands except for Ni‘ihau showed a significant increase in predicted fish body length  
334 when the influence of fishing was removed (Fig. 7). Under current fishing levels, the shapes of  
335 predicted fish length distributions varied by island. When fishing effort was set to zero, predicted  
336 length distributions maintained their general shape and shifted to the right indicating an increase  
337 in average body length (Fig. 7). Similar to biomass, larger fishes were located in areas that are  
338 less accessible to humans such as north shores of most islands and the east shore of Maui  
339 (Appendix S1: Figs S8-S9). When fishing effort was set to zero, fish length increased in all areas  
340 with the highest increases along eastern exposures and areas with high wave power. As with  
341 biomass, O‘ahu showed the largest relative increase in fish body length when fishing pressure  
342 was removed; the other islands showed smaller increases (Table 3).

343

### 344 **3.4 Spatial prioritization for management**

345 These analyses identified areas with the highest recovery potential (i.e., areas with high quality  
346 habitat and currently under high fishing pressure), which would be expected to respond  
347 positively to management of fishing effort. Because current fishing effort was assumed to be  
348 zero in existing marine reserves, these areas were not selected. Areas with highest recovery

349 potential for targeted reef fish biomass tended to be patchy, while areas with highest projected  
350 recovery for body length were more continuous. Locations with high recovery potential for  
351 targeted fish biomass and body length were usually found in the same areas, though often with  
352 little direct spatial overlap (Fig. 8). In general, these areas were located on the east-facing shores  
353 of Kaua‘i and O‘ahu, the southeast shore of Moloka‘i, and the west shore of west Maui (Fig. 8).  
354 In addition, the prioritization analysis identified areas on the north shore of Kaua‘i, around  
355 Mōkapu point and the southeast shore of O‘ahu, Mā‘ili point on west O‘ahu,  
356 northwest Moloka‘i, Ma‘alaea bay on Maui, west Hawai‘i Island just north of Makole‘a point,  
357 and east Hawai‘i Island around Cape Kumukahi and north of Kaloli point (Fig. 8). The largest  
358 relative change in biomass for regions of significant increase were on O‘ahu and Kaua‘i, while  
359 largest relative increases in body length for these areas were on O‘ahu, with smaller levels of  
360 increase on Kaua‘i, Moloka‘i, and Maui (Table 4). Ni‘ihau showed minimal change in biomass  
361 and body length.

362

## 363 **4. Discussion**

364 Inferred fishing effort patterns were highly variable around the MHI and seascape models  
365 indicated a low threshold beyond which targeted fish assemblages were severely impacted.  
366 Sparsely populated islands Ni‘ihau and Moloka‘i had fishing effort below this threshold, as did  
367 large, and often remote, areas on the other islands. Seascape models also identified seafloor  
368 topographic complexity, exposure, wave power, and depth as the key variables that influenced  
369 the distribution of high targeted fish biomass and body length and characterized productive  
370 habitats. Fish biomass was most sensitive to shore and boat-based fishing, as well as topographic  
371 complexity, whereas average body length responded primarily to boat fishing and was strongly  
372 influenced by exposure. While the highest targeted reef fish biomass and body lengths were  
373 mostly restricted to areas not easily accessed by humans; when fishing effort was set to zero,  
374 high values of biomass and body length were widely distributed among suitable habitats. By  
375 comparing modelled current targeted fish distributions with those predicted when fishing  
376 pressure was removed, areas with high recovery potential were revealed, with significant  
377 increases in average biomass and length across the MHI (Table 4).

378

### 379 **4.1 Fishing effort**

380 An integral component of this research was the application of spatially continuous fishing  
381 effort layers developed for the MHI. We chose to use fishing effort rather than catch because  
382 derived catch estimates incorporate catch per unit effort (CPUE) which varies in relation to a  
383 number of factors including fish abundance (Maunder et al. 2006). Because fish biomass is also  
384 related to fish abundance, fish catch - unlike fishing effort – would not be independent of our  
385 response variable. Our derived fishing effort layers represent the most spatially comprehensive,  
386 high resolution, and broad-scale products yet created to quantify spatial patterns of coral reef  
387 fishery effort. However, a number of simplifying assumptions were made in order to develop  
388 these layers, primarily that fishers are more likely to frequent accessible areas, more likely to fish  
389 close to home, and that numbers of fishers are proportional to total population (Stewart et al.  
390 2010). For these reasons, our fishing effort maps may possibly capture additional impacts related  
391 to accessibility and proximity to humans, such as land based source pollution. Though our  
392 fishing layers were strong predictors of fishery indicators and have been corroborated with fine  
393 scale effort data from creel surveys, there is considerable scope to improve them further. Future  
394 studies should focus on testing large-scale drivers of fishing effort based on local-scale empirical  
395 data.

396 Our results show the greatest impacts on targeted reef fishes within the first 10% of  
397 modeled ranges for shore and boat fishing effort. This is supported by previous research  
398 indicating that the greatest impacts from fishing occur at low fishing levels (Jennings and  
399 Polunin 1996, Jennings and Kaiser 1998). There are few examples in the literature showing this  
400 relationship for coral reef fisheries; it has important implications for management as it highlights  
401 the importance of no-take MPAs and suggests that fishing effort in rotational closures should be  
402 carefully managed.

403

#### 404 **4.2 Fish response variables**

405 Biomass and size of targeted fish species have often been used to evaluate the effects of  
406 fishing pressure (Nicholson and Jennings 2004, Dulvy et al. 2004). The theoretical basis is that  
407 larger fishes are generally more targeted; the accumulated effects of fishing mortality reduce the  
408 number of older, and therefore larger, fishes in a population; and that large-bodied species are  
409 more vulnerable to fishing due to slow population turnover (Jennings et al. 1998, 1999). Both  
410 biomass and fish length are thought to represent the relative abundance of large and small



411 individuals (Shin et al. 2005). However, our results suggest they are not interchangeable and  
412 instead capture different aspects of the fished assemblage. Biomass was more sensitive to fishing  
413 compared to mean length. While higher average length always reflects greater relative  
414 abundance of large individuals, high biomass can also result from high abundance of small  
415 individuals. This was supported by the fact that slope of slope (60 m) was the top habitat  
416 predictor for biomass, while maximum slope of slope in a 240 m radius explained more  
417 variability in average length. Larger individuals and species generally have a broader  
418 geographical range of movements and thus respond to broader-scale measures of seascape  
419 structure (Pittman et al. 2007, Wedding et al. 2008, Kendall et al. 2011). It is important to  
420 consider both fished assemblage biomass and size distribution because large individuals  
421 represent high-value species and high reproductive capacity (Birkeland and Dayton 2005).

422 Our response variables were derived from pooling all targeted coral reef fish species (49)  
423 for which we had adequate data. These species represent a range of trophic guilds, life history  
424 traits, and vulnerability to fishing (Table S1). The majority were herbivores (23), followed by  
425 mobile invertivores (15), piscivores (9), and detritivores (2). Maximum species sizes ranged  
426 from 19 cm to over two meters and known life-spans from 4 to 50 years. This level of variability  
427 is common in coral reef fisheries and managers are in need of simple, yet meaningful metrics to  
428 guide management actions (Nash and Graham 2016). While species differences in terms of life-  
429 span and age at maturity will influence timelines of recovery, habitats characteristics which  
430 support targeted fish assemblages can be identified and used to select priority areas for  
431 management (Pittman and Knudby 2014). In addition to their practicality, a significant advantage  
432 of using assemblage level metrics for spatial modeling is the low prevalence of null values which  
433 improves model performance (Wisiz et al. 2008). Furthermore, using a large number of species  
434 provides more stable spatial solutions when conducting multi-species prioritization (Kujala et al.  
435 2017).

436

### 437 **4.3 Habitat and waves**

438 Of the 27 seascape predictors selected for model development, slope of slope, sine aspect,  
439 wave power, and depth were selected as final predictors and showed positive relationships for  
440 both targeted fish biomass and body length. Topographically complex habitats offer more  
441 potential niches and provide refuges from predation (Hixon and Beets 1989, Almany 2004).

442 Slope of slope is a measure of topographic complexity, which along with related LiDAR derived  
443 metrics, has been shown to be highly correlated with in-situ rugosity (Wedding et al. 2008,  
444 Stamoulis and Friedlander 2013) and a strong positive spatial predictor for the distribution of fish  
445 biomass (Wedding and Friedlander 2008, Pittman et al. 2009). Depth has also been shown to be  
446 a key predictor of fish distributions with higher fish biomass generally associated with greater  
447 depths (Friedlander and Parrish 1998a, Pittman and Brown 2011), suggesting that deeper waters  
448 may represent a refuge from fishing (Lindfield et al. 2014).

449 Both targeted fish biomass and body length showed strong positive relationships with  
450 sine aspect. Sine aspect measures east/west exposure with the highest values facing east towards  
451 the prevailing trade-winds. Windward reefs may be more productive due to nutrient inputs from  
452 increased terrestrial runoff (Ringuelet and Mackenzie 2005, Giambelluca et al. 2012), and  
453 predominantly rough seas along eastern shores likely limit boat and shore fishing activity. In  
454 contrast, wave power is highest along north and northwest facing shores due winter storms in the  
455 north Pacific (Fletcher et al. 2008). The positive relationships between wave energy and targeted  
456 fish biomass and body length have several possible explanations. High waves may provide a  
457 refuge from fishing pressure (Branch and Odendaal 2003, McLean et al. 2016) and flush reefs  
458 and mitigate land based source pollution, thus improving habitat quality (Fabricius 2005, 2011).  
459 Highly wave exposed areas also have less small-scale structure such as from branching corals  
460 and support fewer small species, while larger fishes are stronger swimmers and thus able to  
461 subsist in areas with high wave energy (Friedlander and Parrish 1998b, Friedlander et al. 2003).  
462 Further research is needed to confirm these patterns and identify causal mechanisms.

463 Productive habitats for targeted fishes were characterized by eastern exposures and a  
464 combination of high topographic complexity, wave power, and depth. Topographic complexity  
465 provides ecological benefits, though it may also provide some refuge from fishing. High wave  
466 power, wind exposure, and depth likely provide refuges from fishing pressure due to reduced  
467 accessibility, which may in part explain why targeted fish biomass and body length showed  
468 strong positive relationships with these factors.

469

#### 470 **4.4 Recovery patterns in the absence of fishing**

471 Our comparison of predicted targeted fish distributions under current fishing levels and  
472 with fishing pressure removed clearly shows the strong limiting influence of fishing. Because our

473 fishing effort layers were partly based on accessibility to humans and human population, some of  
474 the variability they account for in models of targeted fish assemblage indicators may be due to  
475 human impacts other than fishing. While current productive and healthy targeted fish  
476 assemblages were largely restricted to areas less accessible to fishers, when fishing pressure was  
477 removed they expanded throughout all suitable habitats. This is supported by previous research  
478 which showed that structurally complex habitats harbored greater fish biomass (Graham and  
479 Nash 2013, Darling et al. 2017). When converted to percent depletion, our island-scale estimates  
480 of biomass recovery potential are generally lower than estimates of depletion reported by  
481 Williams et al. (2015), though relative differences among islands were fairly consistent. This is  
482 unsurprising given that models used in Williams et al. (2015) estimated total fish biomass and  
483 were calibrated on a suite of Pacific Islands ranging from pristine to highly degraded. Our  
484 models were calibrated only on the main Hawaiian Islands, which are far from pristine. Also  
485 Ni‘ihau was assumed to have negligible fishing impact, which is not strictly accurate as  
486 subsistence fishing occurs on the island (pop. 170), and there are reports of fishing from boats  
487 based on Kaua‘i. Furthermore, due to gaps in the bathymetry datasets the shallow nearshore  
488 areas around Ni‘ihau were not included in our analysis.

489 Areas with significant projected biomass and length recovery had little direct spatial  
490 overlap. This is because they represent different aspects of the fished assemblage and are  
491 primarily influenced by different seascape predictors, especially in terms of fishing effort. Shore  
492 fishing explained the most variability in targeted fish biomass, while boat fishing was most  
493 important for fish body length. As a result, when fishing pressure was removed, predicted  
494 biomass increase was highest in accessible, nearshore areas with currently high shore fishing  
495 effort, and body length showed greatest projected increases in well populated areas close to  
496 boating facilities with currently high boat fishing effort. After fishing effort, high biomass was  
497 primarily driven by high topographic complexity (slope of slope) which is patchily distributed.  
498 This resulted in fragmented patterns for areas of high biomass recovery potential. In contrast, top  
499 habitat predictors for body length were high exposure (sine aspect) and wave power which have  
500 more continuous patterns, resulting in similarly unbroken spatial patterns for areas with high  
501 length recovery potential.

502

#### 503 **4.5 Management applications**

504 In September, 2016 the governor of Hawai‘i made a commitment at the International  
505 Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Conference to effectively  
506 manage 30% of Hawai‘i’s nearshore waters by 2030 (Ige 2016). “Effective management” will be  
507 achieved through a broad suite of approaches including area closures for fisheries replenishment,  
508 as well as identifying areas that are already healthy (Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources  
509 2016). Therefore, identifying presently productive areas and those with high recovery potential is  
510 a priority, and an effective approach to accomplish this at the scale of the MHI is timely and  
511 could serve as a template for similar efforts elsewhere.

512 The prioritization approach presented in this study incorporates current fishing levels into  
513 estimates of recovery potential, thus identifying areas where management actions will be most  
514 effective in restoring coral reef fisheries. This was a result of comparing spatial predictions of  
515 fishery indicators under current fishing levels with predictions after fishing is removed. Each of  
516 these predicted maps also has utility for management. Spatial patterns of targeted fish biomass  
517 and body length under current fishing levels allows for identification of areas that presently  
518 harbor healthy fish assemblages. Effectively managing fishing in these areas would ensure that  
519 they continue to supplement adjacent fisheries, through larval export and spillover of adults and  
520 juveniles (Harrison et al. 2012, Stamoulis and Friedlander 2013). Because these areas generally  
521 have low fishing pressure, management actions would incur minimal cost in terms of fisher  
522 displacement. Predicted maps of targeted fish distributions with fishing removed identify habitats  
523 capable of supporting high biomass and larger fishes. This information can be used to  
524 characterize these essential habitats for coral reef fisheries. Comparing predictions with and  
525 without fishing pressure reveals areas to focus fisheries management and provides estimates of  
526 recovery potential. Targeted fish biomass recovery in these areas represented a 517% increase on  
527 average relative to current values for O‘ahu with smaller increases for the other islands where  
528 fishing pressure is not as high. These areas show potential mean targeted fish size increases of up  
529 59% on O‘ahu with smaller increases for the other islands. Long-term monitoring data shows  
530 over a ten-fold increase in total fish biomass during the first 16 years of protection at Hanauma  
531 Bay, the oldest no-take reserve on O‘ahu (Friedlander and Brown, 2004), suggesting that these  
532 estimates are likely conservative.

533 The intrinsic rate of population growth ( $r$ ) is the major driver of population recovery after  
534 fishing pressure is removed (Jennings 2000). However, the rate of population recovery also

535 depends on the size of the remaining population and degree of compensation or depensation, as  
536 well as other factors (Jennings 2000). In the absence of this information, rough estimates of  
537 recovery rates inside no-take marine reserves can be inferred from life history traits such as  
538 trophic level, maximum body size and longevity (Abesamis et al. 2014). The targeted reef fish  
539 species included in this analysis exhibit a broad range of life history characteristics (Table S1)  
540 and thus timelines of recovery will vary. The first species likely to recover are the goatfish  
541 (Mullidae) and several of the parrotfish (Scaridae -  $A_{max} < 7$  yrs) based on their short lifespans,  
542 and full recovery for these species may be possible within 10 years (Abesamis et al. 2014). In  
543 overfished regions such as the MHI, full recovery of moderate to highly vulnerable targeted reef  
544 fish such as jacks (Carangids), wrasses (Labrids), surgeonfish (Acanthurids), and large parrotfish  
545 is likely to take 20-40 years (Abesamis et al. 2014).

546 Areas with significant ( $\alpha=0.1$ ) projected biomass and length recovery were selected for  
547 prioritization, though the threshold could be adjusted based on management needs. Spatial  
548 predictions of high biomass and fish body length generally had high precision ( $CV < 0.5$ ),  
549 providing confidence in the results. This prioritization approach identified areas where  
550 management actions will have the most scope to restore fisheries and could be used as a starting  
551 point for marine reserve selection. These areas are capable of supporting high numbers of large  
552 fishes which constitute high reproductive capacity (Berkeley et al. 2004, Birkeland and Dayton  
553 2005). The next most important criteria to consider is larval connectivity to ensure that adequate  
554 portions of larvae are exported into fished areas (Green et al. 2015). While larval transport  
555 modeling is still in its infancy, recent work has modeled potential connectivity based on  
556 oceanographic circulation in the Hawaiian islands and identified potential larval sources and  
557 sinks at 4 km<sup>2</sup> resolution (Wren et al. 2016). Places that are capable of supporting high spawner  
558 biomass, which are also important larval source areas for connected reefs, would be good  
559 candidates for enhanced fishery management or protection. Such areas, identified by these  
560 ecological criteria, should be additionally evaluated based on social, economic, and other  
561 considerations important for management (Smith and Wilen 2003, Charles and Wilson 2009,  
562 Jones et al. 2013).

563

## 564 **5. Conclusions**

565 The development of spatially continuous and comprehensive fishing effort layers,  
566 combined with seascape models of targeted fish assemblage indicators for the entire MHI,  
567 allowed us to make spatially explicit estimates of recovery potential and thus identify areas that  
568 would benefit most from focused coral reef fisheries management. These areas are generally  
569 located on the east-facing shores of Kaua‘i and O‘ahu, the southeast shore of Moloka‘i, the west  
570 shore of west Maui, and isolated locations in west and east Hawai‘i Island. However, the high  
571 resolution maps show considerable spatial heterogeneity in the geographical distribution of  
572 recovery potential as defined by habitat and fishing patterns. While targeted fish biomass and  
573 body length were chosen here to characterize key attributes of reef fisheries, this approach could  
574 also be applied using other fish response variables that are important to managers. The  
575 information provided is well suited for both local scale management and regional marine spatial  
576 planning efforts that aim to sustain and enhance coastal fisheries.

577 This study is the first of its kind to develop regional-scale seascape models that integrate  
578 spatially explicit estimates of fishing pressure. The high resolution of our model inputs and  
579 predictions (60x60 m) is consistent with movement patterns of most targeted fish species and  
580 fishers (Weeks et al. 2017). Tree-based modeling approaches are well suited to handling non-  
581 linear relationships and high-order interactions of complex ecological data (De’ath and Fabricius  
582 2000). The ability to make spatial predictions, or predictive mapping, expands upon field-based  
583 measurements that are expensive and spatially limited, and produces spatial information at the  
584 scope and scale necessary for large-scale assessments and marine spatial planning (Stamoulis  
585 and Delevaux 2015). Spatially comprehensive, continuous input and output datasets eliminate  
586 the need for the simplifying assumptions common in traditional approaches that can increase  
587 uncertainty when results are extrapolated across the area of interest. Predictive mapping fills  
588 gaps in survey coverage, allows for testing of management scenarios, and provides spatially  
589 comprehensive information for managers including estimates of prediction precision (Pittman  
590 and Knudby 2014). Finally, the approach is flexible so that it can be applied anywhere where  
591 demersal fish populations are targeted, and any response variable derived from fish survey data  
592 can be modeled depending on the research or management question.

593

## 594 **Acknowledgements**

595 Partial funding for this work was provided to FERL from NOAA/NCCOS under BOEM OCS  
596 project 2016-35 and JIMAR cooperative agreement NA11NMF4320128. KAS received support  
597 through an International Postgraduate Scholarship through Curtin University. MP and SJP were  
598 supported under NOAA Contract No. EA133C-14-NC-1348. For his work developing the  
599 methods for mapping fishing patterns, JL was funded by the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale  
600 National Marine Sanctuary: NOAA NOS MOA-2012-047 (Award ID 004496-00002) and  
601 NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program grants NA13NOS482002 and NA14NOS4820089.  
602 Partial funding was provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
603 Coral Reef Conservation Program (#NA13NOS4820020 (<http://coralreef.noaa.gov/>) and Pacific  
604 Island Climate Science Center (#G13AC00361) (<http://pi-csc.soest.hawaii.edu>). Thanks to the  
605 Ocean Tipping Points Project and to the local experts who provided input on the fishing maps:  
606 Matt Ramsey and staff of Hawai'i and Maui DAR. And thanks to Kaylyn McCoy for her work  
607 on island-scale estimates of recreational fishing effort in Hawai'i that were the basis for the  
608 fishing effort maps. These authors contributed equally to this work: Kostantinos A. Stamoulis  
609 and Jade M. S. Delevaux.

610

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### Supporting Information

868 Additional supporting information may be found in the online version of this article at

869 <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/eap.xxxx/supinfo>

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### Data Availability

872 Habitat and wave predictor layers at NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information:

873 <https://data.nodc.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/iso?id=gov.noaa.nodc:0155189>

874 Fish survey data at Figshare: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.c.3808039>

875 Fishing effort layers and predicted maps at Research Data Australia:

876 <http://dx.doi.org/10.4225/06/5a572a1f1406a>

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877 **Tables:**

878 Table 1: Final predictor datasets used in model development. Number of individual datasets of  
 879 each type indicated in parenthesis. A pairwise correlation analysis was performed on the full set  
 880 of predictors for the whole study area (MHI). Highly correlated predictors (Spearman  $|\rho| > 0.7$ )  
 881 were identified, and those highly correlated with two or more other predictors were removed. See  
 882 table S2 for more details.

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Predictor dataset types	Datasets	Description
Fishing (2)	Boat fishing spear, Shore fishing spear	Boat and shore based fishing effort represented by spearing effort.
Seafloor topography (12)	Depth, Slope, Slope of slope, Aspect, Planar and profile curvature, BPI	Seafloor topography metrics derived from bathymetry including depth, slope, structural complexity, exposure, curvature and bathymetric position index (BPI). Slope, slope of slope, and BPI were calculated at two scales.
Benthic habitat composition (7)	Percent cover of CCA, Macroalgae, Turf, and Soft bottom, Proximity index, Shannon's diversity index	Percent benthic cover of major cover types. Seascape fragmentation/patch isolation. Habitat diversity.
Geographic (3)	Latitude, Longitude, Distance to shore	Geographic location and distance from shore.
Wave energy (1)	Wave Power	Wave height * wave period.

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890 Table 2: Predicted mean biomass and percent increase for targeted reef fishes under present  
 891 conditions and with fishing pressure removed. N is the sample size representing total number of  
 892 spatially predicted grid cells per island. SD is standard deviation. Islands are ordered from north  
 893 to south.

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Biomass (g m <sup>-2</sup> )	N	Present		No fishing		% Increase
		mean	SD	mean	SD	
Kaua'i	67,967	11.2	8.7	27.6	9.7	147%
Ni'ihau	10,677	30.0	10.2	30.5	10.4	2%
O'ahu	84,870	4.2	4.1	19.9	7.6	370%
Moloka'i	38,220	10.9	9.2	23.5	9.4	116%
Maui	43,830	12.5	10.0	26.1	9.1	110%
Hawai'i	30,702	13.4	8.7	26.6	7.3	98%

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908 Table 3: Predicted mean body length and percent increase for targeted reef fishes under present  
 909 conditions and with fishing pressure removed. N is the sample size representing total number of  
 910 spatially predicted grid cells per island. SE is standard error of the mean.

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Present

No fishing

Length (cm)	N	mean	SD	mean	SD	% Increase
Kaua'i	67,967	17.9	2.4	21.8	1.6	22%
Ni'ihau	10,677	23.0	1.2	23.0	1.2	0%
O'ahu	84,870	15.1	2.0	20.0	1.6	33%
Moloka'i	38,220	17.7	3.2	21.3	2.0	21%
Maui	43,830	18.0	2.9	21.1	1.6	17%
Hawai'i	30,702	18.6	2.1	21.0	1.3	13%

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926 Table 4: Biomass ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ ) and fish length (cm) mean, standard deviation (SD), mean percent  
 927 increase, and standard deviation of percent increase between MHI model predictions for regions  
 928 of significant difference shown in figure 7.

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	Biomass Increase				Length Increase			
	Mean	SD	Mean %	SD %	Mean	SD	Mean %	SD %
Kaua'i	29.4	2.6	<b>383%</b>	184%	6.5	0.6	<b>45%</b>	7%
Ni'ihau	3.6	0.9	<b>11%</b>	2%	0.0	0.0	<b>0%</b>	0%
O'ahu	25.9	2.8	<b>517%</b>	268%	7.3	0.5	<b>59%</b>	10%
Moloka'i	21.6	2.2	<b>349%</b>	200%	5.8	0.2	<b>43%</b>	4%

Maui	23.4	2.2	<b>256%</b>	125%	6.2	0.6	<b>46%</b>	9%
Hawai'i	21.9	2.1	<b>203%</b>	114%	4.5	0.4	<b>29%</b>	4%

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**Figure Legends:**

**Figure 1:** Main Hawaiian Islands study domain with reef fish survey locations used for modeling.

**Figure 2:** Comparison of modeled shore fishing effort with empirical fishing survey values from 12 sites across the MHI (Hawai'i - 4, Maui - 2, O'ahu - 5, Kaua'i - 1). Total fishing effort values were obtained from Delaney et al. (2017) and compared to derived spear fishing effort maps based on the sum of pixel values within polygons matching the description of the survey area in each report. The equation of the fitted line is  $y = 0.48x - 1660$ .

**Figure 3:** Shore fishing effort around the MHI as represented by a) shore based spear effort (hrs/ha). Boat fishing effort around the MHI as represented by b) boat based spear effort (hrs/ha). Maui Nui encompasses the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i.

**Figure 4:** Final predictors for MHI models based on BRT model results for a) biomass and b) body length. Relative percent variation explained is shown on the x-axis and the color represents the directionality of the relationship (red: negative, green: positive, orange: non-directional).

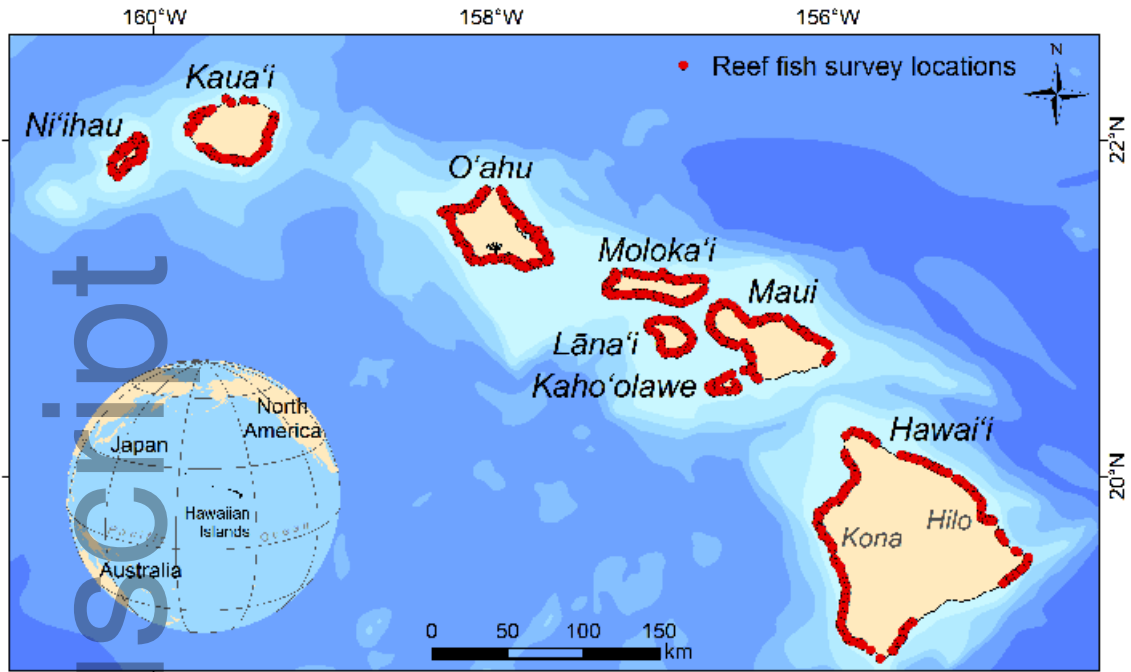
959 **Figure 5:** Partial dependence plots of fishing predictors for the targeted reef fish biomass model.  
960 Y-axis is transformed biomass (4<sup>th</sup> root) and x-axis is predictor variable (units in table S1). Plots  
961 represent the relationship of biomass with each predictor individually when all other predictors  
962 are held at their mean. Lines are the mean of bootstrapped models plus and minus the standard  
963 deviation.

964 **Figure 6:** Distributions of predicted biomass values under present fishing levels and with fishing  
965 removed for each island. X-axis is biomass values per 60x60 m grid cell and y-axis is frequency  
966 of biomass values as a proportion of the total number of grid cells per island (density).

967 **Figure 7:** Distributions of predicted length values under present fishing levels and with fishing  
968 removed for each island. X-axis is length values per 60x60 m grid cell and y-axis is frequency of  
969 length values as a proportion of the total number of grid cells per island (density).

970 **Figure 8:** Regions of significant increase ( $\alpha = 0.1$ ) in MHI model predictions of biomass and  
971 length after removal of fishing. Existing no-take reserves and restricted access areas are outlined  
972 in black.

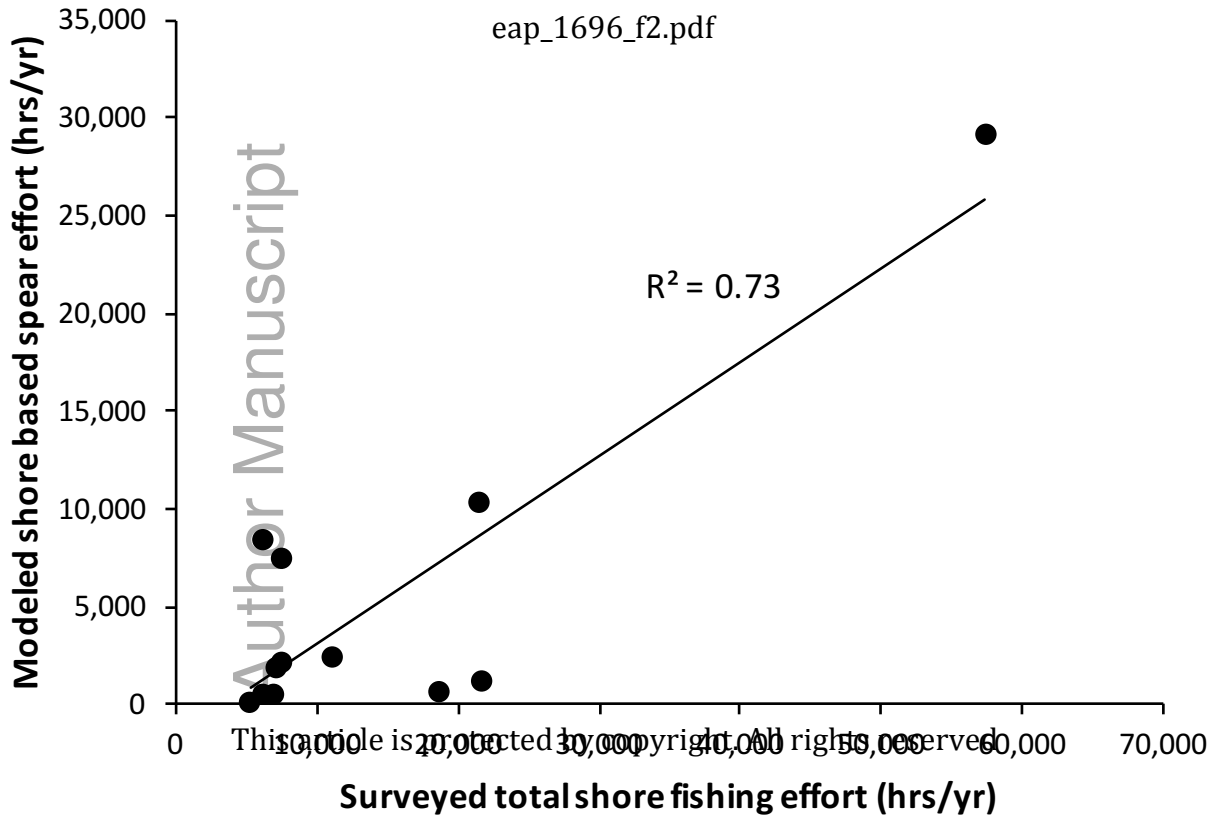
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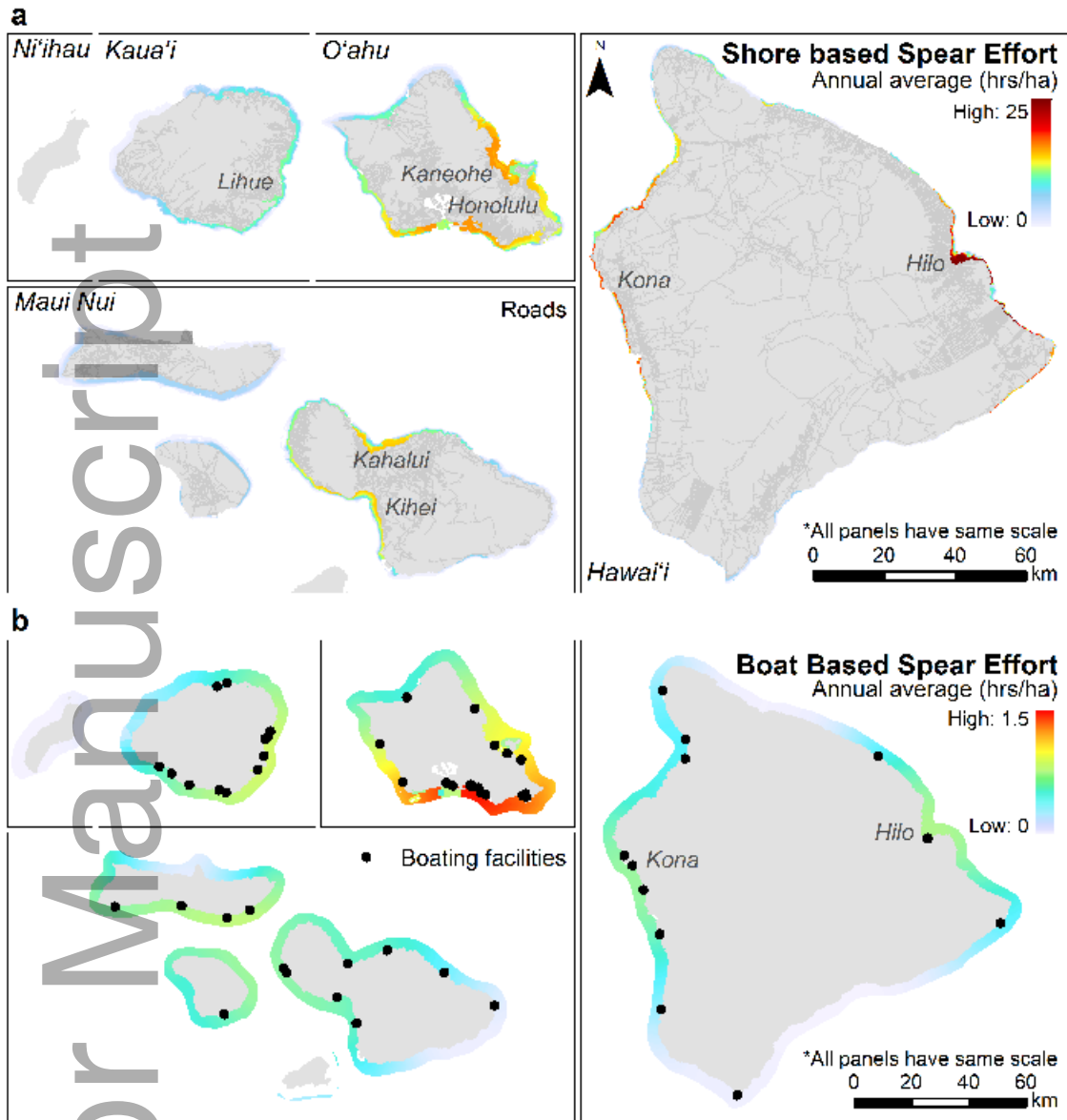


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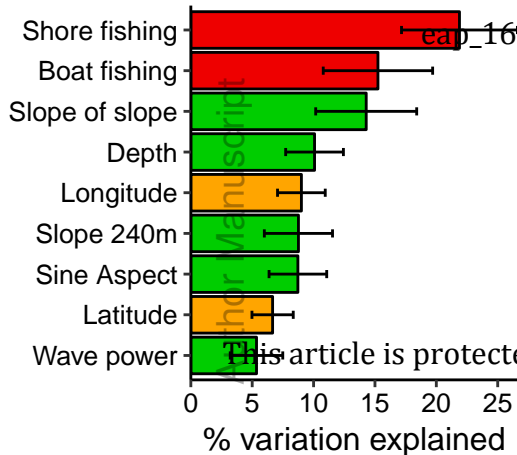


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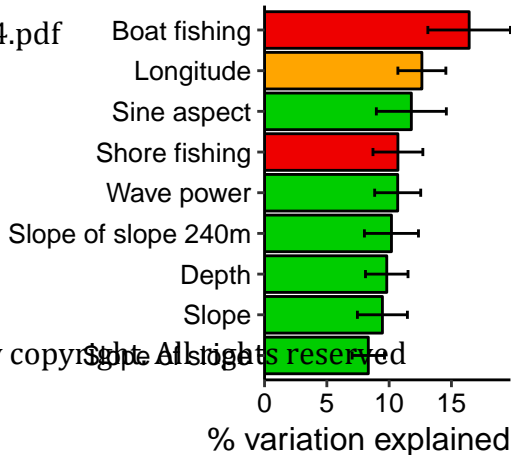


**a**

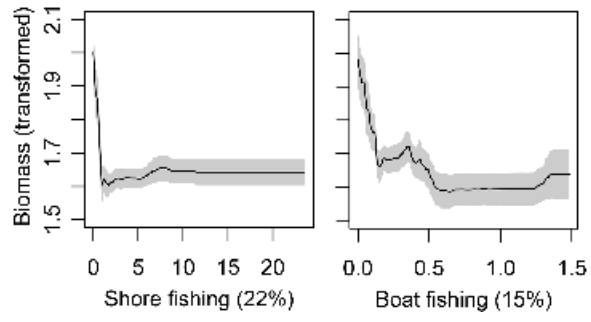
Biomass

**b**

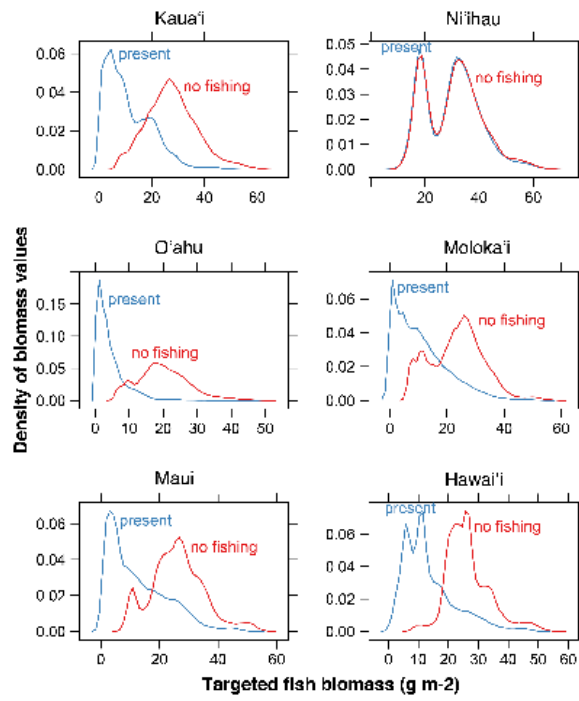
Body length



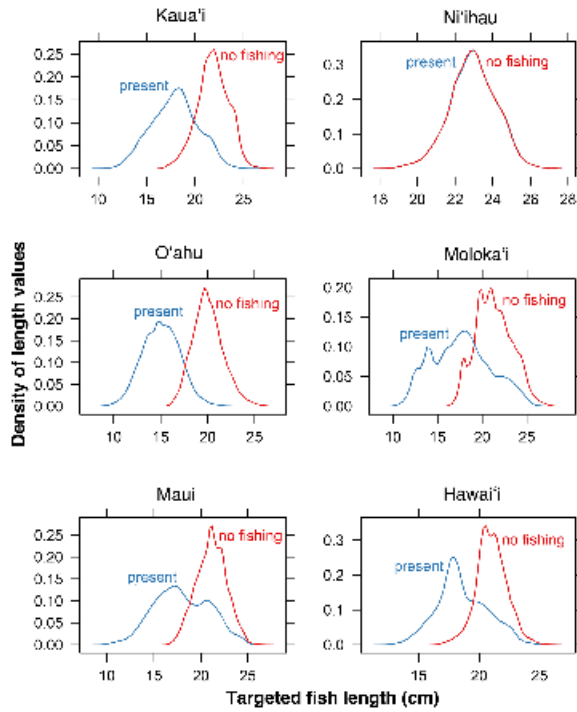
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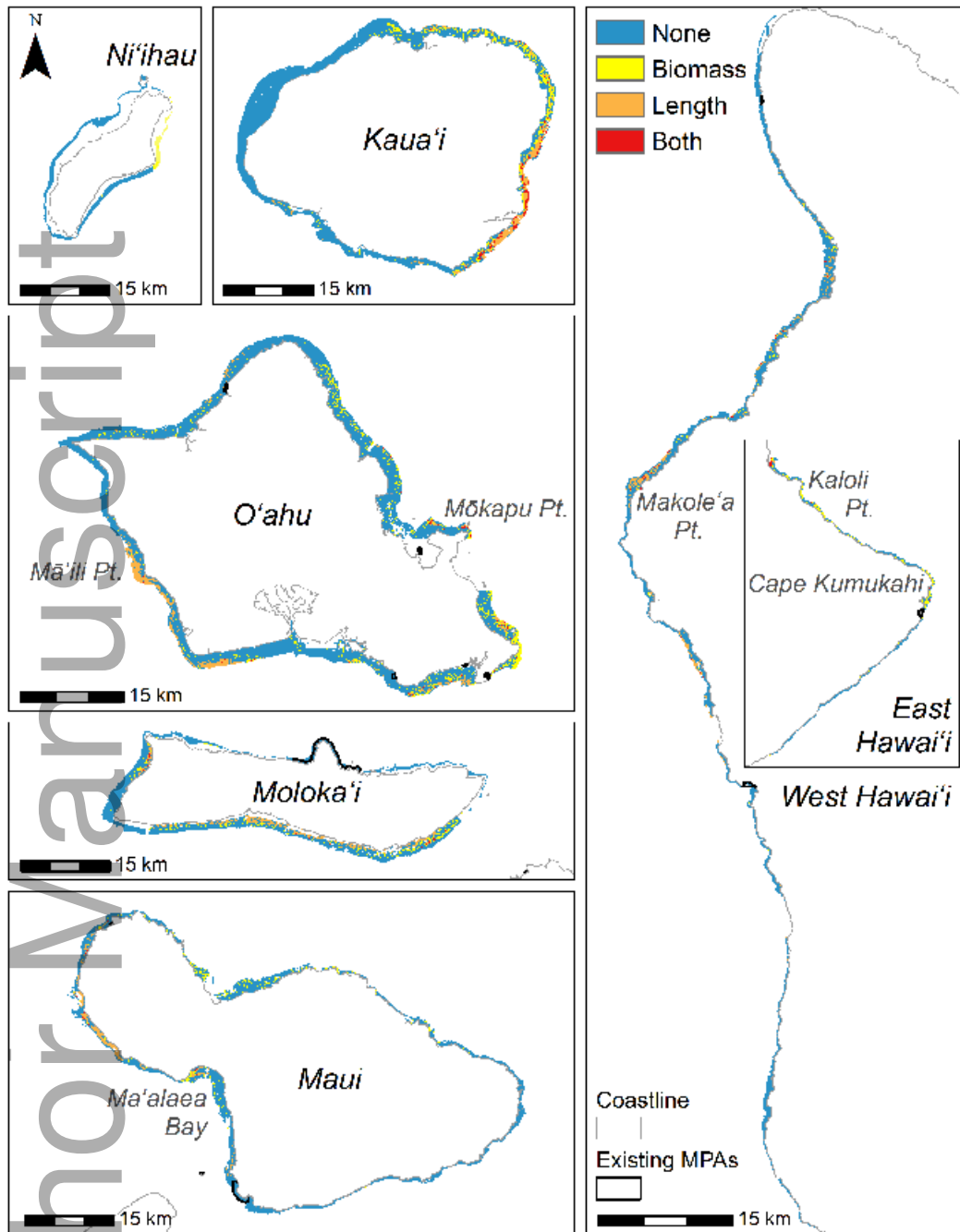
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